

## SCHOOL OF MODERN LANGUAGES AND CULTURES

### FRENCH

The objective of the French programme is to bring participants to a high level of proficiency in the language and to acquire a sound knowledge of French society and culture as well as of the French-speaking world. The French programme is offered both as a major and a minor.

In order to declare a major in French, applicants must initially complete two introductory core language courses, i.e., **FREN1001** and **FREN1002** (12 credits in all). Students intending to major in French should achieve at least grade C in **FREN1002**.

In their second, third, and fourth years of study, students pursuing a major in French must take a total of 54 credits of French courses which should be distributed as follows:

- 24 credits from courses at Level 2XXX (except **FREN2221** and **FREN2222**), of which 12 credits must be from the core language courses, i.e., **FREN2001** and **FREN2002**;
- 30 credits from courses at Level 3XXX, of which 12 credits must be from the core language courses, i.e., **FREN3001** and **FREN3002**, and 6 credits from **FREN3030**, a ‘capstone’ course designed to allow the application of disciplinary knowledge and principles learned in the first, second and third years.

Finally, students will be strongly encouraged to participate in a 3 to 4-week linguistic stay in France or in a French-speaking country during the summer or winter either between their second and third year or third and fourth year of studies.

### Major (72 credits)

To complete a major in French, students are expected to take a total of 72 credits with the following components:

- **Prerequisite courses (12 credits):**  
FREN1001 French I.1  
FREN1002 French I.2  
*These courses will be offered to undergraduates in Year 1 or 2.*
- **One 6-credit Arts Faculty introductory course to be taken from any Arts programmes**
- **Core courses (24 credits):**  
FREN2001 French II.1  
FREN2002 French II.2  
FREN3001 French III.1  
FREN3002 French III.2  
*These courses will be offered to undergraduates in Year 2, 3 and 4.*
- **French elective courses (24 credits):**  
At least four 6-credit courses from the list below.  
*These courses will be offered to undergraduates in Year 2, 3 and 4.*
- **Capstone experience course (6 credits):**  
FREN3030 Guided writing in French (capstone experience)

*This course will be offered to undergraduates in Year 4.*

### **Minor (36 credits)**

To complete a minor in French, students are expected to take a total of 36 credits with the following components:

- **Prerequisite courses (12 credits):**

FREN1001 French I.1

FREN1002 French I.2

*These courses will be offered to undergraduates in Year 1 or 2.*

- **Core courses (24 credits):**

FREN2001 French II.1

FREN2002 French II.2

FREN3001 French III.1

FREN3002 French III.2

*These courses will be offered to undergraduates in Year 2, 3 and 4.*

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### **Core Courses**

#### **FREN1001. French I.1 (6 credits)**

This course is intended for complete beginners in French and does not require any previous knowledge of the language. The course offers a broad introduction to the French language and culture of contemporary France. While participants will learn how to express themselves in French and understand the fundamentals of the language, they will also gain a deeper appreciation of the French society, its cultural heritage and its way of life. Separate practice groups to consolidate the work done in lectures will also be arranged separately on a regular basis.

Prerequisite: Nil

Assessment: 100% coursework

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#### **FREN1002. French I.2 (6 credits)**

This course is a continuation of **French I.1** and continues to build on the previous work. Participants will consolidate and develop their knowledge in the four areas of competence (listening, speaking, reading, and writing), with a particular emphasis on communication skills in contextual situations. In this process, participants will also get progressively acquainted with French and Francophone societies and cultures. As in **French I.1**, separate practice groups will be arranged to complement the lectures.

Prerequisite: **FREN1001. French I.1**

Assessment: 100% coursework.

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#### **FREN2001. French II.1 (6 credits)**

This course continues to build on work done in the First Year. The intention is to develop students' understanding and use of French in the areas of speaking, listening, reading, and writing. Class lectures are based on interactive methods and approaches whereby participants are encouraged to be creative, problem-

solving users of the language at intermediate level. Literary and non-literary French texts selected from various sources will be used, with the aim of stimulating critical reading and discussion. Class activities will also be supported by audio-visual and web-based materials which will help students to familiarize themselves further with the actual usage of the language. Conversation groups will be arranged separately to practice spoken French

Prerequisite: **FREN1002. French I.2**

Assessment: 100% coursework

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### **FREN2002. French II.2 (6 credits)**

This course is a continuation of **FREN2001. French II.1**. The intention is to develop students' understanding and use of French in the areas of speaking and listening, reading and writing. Class lectures are based on interactive methods and approaches whereby participants are encouraged to be creative, problem-solving users of the language at intermediate level. Literary and non-literary French texts selected from various sources will be used, with the aim of stimulating critical reading and discussion. Class activities will also be supported by audio-visual and web-based materials which will help students to familiarize themselves further with the actual usage of the language. Conversation groups will be arranged separately to practice spoken French.

