

Please note that this prospectus is provisional and subject to modification.

FREN 1000 (Advanced French): *Rêves de jeunesse*

COURSE DESCRIPTION

“On n’est pas sérieux, quand on a dix-sept ans.” So proclaimed the legendary 19th-century teenage poet Arthur Rimbaud. In FREN 1000, we will take our cue from Rimbaud’s famous line as we immerse ourselves in dreams of youth and ask what it means to be young. Is youth a number? a phase? a mindset? And is it really true that no-one’s serious when they’re seventeen?

Our investigations this semester will lead us through a wide array of French and Francophone materials, from films, images and literary texts to current news articles and sociological surveys, that imagine youth in all its various guises. We will be attentive to individual experiences and representations of youth in France – school and family, desire and professional ambition, class divisions and social (im)mobility – but we will also study youth as a collective phenomenon, one that is culturally and historically determined, as we ask what makes a generation and how a new generation inherits from those that have gone before. In considering the commonalities and differences between Penn students and their French and Francophone counterparts, the course will be a process of self-reflection. Likewise, it will be one of linguistic exploration, embracing the parallel between discovering a language and (re)discovering one’s youth.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The course is designed

- to prepare students for **upper-level courses** in French and Francophone studies and for **Study Abroad**
- **to solidify** students' knowledge of the language, building on the grammatical and lexical foundations they have acquired at previous levels.
- to help students become more aware of **the process of language learning** so as to develop strategies that will enable them to become **independent language learners**.
- to further develop students' ability to engage in **(inter)cultural learning and understanding**. The course will be grounded in the six facets of complete understanding defined by Wiggins and McTighe (2005): **ability to explain, interpret, apply, empathize, have perspective, and experience self-knowledge**. By the end of the course, students will demonstrate a broad understanding of the issues facing French youth today, and will be able to engage in an informed discussion of these issues, raising critical questions,

drawing comparisons with their own personal concerns, and having enhanced their perspectives on their own identity.

- to help students gain **confidence** in expressing themselves in a foreign language, in a broad variety of settings and contexts: conversation with fellow French speakers, presenting and synthesizing arguments, critical analysis of cultural material, etc.

Participation and Engagement (25%)

FREN 1000 is a highly interactive class whose success depends on students' regular, active participation. There will be a number of ways in which you can engage with the course material and with one another, both in and out of the classroom.

- ***In-class participation***

During class sessions, much of the time will be spent working with your classmates in pairs or small groups. It is expected that the discussion be conducted entirely in French, even when your instructor is helping another group.

Your instructor will take attendance for every session. Attendance is mandatory as of the first day of the semester; any student joining the class thereafter will be expected to make up the work missed.

Please make every effort to inform your instructor in advance if you are unable to attend class by submitting a Course Action Notice. The three lowest daily participation grades will be automatically dropped at the end of the semester. Whenever you must be absent, you are expected to keep up with the material and assignments. Beyond three absences, see your instructor to explore ways to indicate your ongoing engagement with the class and potentially earn participation points. Please contact your instructor as soon as possible if you have any concerns or anticipate any difficulty in meeting these requirements.

Students should inform their instructor in advance (by the second week of classes) of any religious holidays they will be observing during the semester.

- ***Preparation & homework***

Discussions will be largely based on materials assigned outside of class (readings, films, songs, etc.), which you are expected to prepare before attending. Assignments will also include posting written or recorded contributions to Canvas (e.g. discussion boards and individual Canvas pages) and Google Docs. Although FREN 1000 does not conduct a systematic in-class review of grammar, your instructor will periodically indicate topics to review outside of class; regular practice, as well as close attention to the feedback provided by your instructor, will accelerate your progress as a language learner.

Essays (30%)

Students will write three essays during the semester. The essays will expand on topics and themes discussed in class, and will draw on readings and films that have been assigned. A first draft of each essay will be written in class, and a revised draft produced at home; the final grade will amalgamate the two versions.

Oral Exam (15%)

There will be an oral exam midway through the semester, focusing primarily on a literary text that will have been studied in the course. Each student will schedule an individual appointment with their instructor. Students will be evaluated on their linguistic accuracy, the quantity and quality of the information and analysis that they provide, their ability to link details to the broader context, and their oral fluency.

Enquête (20%)

During the second half of the semester, students will work individually or in groups on a multifaceted *reportage* that will allow them to synthesize and personalize numerous aspects of the course content. The project's structure will draw on the *Génération Quoi* and *Et maintenant ?* surveys, and will blend written and visual elements.

Exposé (10%)

In the last full week of the semester, students will present their *reportage* and lead a class discussion on themes relating to their topic.

FINAL GRADE

Participation and Engagement 25%

Essays 30%

Oral Exam 15%

Enquête 20%

Exposé 10%

COURSE MATERIALS

There is one required text for the course, Faïza Guène's novel *Kiffe kiffe demain* (2004), available either in print or in e-book format. There will also be occasional films required either for rent or purchase through online streaming services.

Any student may consult with [Student Financial Services](#) to find out what support they are eligible to receive to cover course costs or other items that ensure their health, safety, and secure learning environment.