Welcome to the French Program!

The French program at San Francisco State University offers a challenging and enriching experience for those who are interested not only in the French language but also in French and Francophone culture and society. French is one of the very few languages spoken all over the world, ranked the sixth most widely spoken language after Mandarin Chinese, English, Hindi, Spanish, and Arabic. Today, more than 220 million people speak French throughout the world: roughly 51% live in Africa and the Middle East, 40% live in Europe, 8% in the Americas, and 1% in Asia/Oceania. As a result of population growth, there will be more than 700 million French Speakers by 2050, 80% of whom will be living in Africa. The French Program is excited to offer an avenue to engage with this expanding and diverse Francophone cultural and linguistic world.

We offer full-fledged Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts programs and focus on developing proficiency in the language in a sociocultural context by offering a variety of courses and by conducting courses in culture and literature in French. Great importance is placed on participatory classes, which are small and practice-oriented, to help students adapt themselves to a changing world. In addition to in-class courses, we offer a few hybrid and online courses to add flexibility to our program. Excellent computer facilities and a multimedia center provide support for our educational program.

We have professional and energetic lecturers (in particular Tolga Akgün who received his B.A. in Political Science at the Francophone Université de Galatasaray in Istanbul, Turkey and M.A. in French at SFSU) and GTAs (Graduate Teaching Assistants). The French Program has 3 full-time faculty members:

Bérénice Le Marchand, Ph.D. Vanderbilt, teaches Medieval and Early Modern French Literature and Culture. The primary focus of her work is on tales and fairy tales, including medical discourse, theater and gender studies, and intersections between second-language acquisition and literature/culture (blemarch@sfsu.edu).

Anne Linton, Ph.D. Yale. Her research interests span a wide range of interdisciplinary topics in 19th and 20th-century cultural studies, including science, medicine, and gender studies (aelinton@sfsu.edu).

Blanca Missé, Ph.D. UC Berkeley, teaches early Modern Literature, Critical thinking and Francophone/Post-Colonial studies. The primary focus of her work is the French and European Enlightenment, in particular philosophy and fiction (bmissive@sfsu.edu).

SF State is located in San Francisco, a cosmopolitan city with a large and active French community, which makes it a great place to study French. Students are also given a number of opportunities to study in France. Through the California State University’s international programs, selected students may study at Aix-en-Provence and in Paris. Such opportunities give students practical experience in everyday French life and culture, helping to build and reinforce these skills.

If you are an undergraduate student and wonder which class to take, you can take a free online placement test and see an adviser (last names: A-Z: contact Prof Missé, last names M-Z: contact Prof Linton). Please contact an adviser for further details. For new or transfer students, seek advising early; so we can best tailor to your needs and find classes for your French level. We will also plan your classes if you decide to be a major, minor, and/or to study in France. We are here to help and work alongside with you. Our Major is 44 total units, or 30 upper division units; Minor is 35 total units, or 21 upper division units.

For more information, we invite you to consult our Program’s website: http://mll.sfsu.edu/french-program

We hope to welcome you soon in our French classes—Bienvenue!