Prerequisite: **FREN2001. French II.1**

Assessment: 100% coursework

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### **FREN3001. French III.1 (6 credits)**

In this course students continue to build upon work done in the First and Second Year. The intention is to further expand students' proficiency in French. Class lectures will make use of interactive approaches so as to elicit creativity, problem-solving skills, and encourage the participants to become independent users of the language. Various literary and non-literary texts from France and other French-speaking countries will be used, with the aim of stimulating critical reading and discussion. Learning activities will also be supported by audio-visual and web-based materials which will help students to better understand French and francophone socio-cultural environments. Discussion groups will be arranged separately to foster oral expression and debating skills.

Prerequisite: **FREN2002. French II.2**

Assessment: 100% coursework

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### **FREN3002. French III.2 (6 credits)**

This course is a continuation of **French III.1**. The intention is to further expand students' proficiency in French. Class lectures will make use of interactive approaches so as to elicit creativity, problem-solving skills, and to encourage participants to become independent users of the language. Various literary and non-literary texts from France and other French-speaking countries will be used, with the aim of stimulating critical reading and discussion. Learning activities will also be supported by audio-visual and web-based materials which will help students to better understand French and francophone socio-cultural environments. Discussion groups will be arranged separately to foster oral expression and debating skills.

Prerequisite: **FREN3001. French III.1**

Assessment: 100% coursework

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## **Capstone Experience Course**

### **FREN3030. Guided writing in French (capstone experience) (6 credits)**

In this course, participants will receive tuition and guidance to complete a 3500-4000 words piece of writing in French based on a topic of their choice related to France and/or the French speaking world. Discussions with tutors will focus on developing students' organization skills, and ability to use discourse markers and text grammar to present their composition in a sequenced and coherent way.

Prerequisite: **FREN2002. French II.2**

Assessment: 100% coursework

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## **Elective Courses**

### **FREN2027. French culture and society (6 credits)**

This course is designed to review key aspects of France's society and culture as well as to offer a concise introduction to the main stages of the country's historical and territorial development. Topics will include institutions and society (government, education, politics, economy, labour, media, etc.) and essential cultural features (festivals, customs, traditions, etiquette, colloquialisms, way of life, leisure, etc.). Major events that have contributed to the shaping of the country will also be presented and their significance discussed. The role and place of the regions within this historical process will be examined, so as to understand the correlation of distinct regional characteristics with related historical developments. The teaching material and resources used for this course will be in French, and the main medium of instruction will be French.

Co-requisite: **FREN2001. French II.1** or **FREN2002. French II.2**

Assessment: 100% coursework

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### **FREN2041. Cultural icons in France (6 credits)**

This course is intended for students in French with an intermediate level of proficiency in the language. It is designed to enhance core competencies and skills in spoken and written French while exploring society and culture. Through analyses, readings, discussions and lectures, participants will reflect critically on a range of cultural icons that play an essential role in shaping today's French collective identity. People, artefacts, signs, objects, rituals and events belonging to the high and popular culture and shared by French people will be studied. While the interrelations between those symbolic figures will emerge, the concept of "cultural grammar" will be introduced, enabling students to develop a more holistic understanding of French culture and acquire new tools to reflect on their own culture. All the materials used in this course will be in French.

Co-requisite: **FREN2001. French II.1** or **FREN2002. French II.2**

Assessment: 100% coursework

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### **FREN2221. A profile of contemporary France (6 credits)**

This course is intended to investigate current issues and debates taking place in France today, and to examine the way these issues are presented in the French and international media. The notions of French cultural identity and national citizenship will be looked at, as well as France's relations with its European

neighbors and with the rest of the world. To provide essential references in support of the discussions, the course will bring in background information on various aspects of France; its national iconography, its government and its political, social, demographic environment. At the same time, the course will relate these facts to significant moments of the country's recent history, such as the post-war period of recovery, the decolonization process, the construction of the Francophone community, the European Union project, students' and workers' upheavals and the current debates related to immigration and integration.

