

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, songs and literary texts to sociological studies, 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.

De quoi le mot « jeunesse » est-il le synonyme ?

À quoi est-ce qu’il rêve ? À quoi est-ce qu’il rime ?

PREREQUISITES

Students must meet one of the following prerequisites:

- Successful completion of French 0400 (formerly French 140) or exemption from the language requirement
- A score above 650 on the SAT II
- AP 4 or 5

All students must confirm their placement prior to the first class by filling out the departmental credit regulation form.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The goals of FREN 1000 are four-fold. This course is designed to help you build and reinforce the following:

- **Foundational skills**
 - Deepen your reading, listening, and understanding of authentic French-language materials

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- Strengthen your grammar and vocabulary in French, and know how to adapt your linguistic skill set to specific cultural contexts
- Familiarize yourself with the terms, ideas, and stakes of current sociocultural topics in France and beyond
- Develop vocabularies for distinct modes of cultural production (essay, narrative, poetry, film, photography, etc.)
- **Expression and analysis**
 - Use your linguistic tools to distinguish, describe, and interpret French cultural and textual materials
 - Craft and sustain an argument
 - Make efficient and compelling use of textual evidence
 - Transition smoothly between your ideas
- **Identity**
 - Build confidence! Recognize yourself as a fully-fledged French speaker, whatever your background in the language
 - Make the language your own! Hone an individual style in your spoken and written idiom, and know that a machine can never replicate *your experience within the language*
 - Find yourself in the material! Locate the aspects in which you see yourself reflected, while remaining attuned to (and respectful of) difference
- **Community**
 - Connect with your fellow French speakers in the classroom, on campus, and beyond! Embrace your individual language journey as part of a collective experience, and recognize yourself as a lifetime member of a multilayered linguistic community

EXPECTATIONS AND REQUIRED WORK

Class activities and homework will be detailed in the weekly Canvas programmes, which students should consult on a regular basis. The programmes will be updated throughout the semester; your instructor will keep you apprised of developments.

- **PARTICIPER (20%)**

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.

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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. 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. 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.

Discussions will be largely based on materials assigned outside of class (readings, films, images, audio clips, etc.), which you are expected to prepare before attending. Your instructor will periodically indicate grammar and vocabulary 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.

- **GO FICHE (5%)**

During the semester you will regularly be using worksheets (*fiches*) to aid your understanding and interpretation of the assigned materials. Please bring your worksheets to class when requested by your instructor; they will be assessed on a completion basis.

- **CONSTRUIRE (10%)**

Towards the start of each of the semester's 4 main units, there will be a 15-minute in-class quiz focusing on lexical and analytical tools relevant to themes and materials of the unit. The goal of these quizzes is to strengthen the foundational skills you will be using throughout the course. You will be able to use each quiz as a resource for that unit's in-class writing.

- **ESSAYER (30%)**

Midway through each unit, there will be a 1-hour in-class writing period in which you will use the analytical methods you have been developing in order to perform a close reading of an excerpt from a primary text (film, poem, novel, etc.) from that unit. By enabling you to build on the preparation we'll have been doing together, these writing days are designed to help you give shape to your ideas and continue developing your style in French.

- **DIALOGUER (35%)**

Towards the end of each unit, you will meet in pairs with your instructor to do a close reading of another excerpt from the unit's primary materials over the course of a 10-minute conversation. These dialogues are intended as an extension of the in-class writing exercises, allowing you to further hone your skills of expression and analysis, this time in a collaborative setting. The dialogues at the end of the final unit will be done in class and lead into collective discussion.

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FINAL GRADE

- **PARTICIPER: 20%**
- **GO FICHE: 5%**
- **CONSTRUIRE: 10%**
- **ESSAYER: 30%**
- **DIALOGUER: 35%**

GRADING SCALE

A+ : 99-100	A : 94-98	A- : 90-93
B+ : 88-89	B : 83-87	B- : 81-82
C+ : 79-80	C : 76-78	C- : 74-75
D+ : 72-73	D : 70-71	F : below 70

COURSE MATERIALS

There is one text required for the course, Maud Simonnot's novel *L'enfant céleste* (2020), copies of which will be provided to students.

Films required for the course will be streamed via Canvas when possible. Any film to which the Penn Libraries do not have streaming access will be available for rental or purchase on at least one commercial streaming service (Amazon, YouTube, etc.).