The Department of French and Francophone Studies at Macalester introduces students to the language, literatures, and cultures of the French-speaking world. The faculty and the native-speaking graduate assistants provide opportunities for curricular and extracurricular activities and steer students toward linguistic and cultural proficiency. In upper-level courses, students explore the diverse cultures, literatures, histories, and intellectual and artistic productions of France and French-speaking countries. All courses, unless indicated otherwise, are taught in French. The department actively collaborates with the programs in Media and Cultural Studies; Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies; African Studies; Latin American Studies; Middle Eastern Studies and Islamic Civilization; Human Rights and Humanitarianism; International Studies; and Critical Theory. Students may major or minor in French.

Faculty
Andrew Billing, associate professor and chair, received his PhD at the University of California–Irvine, and was a Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow at Macalester in 2008–09. His current research explores the “animal/human relation” as well as intersections between literary fiction and moral and political philosophy in the French Enlightenment. His teaching interests include 18th-century French literature, Enlightenment political and moral philosophy, colonialism, and critical theory.

Annick Fritz-Smead, visiting assistant professor, teaches French at all levels. She specializes in 20th-century French literature and culture, with research interests in poetry, women writers, and cinema. She has published a book on the poetry of Francis Ponge, Francis Ponge: De l’écriture à l’oeuvre. Juliette Rogers, professor, received her PhD from Duke University. She specializes in 19th-century French literature and in Quebec literature. She is the author of Career Stories: Belle Epoque Novels of Professional Development and the guest co-editor of Eclectic Expressions: Selected Essays of the 2006 Women in French Conference. She is currently working on a book titled “Travailler et vivre: Recent Women’s Fiction from Quebec and France.”

Martine Sauret, associate professor, received her PhD from the University of Minnesota. Her most recent book, Voyages dans l’Ecole cartographique de Dieppe au XVIIe siècle: Espaces altérités et influences, examines the French Dieppe maps in the 16th century. She has also published Les voies cartographiques and “Gargantua” et les délits du corps, as well as the French translation of The Graphic Unconscious in Early Modern French Writing by Tom Conley.

Joëlle Vitiello, professor, received her PhD from Stanford University. She specializes in 20th- and 21st-century French and Francophone literature and culture. She teaches contemporary culture and literature (French, North African, and Caribbean); immigration in France and in Europe; cinema; food and sustainability; and Haitian literature and culture. Among other publications, she is the co-editor of Elles écrivent des Antilles (Haiti, Guadeloupe and Martinique) and of Women in French at the Threshold of the XXIst Century: Historical and Contemporary Perspectives and is co-author of a book on American culture. Recent publications include articles and book chapters on Haitian writers and artists, representations of shantytowns in Haitian literature, Algerian women writers, and representations of violence in contemporary literature and cinema. She is currently writing a book on the transformations of Haitian intellectuals and writers (1946–2010). She is affiliated with Critical Theory, African Studies, Middle Eastern Studies and Islamic Civilization, and Human Rights and Humanitarianism.

Teaching Assistants/ Native Speakers
Each year the department recruits two French teaching assistants who are concurrently graduate students in a French or francophone university. The two French teaching assistants conduct the laboratory sessions of the language courses and serve as co-directors of the French House.

Recent Advanced Courses
What Happened in France From the Renaissance to the XVIIth Century? Did Anybody Read, Write or Live Well?
Introduction to the French and Francophone World
Parisien: Women of Paris
Environmentalism, Industrialization and Nature in 19th-Century Literature and Art
Haiti: Culture, Human Rights and Humanitarianism
L’image du monde: influences de la cartographie sur la littérature française
La France contemporaine: histoire, culture et actualité
Literature and Cinema of Immigration
North Africa/France: Both Sides of the Mediterranean through Cinema
Science Fiction and Technology in French Literature and Film

Resources
Students interested in improving their linguistic proficiency and organizing cultural activities live in the French House with two native-speaking teaching assistants.

As the department’s social and cultural hub, the Maison Française complements the classroom.
FRENCH AND FRANCOPHONE STUDIES

Study Abroad
Study abroad in a French-speaking country is a central component of the department’s curriculum and is required for French majors. Students have recently participated in programs in France through CUPA in Paris, internships in francophone Europe, and other programs in Cameroon, Morocco, and Senegal.