Prerequisite: Nil

Assessment: 100% coursework

Medium of instruction: English

*This course cannot be counted towards the requirements for the fulfillment of the Major/Minor in French.*

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### **FREN2222. Wine culture in France (6 credits)**

This course is an introduction to the cultural dimensions of French wine from both an academic and a practical perspective. Wine is a topic closely intertwined with many aspects of the French culture. Through a multi-disciplinary approach, the course will explore its connections with French history, geography, society, language, literature, art and business. A general introduction to wine appreciation will also be offered. The course does not require previous knowledge of French, but there may be instances where the documentation and terminology are presented in the original language.

Prerequisite: Nil

Assessment: 100% coursework

Medium of instruction: English

*This course cannot be counted towards the requirements for the fulfillment of the Major/Minor in French.*

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### **FREN3021. Francophone literatures and identities (6 credits)**

This course offers a broad introduction to leading authors from the French-speaking world outside France, with a special emphasis on Quebec, the Caribbean, the Maghreb, West Africa, and Vietnam. The discussions will be based on a selection of works involving the issues of race and minorities, identity and nationality, colonization and self-determination, native land and exile, as well as multilingualism and universality, modernity and tradition. In investigating the way these various themes appear in Francophone literary texts and essays, students shall aim to gain a better understanding of how the use of the French language as a medium of expression may facilitate creativity and reception or, on the contrary, distort or hinder cultural distinctiveness. The medium of discussion will be French, and the supporting material will be in French.

Prerequisite: **FREN2002. French II.2**

Assessment: 100% coursework

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### **FREN3022. French and Francophone cinema (6 credits)**

This course offers an introduction to French and Francophone cinema through a range of topics, such as its historical, cultural, economic development, popular genres, and major trends. These aspects will be discussed in relation with important issues in France and the Francophone world such as the question of identity, cultural policy and globalization. We shall also review the position of French speaking cinema and its standing in today's broader international context. In addition, the course will undertake an exploration of various cultural aspects and their representations in films. The medium of instruction and majority of the material used will be in French.

Prerequisite: **FREN2002. French II.2**  
Assessment: 100% coursework

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**FREN3023. Media watch: Tracking French news (6 credits)**

This course focuses on the media industry in France and the management of information in relation to news and current affairs on the national scene. There will be a detailed scrutiny of the French press in its various forms: newspapers, periodicals, radio, TV, and Internet. Students shall compare and contrast how the different media process information and target their audience according to political, social or gender affiliation, commercial interest, and intended readership. By doing so, they will also be keeping abreast with the country's current affairs. The medium of instruction and all the materials used will be in French.

Prerequisite: **FREN2002. French II.2**  
Assessment: 100% coursework

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**FREN3024. Modern French literature (6 credits)**

This course offers a broad survey of French authors and literary movements from the 19th century to the present day. Emphasis will be placed on the literary ideas and styles that emerged during this period. The discussions will also cover the most important moments in French recent history as imagined and rendered by writers. In addition, through the close reading of selected passages of major works, the participants will be introduced to methods of textual analysis and critical appraisal of literary texts in various genres (novel and prose, poetry and drama). The medium of discussion will be French, and the supporting material (excerpts, press articles, films, iconography and notes) will be in French or, where appropriate, provided in translation.

Prerequisite: **FREN2002. French II.2**  
Assessment: 100% coursework

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**FREN3026. Conveying otherness: French imaginings of Asia (6 credits)**

This course discusses the way French travelers, writers, and artists from the Renaissance to the 20th century have represented in their works countries such as India, China, Vietnam, and Japan — commonly regrouped under the Euro-centered term of “Extreme-Orient.” Students shall investigate a selection of key novels, narratives, essays, travel logs, memoirs, journalistic reports, films, as well as works of art that depict discoveries, encounters, and experiences with the view of identifying underlying trends and recurrent themes. While the question of the construction of the Far East as Other and its subsequent orientalizing by Western visitors will come into play in our readings, the extent to which these various accounts have inspired and influenced the aesthetics and the literary production in France will also be examined. The medium of discussion will be French, as well as all the material under investigation.

Prerequisites: **FREN2002. French II.2**  
Assessment: 100% coursework

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**FREN3034. Internship for students of French (6 credits)**

This **FREN3034** course “Internship for Students of French” offers students an internship learning experience by allowing them to take their classroom knowledge into the community. Students will have an opportunity for experiential learning, earn credits towards their degree, and engage in a rich experience while working in an organisation that demonstrates a real impact on society. The internship experience draws on the French Programme coursework to encourage students to apply their classroom knowledge to work in organisations that demonstrate the use of French in the community. Internships may be conducted at any point between the summer before a student enters Year 3 and the second semester of Year 4.

