

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
 - 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. Please refer to the course calendar and weekly programmes for scheduled assessments.

• **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.

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.

Participation will be assessed on a weekly basis. Please make every effort to inform your instructor in advance if you are unable to attend class by [submitting a Course Action Notice](#). Whenever you must be absent, you are expected to keep up with the material. Beyond three absences (the equivalent of a week of class), you are strongly urged to see your instructor to explore ways to indicate your ongoing engagement with the class. 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.

- **S'ENTRAINER (15%)**

During the semester you will periodically be asked to complete worksheets and other exercises outside of class, whether on Canvas, Google Docs, etc. These exercises are intended to help you chart your path through the assigned materials and to give you regular opportunities to build new vocabulary while continuing to strengthen your linguistic skill set.

- **DIALOGUER (30%)**

During each unit, you will partner with one or two classmates to do a close reading of an excerpt from the unit's primary materials over the course of an approximately 10-minute-long conversation. These dialogues are intended to allow you to hone your skills of expression and analysis in a collaborative setting. The dialogues at the end of the final unit will be done in class and lead into collective discussion.

- **ESSAYER (35%)**

During the course of each thematic 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. Each essay will be revised along guidelines laid out by your instructor.

FINAL GRADE

- **PARTICIPER: 20%**
 - 15 weeks; 3 60-minute sessions per week
- **S'ENTRAINER: 15%**
 - worksheets and other assignments to be completed periodically outside of class
- **ESSAYER: 35%**
 - 3 in-class writing exercises of 60 minutes, followed by revisions
- **DIALOGUER: 30%**
 - 3 critical dialogues with a partner, approximately 10 minutes each, during class time
 - the 3rd round of dialogues will take place in class and will be followed by collective discussion

GRADING SCALE

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|-------------|-----------|--------------|
| 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

Films and texts required for the course will be made available 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.).

STATEMENT OF BELONGING

This class community strives to be an inclusive learning space, valuing all of our differences. We aim to be respectful of all members of this class, regardless of race, ethnicity, religion, gender, gender identities and expressions, sexual orientation, religious beliefs, political beliefs, physical or mental health status, or socioeconomic status. All participants in this course deserve to and should expect to be treated with respect by other members of the community. Your suggestions for improving diversity and inclusivity in this course are encouraged and appreciated.

GENDER PRONOUNS

This class community affirms people of all gender expressions and identities. If you prefer to be called a different name than what is on the class roster, please let your instructor and colleagues know. Feel free to share your gender pronouns, if you are comfortable doing so. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact your instructor.

COURSE COSTS

Any student experiencing financial difficulty should contact the instructor so an alternative pathway toward learning can be arranged. Additionally, students may consult with Student Financial Services (<https://srfs.upenn.edu/financial-aid/counseling>) and/or Penn First Plus (pennfirstplus@upenn.edu) 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. Students who are struggling to afford sufficient food to eat every day and/or lack a safe and suitable space to live should contact Student Intervention Services (vpul-sisteam@pobox.upenn.edu).

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS

All academic accommodations must be approved by Disability Services at the Weingarten Center. Students who have been granted accommodations from Disability Services **must arrange for those accommodations to be communicated to the instructor**. All testing accommodations must be arranged by the student at least eight days in advance of an assessment. Refer to the course calendar for scheduled assessments. If you don't have academic accommodations, but feel you might require them, consult Disability Services at the Weingarten Center (<https://weingartencenter.universitylife.upenn.edu/academic-accommodations/>).

CODE OF ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

The Department of Francophone, Italian, and Germanic Studies fully supports and adheres to all university policies and procedures regarding academic integrity (cheating, fabrication, plagiarism, etc.). The work you submit in this class is expected to be your own. **If any part of your submitted work**

has been copied without attribution from some published or unpublished source, including the internet or generative AI, or that has been prepared by someone other than you, or in any way misrepresents someone else's work as your own, you will face severe discipline by the university and will receive a zero for the assignment. For more information consult the Code of Academic Integrity (<http://www.upenn.edu/academicintegrity/>) and the Center for Community Standard and Accountability (<https://csa.upenn.edu/>).

You may only use Internet sources (such as www.wordreference.com.) as you would a dictionary, i.e., you may only look up a word or phrase. **The use of online translators, generative AI, or another person for classwork and graded assignments constitutes plagiarism.** If you are having particular difficulty phrasing something in French, you are strongly encouraged to ask your instructor for help.

You are welcome and encouraged to work with classmates on regular homework and to study for quizzes and oral exams; however, compositions are to be completed on your own. If you feel that you need extra help for this course, you are encouraged to work with a tutor (see below). If you decide to do so, you must notify your instructor ahead of time as there are specific procedures you and the tutor must follow. More detailed information will be discussed with your instructor.