French Lecture Series
Every semester, the French and Francophone Studies Department hosts a French Lecture Series. Among recent speakers, we hosted a talk with scholar, author and activist Evelyne Accad and Haitian writer Kettly Mars. We hosted Oscar-nominated Malian filmmaker A. Sissako in spring 2015 and Senegalese philosopher Souleymane Bachir Diagne in fall 2014. Clare Ryan ’08 spoke on translating a Macalester education into a career in human rights; Professor John Nimis ’97 spoke on love and music in contemporary Africa: Kinshasa’s Musique Moderne; and Stephanie Ziebell ’01, UN Coordination Officer in Haiti, spoke on her path from a French major to a career with the United Nations.

Internships
Students may do internships in a number of venues in the Twin Cities and abroad. Students regularly intern at the St. Paul French Immersion School, the Alliance Française, and other local organizations where French is needed. Students also complete internships through recognized study abroad programs, such as IFE (Paris, Brussels, and Strasbourg) and MSID (Senegal). Academic credit is available.

Carly Avezzano ’16 (Montvale, N.J.) is teaching for the Teaching Assistant Program in France (TAPIF) in Montpellier.

Aparna Mazumdar ’16 (New Delhi, India) is pursuing a master's degree in clinical psychological science at the University of Maryland.

Cora Trout ’16 (Columbia, Mo.) is a freelance graphic designer for Macalester College.

Myriem Benkirane ’15 (Casablanca, Morocco) is pursuing a master's degree in law and human rights at the University of London.

Honors Projects
Cora Trout ’16 (Columbia, Mo.), “Entre le profane et le sacré au Moyen Âge: Une remise en question de la classification ‘profane’ des enseignes ‘obscènes’ et ‘érótiques’ “Between the Sacred and the Profane: Medieval Phallus Pins Reconsidering the Secular Classification of ‘Obscene’ and ‘Erotic’ Lead Badges”

After Macalester
Carly Avezzano ’16 (Montvale, N.J.) is teaching for the Teaching Assistant Program in France (TAPIF) in Montpellier.

Aparna Mazumdar ’16 (New Delhi, India) is teaching for the Teaching Assistant Program in France in Bordeaux.

Cora Trout ’16 (Columbia, Mo.) is a freelance graphic designer for Macalester College.

Myriem Benkirane ’15 (Casablanca, Morocco) is pursuing a master's degree in clinical psychological science at the University of Maryland.

Fernanda Caressa ’15 (Centerville, Ohio) teaches English through the Teaching Assistant Program in France (TAPIF) in Montpellier, France.

Eura Chang ’15 (St. Paul) received a Fulbright Scholarship and is an English teaching assistant in Senegal.

Amani DeHolton ’15 (Austin, Texas) is pursuing a master's degree in student affairs in higher education at Miami University of Ohio.

Gabria Landeros Fernandez ’15 (Chicago) is teaching for Gaba, Inc., in Tokyo, Japan.

Erin Slater ’15 (Federal Way, Wash.) is pursuing a master's degree in student affairs in higher education at Miami University of Ohio.

Ayano Alexis Terai ’15 (Tokyo, Japan) works as a Congressional Study Group on Japan Fellow at the U.S. Association of Former Members of Congress in Washington, D.C.

Kim Goodnight ’14 (White Hall, Ark.) is teaching for the Teaching Assistant Program in France at the secondary level in l’académie de Strasbourg.

Sarah Lansky ’14 (Amherst, Mass.) is an associate at the International Justice Program at Human Rights Watch.

Akilah Sykes ’14 (Kingston, Jamaica) is an English immersion camp counselor for Ligue d’enseignement de Tarn-et-Garonne in Midi-Pyrénées, France.

Amelia Fedo ’13 (Evanston, Ill.) attends New York University as a PhD candidate in French.

Gary (Charles) Kilian ’13 (Cottage Grove, Minn.) attends the University of Wisconsin–Madison as a PhD candidate in French.

Margaret Brunk ’12 (La Crosse, Wis.) attends the University of Chicago Law School.

Nicholas Huelster ’12 (St. Paul) is a PhD student in Romance Studies at Cornell University.

Hanna Zimnitskaya ’12 (Minsk, Belarus) is recruitment consultant at Careers International in Belgium.

Helena Anderson ’11 (Watkinsville, Ga.) taught English in a lycée in France and is now pursuing a master's degree in art history at the Courtauld Institute of Art in London.

Vanessa Doriot ’04 (Stillwater, Minn.) received a PhD in French studies and is an assistant professor of French at Wartburg College.

Stephanie Ziebell ’01 (New York) is coordination officer, Office of Deputy Special Representative of the United Nations Peacekeeping Mission in Haiti.

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