

An aerial photograph of Paris, France, showing the city's dense urban layout and the winding Seine River. The image is overlaid with a complex pattern of red and blue lines and shapes, which appear to be a stylized map or data visualization. The red areas are scattered throughout the city, while the blue areas form a more structured grid-like pattern, possibly representing a specific urban planning or data set. The overall effect is a detailed, textured view of the city's geography and infrastructure.

# French Studies: A Profile



RICE HUMANITIES

Modern and Classical Literatures and Cultures





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French studies at Rice is a truly global program. French is spoken not only in France and across large parts of Europe, but also in Canada, the Caribbean and many parts of Africa — from Algeria and Morocco to Senegal, Madagascar and Mauritius. The major in French studies is devoted to the artistic, intellectual and cultural history not just of France, but also many other French-speaking cultures.

The French studies program offers a major and a minor. The approach of the program is interdisciplinary and global. We mobilize literary and cultural studies, history, political economy, philosophy, the study of women and gender, and the visual arts. Our courses cover a broad range of subjects from the medieval period to the 19th century, World War II, colonialism and the postcolonial period to contemporary cinema. In all our courses, French language acquisition is an integral component.

We encourage our majors and nonmajors to join in the activities and regular conversations over lunch organized by the French Club, and invite all our students to take advantage of our active chapter of the French Honor Society, Pi Delta Phi. In this same spirit, we work hard to encourage our students to enrich their studies through independent research and writing and through studying abroad.

During their senior year, outstanding French majors are invited to complete an honors thesis in close collaboration with a faculty member of their choice on a topic of interest to them. Rice has an exchange agreement with Sciences Po in Paris, one of Europe's most prestigious institutions in the social sciences and political thought. And all our students are encouraged to study in allied programs in Paris and Aix-en-Provence and in any country where French is spoken.

For all such programs, we are able to support our students with a variety of generously funded fellowships.

We ask that courses required for the major (and at least two of the required 400-level courses) be taken at Rice, but we accept for credit other courses taken abroad that have been preapproved by our program director.

### **A Few Details**

- The major in French studies consists of 30 credit hours (10 courses). French studies majors must complete the following required courses: FREN 302 and two courses from FREN 311, 312, 313 or 321. French studies majors must also complete a minimum of seven additional FREN courses: two courses at the 200 level, three courses at the 300 level and two courses at the 400 level. Any elective course on the 200 or 300 level may be replaced by a course at a higher level.
- The minor in French studies consists of 18 credit hours (six courses). French studies minors must complete the same core requirements as majors. In addition, minors must take three elective courses on the 300 level or above, all of which must be taught in French.

- The majority of our courses are offered entirely in French, but we do offer a few in English. We also recommend that students take courses in English that enrich the major and are taught in allied fields beyond French studies. From all such courses, two may count toward the major with permission from the department.
- Students who arrive at Rice with AP credit in French of four or five, or who have passed the International Baccalaureate exam in French with a six or seven, may immediately enroll in courses at the 300 or 400 level. All other students must consult with a member of the faculty to determine the course level for which they would be best suited.

### **French Studies Faculty**

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