Master of Arts in French Studies

- Course Work Requirements
- Foreign Language Requirement
- Time Frame
- The MA Final Project
- Teaching Certificate in French

Course Work Requirements

Effective Summer 2016:

A total of 50 applicable credits are required for the Master in Arts of French. 40 of those credits (normally 8 courses) must be taken in 400- and 500-level course work.

- at least 18 of these credits must be at the 500-level or above
- at least 18 of these credits must be graded in department approved 400-level courses accepted as part of the major, and in 500-level courses. This excludes 499 and transfer credits

The coursework will include:

- FRENCH 510 "Methodology of French Language Teaching" and FRENCH 590: total 5 credits or equivalent
- a designated "methods" course (FRENCH 550, 551, 577) or another course with approval of the GPC
- at least two courses whose content is largely drawn from pre-1800

10 credits in FRENCH 600 will be given for a Master's Project. The MA Project emphasizes independent research and creative projects. Possibilities include the writing of a publishable research essay (20-25 pages); a teaching portfolio; or a digital project (e.g., an online edition or database). The Project will be devised in consultation with a chosen director, from the faculty of FIS. Upon completion, it will be defended before a faculty panel of two professors: the director and a second member.

MA students are, in addition, encouraged to complete a Graduate Certificate, which will encourage interdisciplinary work and add a further dimension to the students' academic courses. Those of particular interest to FIS MA students include: Secondary and Foreign Language Teaching; Textual and Digital Studies; Cinema and Media Studies; Public Humanities; Feminist Studies; Queer and Sexuality Studies. Graduate Certificates typically require 15-20 credits of courses and capstone work, of which 6 can overlap with the credits applied to the MA in French or Italian.

In order to remain in good standing the student must maintain a cumulative grade-point average of 3.6. The minimum acceptable grade for any given course is 2.7.

The M.A. program should normally be completed in 5 or 6 full-time academic quarters (with a Teaching Assistantship, full-time
enrollment is 10 credits per quarter). The last quarter is usually reserved for study and exam preparation.

Prior to Summer 2016

A total of 45 applicable credits (400-level and above) are required in course work, and an additional 10 credits in French 600 are given for exam preparation. Fifteen credits of the course work must be taken at the 500 level (courses limited to graduate students). Five coursework credits are given for the required pedagogy methods seminar for first-time TAs. In order to remain in good standing the student must maintain a cumulative grade-point average of 3.6. The minimum acceptable grade for any given course is 2.7.

Students must fulfill 4 out of the department’s 7 period distributions. In addition, they must take one class in the History of Criticism / Critical Theory rubric.

Students are encouraged to take courses (up to 15 credits) in disciplines other than their major field of study. These credits must be approved by the Graduate Program Coordinator at the time of registration. Credits in such supporting or related fields are allowed only for courses numbered 400 or above.

The M.A. program should normally be completed in 5 or 6 full-time academic quarters (with a Teaching Assistantship, full-time enrollment is 10 credits per quarter). The last quarter is usually reserved for study and exam preparation.

NOTE: Teaching Assistants are required to enroll in a course on the Methodology of Foreign Language Instruction.

Foreign Language Requirement

Candidates for the MA in French Studies must demonstrate proficiency in a language other than French, English or their native language. Students should stipulate their choice as soon as possible, after consultation with the Graduate Program Coordinator (GPC, Rich Watts 2018-19). Proficiency can be demonstrated in one of the following ways:

1. Passing a proficiency exam in the relevant language, administered by the Office of Educational Assessment.
2. Earning a grade of at least 3.0 in the final course of a second-year college-level sequence (equivalent to our FRENCH 203).
3. Comparable alternatives (e.g. a summer immersion program), with the approval of the GPC.

Time Frame

Students are expected to complete ALL requirements for the MA in six quarters. Beyond the sixth quarter, students will no longer be eligible for Teaching Assistant positions.

The MA Final Project

The MA Project emphasizes independent research and creative projects. Possibilities include the writing of a publishable research essay (20-25 pages); a teaching portfolio; or a digital project (e.g. an online edition or database). The Project will be devised and undertaken in consultation with a chosen director, selected from the faculty of FIS. The student will, upon completion of the Project, defend it before a faculty panel consisting of the director and a second member.

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