The duration of the internship will depend on the arrangement made between the student and the organisation, but should involve approx. 120 contact hours of committed service for the host organisation. Internships can be conducted during the semester (e.g. 8 hours/ week) or at full-time equivalent during the lecture-free period. Students should spend at least 15 working days with the organisation.

Staffing resources and operations mechanisms allowing, students will be assessed by the organisation contact throughout the duration of the internship and will also, if possible, receive a letter of reference from the organisation at the end of the internship. A written report (800-1,000 words) with a description, critical assessment of and reflection on the internship experience, will be assessed by the course supervisor at HKU. Students are asked to make their own internship arrangements with an organisation of their choice. They are asked to do this in liaison with a relevant teacher at the French Programme of HKU.

Prerequisite: **FREN2002. French II.2** or **FREN3001. French III.1** or **FREN3002. French III.2** or equivalent.

Assessment: 100% coursework (graded on a distinction/ pass/ fail basis)

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### **FREN3035. Painters and writers in modern France (6 credits)**

French writers have always exhibited a passionate interest in fine arts while cultivating rich intellectual exchanges and friendship with artists. The convergence of artistic creativity and intellectual vibrancy produced some of the most influential aesthetic theories, and renowned paintings and novels. This course explores a selection of works by prominent painters through the eyes of French writers who admired them. Why did they develop a fascination for these artists? What did they write about them and their artworks? How did artists influence their literature? The investigation of the interplay between art and literature will enable students to deepen their understanding of French cultural history and aesthetics while equipping them with the French language skills pertaining to these fields. All the materials used in this course will be in French.

Prerequisite: **FREN2002. French II.2**

Assessment: 100% coursework

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### **FREN3036. Portraits of the French language (6 credits)**

With more than 200 million speakers across five continents, French is one of the most influential world languages. Marked by a long and rich history, the French language is also an essential element of national and cultural identity. Yet, far from being homogeneous, it shows great historical, regional and cultural variations, and is constantly evolving.

Taking a multidisciplinary approach to explore the French language, this course will review important moments in its development and investigate some of its variants across different communities and regions. The course will then examine the role of the French language as a tool to exert power and influence in France and abroad as well as its significance in the construction of national and cultural identities.

Additionally, participants will use selected French texts to discuss related topics such as the current issues and debates surrounding the French language, the proximity and interconnections with other languages, and

the major institutions in charge of its regulation and promotion. The medium of discussion will be French, as well as all the material under investigation.

Prerequisite: **FREN2002. French II.2**

Assessment: 100% coursework

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### **FREN3037. France and the World (6 credits)**

The notions of *grandeur* and *rayonnement* –greatness and influence overseas– have long been central to France’s self-image and have shaped the way France exerts its influence in the world.

This course discusses how France positions itself on the global scene from the traditional exercise of economic and military power to the use of more subtle tools of soft power, such as cultural diplomacy, scientific cooperation, higher education, humanitarian actions, tourism, etc.

Using a selection of texts and topics, this course will also examine the historical roots of the French ideas of *grandeur* and *rayonnement*, how France’s effort to exert influence is perceived and debated at home and abroad, as well as the issues and challenges to maintain France’s image and standing on the international stage. Participants will be encouraged to draw examples from the local context to discuss the material under investigation. The medium of instruction and the majority of the material used will be in French.

Prerequisite: **FREN2002. French II.2**

Assessment: 100% coursework

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### **FREN3119. Overseas immersion language course – French (6 credits)**

This course provides an opportunity to study French and to experience linguistic and cultural immersion in a partner institution located in a French-speaking country. The course usually takes place in the summer months (e.g., June, July and/or August) (courses may also be offered in the winter break) and the duration of the stay may vary from two weeks to one month, but must include at least 60 hours of formal class tuition. Students typically take part in this course after the completion of their second year of language studies at HKU. The course is designed to build on and to reinforce the language competence acquired during the previous years of study as well as to prepare the participants for more advanced work in the final years of the Programme.

Prerequisite: **FREN2002. French II.2**

Assessment: 100% coursework. In order to be granted credits for this course, participants have to ensure that the course builds on their previous work done at HKU and is offered at the A2 level or above of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFRL) and, after completing of the course, students have (1) to produce a formal statement of attendance and certified transcript bearing mention of the final grade(s) obtained from the host institution, as well as the level attained according to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages; (2) to provide a portfolio including i. a learning journal written in French of approximately 1,000 words relating to daily class activities and, ii. samples of assessments (written assignments, tests, examinations, projects etc.) along with evaluation results.