OFFICE HOURS

Your instructor is available to meet with you during office hours, which are posted on the Canvas homepage, and by appointment. If you have any questions or problems, it is important to see them as soon as possible so they can appropriately address the situation. Your instructor is also available via email, but they may not respond on evenings and weekends. Many issues are much better dealt with in person, and students are encouraged to come discuss with their instructor directly.

COURSE ACTION NOTICES

In keeping with the School of Arts and Sciences Policy, students may receive a Course Action Notice for any of the following reasons: (1) excessive absences; (2) frequent tardiness; (3) late or missing assignments; (4) poor performance on tests, quizzes or compositions; (5) weak participation in class. A copy of this notice will be sent to your academic adviser. Students not performing up to course standards are encouraged to meet with their instructor as well as take advantage of campus resources listed below.

COVID-19

Penn does not currently require students to wear masks. However, if you choose to wear a mask for any reason, I strongly support you in that decision. You will be informed if a classroom mask requirement becomes necessary at any point in the semester.

RESOURCES TO HELP YOU SUCCEED

The Department Home Page: <https://www.sas.upenn.edu/french/>.

Consult the Department Home Page for complete information about the Undergraduate Program in French, including course listings, extracurricular activities, and a list of tutors who are available for a fee.

Language Direct Peer Tutoring: <https://plc.sas.upenn.edu/languagedirect>.

Language Direct is a free peer tutoring program for foreign language learners at Penn. It consists of a network of peer tutors, supervised by the staff of the Penn Language Center and language program coordinators, who assist foreign language learners through face-to-face tutoring and online help. Request a tutor on the website.

La Maison francophone: http://gregory.house.upenn.edu/la_maison_francaise

La Maison francophone, part of the Modern Languages Residential Program of Gregory House, is located in the Class of 1925 building, 3940 Locust Walk. Join to enjoy movie nights, cooking classes, conversation, and more!

Francophone Community Partnership: <https://pennclubs.com/club/francophone-community-partnership>[Links to an external site.](#)

The Francophone Community Partnership is a bilingual after-school enrichment program that pairs 1st- / 2nd-generation immigrant children from Francophone West Africa at the Lea School in West Philadelphia with French-learning Penn students to nurture each other's language skills, confidence, cultural awareness.

Weingarten Center

The Weingarten Center offers a variety of resources to support all Penn students in reaching their academic goals. All services are free and confidential. To contact the Weingarten Center, call 215-573-9235. The office is located in Stouffer Commons, 3702 Spruce Street, Suite 300.

Academic Support at Weingarten: <https://www.vpul.upenn.edu/tutoring/>.

Learning consultations and learning strategies workshops support students in developing more efficient and effective study skills and learning strategies. Learning specialists work with undergraduate, graduate, and professional students to address time and project management, academic reading and writing, note-taking, problem-solving, exam preparation, test-taking, self-regulation, and flexibility.

Undergraduates can also take advantage of free on-campus tutoring for many Penn courses in both drop-in and weekly contract formats. Tutoring may be individual or in small groups. Tutors will assist with applying course information, understanding key concepts, and developing course-specific strategies. Tutoring support is available throughout the term but is best accessed early in the semester.

Disability Services at Weingarten: <https://weingartencenter.universitylife.upenn.edu/disability-services/>.

The University of Pennsylvania is committed to the accessibility of its programs and services. Students with a disability or medical condition can request reasonable accommodations through the Weingarten Center website. Disability Services determines accommodations on an individualized basis through an interactive process, including a meeting with the student and a review of their disability documentation. Students who have approved accommodations are encouraged to notify their faculty members and share their accommodation letters at the start of each semester. Students can contact Disability Services by calling 215-573-9235.

Study Abroad: [Links to an external site.https://global.upenn.edu/pennabroad](https://global.upenn.edu/pennabroad).

The University of Pennsylvania strongly encourages students to take advantage of the variety of opportunities for study abroad. Summer, semester, and year-long programs in France and other Francophone countries are sponsored by Penn Abroad.

Study Abroad - Penn in Tours: <https://summer.sas.upenn.edu/programs/abroad/tours>.

The Penn-in-Tours program offers a variety of courses in language, culture, and history at the advanced level, in addition to an intensive intermediate courses. Contact the Program Director, Mélanie Péron, and the Undergraduate Chair, Scott Francis, for more information.

Student Health and Counseling: <https://wellness.upenn.edu/student-health-and-counseling>.

Your mental health and wellness is of the utmost importance. If you or someone you know is in distress and urgently needs to speak with someone, please do not hesitate to contact Student Health and Counseling (formerly SHS and CAPS). They are committed to providing safe, accessible, cost-effective, culturally-sensitive, and student-focused care. They offer care for acute and chronic health problems, preventative health services, as well as mental health and counseling, crisis management, and consultations. If you are uncomfortable or need assistance, your instructor will be happy to contact them on your behalf. Medical care is available during regular business hours at 3535 Market Street, Suite 100 and 24/7 at 215-746-3535. Counseling is available during regular business hours at 3624 Market Street, First Floor West and 24/7 at 215-898-7021.