MAJORING/MINORING IN FRENCH AT THE UNIVERSITY OF TULSA

Are you a Senior in High School, who studied French for several years? Or maybe you recently discovered the language and you would like to become fluent?

Consider The Languages Department at the University of Tulsa as your opportunity to develop your language skills, explore literature, and discover multiple aspects of French/Francophone culture while refining your critical thinking at the highest level.



At The University of Tulsa (*ranked among the Top 50 private universities in the nation*), you will be able to pursue a French Minor/Major with the guidance of dedicated professionals. Alternatively, you might coordinate your French studies with any other area of specialization (International Business, Biochemistry, History and Political Science are a few examples). In our globalized economies and societies, being multilingual is a valuable asset that can make the difference in launching and building your career. It opens the possibility to work in close collaboration with France/Francophone countries through international companies and non-profit organizations. Travel to Francophone countries – whether for business or pleasure – will be enriched by your understanding of the language and culture.

Incoming students take a placement test and generally start the curriculum at the Intermediate II or the Advanced level if they already took 3 to 4 years of French in High School.

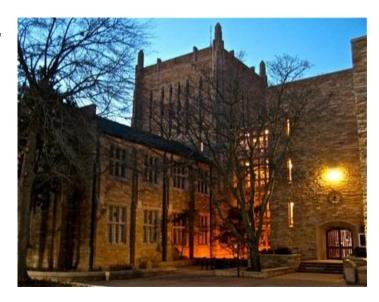
The French Program at The University of Tulsa presents many advantages you may not find in other universities:

- <u>Small class size</u> assures you receive individualized teaching and feedback in a convivial atmosphere from your instructors, who are native/ near-native-speakers.
- <u>A unique curriculum</u> enables you to explore key issues of the contemporary world, to develop your ethical/critical perceptions, and to discover stimulating cultural areas (such as African cinema or French science-fiction) that are not often studied in the United States.
- <u>Close collaboration with the prestigious Collins College of Business</u>, where you can earn a Bachelor Degree in International Business to prepare for leadership roles in international commerce.
- One or more semesters of full immersion in a French/Francophone country through our affiliated academic programs.
- <u>Campus residence in the International Learning Center</u> (opening Fall of 2012) where you will live among other students studying and speaking French and other languages.

The French Curriculum

Beginning and Intermediate Levels:

Before declaring a Major/minor in French, it is essential to refine your language skills in speaking, listening, reading comprehension and writing. At the Beginning and Intermediate Levels, classes are conducted primarily in French, which means the students are totally "immersed" in the language to enable and foster communication from the very beginning. With the help of e-book technology which integrates video and audio clips at the tip of your fingers, our class presentations also use the new Smart-Board technologies to help create a "realistic" French atmosphere in the classroom as well as achieve interactive practices with the students.



In TU's French program, grammar serves as an aid to communication and is not seen as an end in itself. The course work is organized by **communicative goals** and the tools students need to master in order to perform such tasks. Our instructors employ a careful progression of skill-developing and skill-using activities with comprehensive exposure to Francophone culture to help students develop the four linguistic skills - speaking, listening, reading and writing - as well as insights into other cultures by exposing them to **authentic, contemporary French materials** and encouraging them to express themselves on a variety of topics. At the intermediate level, readings include short primary texts, poems, songs, and newspaper articles, each with pre-reading and post-reading activities. Oral comprehension activities include several films, audio recordings, Internet clips and news broadcasts such as France2, each with supportive pre-listening/viewing and post-listening/viewing tasks. Students complete grammar review activities outside of class using an on-line workbook and write short in-class compositions related to chapter themes. Emphasis is placed on the writing process, including preparation, organization, and editing for both content and linguistic accuracy.

Textbooks and methods:

- * At the beginner level, <u>Chez Nous: Branché sur le monde francophone</u>, by Valdman, Pons and Scullen (2010), which is a state-of-the art nationally hosted online learning and assessment system to help students learn French.
- * At the intermediate level, <u>Sur le Vif, Niveau Intermédiaire</u> by Jarausch and Tufts (2011), which is a one-semester textbook divided into two sections: a culture-based thematic class activity section and a grammar review section.

Advanced Levels:

Having mastered your linguistic skills, progress towards your French Minor/Major commences with two courses - Advanced French and Textual Interpretation. These courses equip you to succeed in study abroad programs and provide academic methodology to enable you to express abstract ideas/interpretations in French. The purpose of these courses is to train French majors/minors who will function as informed and proficient interlocutors with educated native speakers from a variety of French speaking nations. You will be trained to write shorts essays in French, and, by the end of these two semesters, you will be accustomed with interpretation and translation, historical and political awareness, social sensibility and aesthetic perception through both literature and cinema.

Textbooks and methods:

- * For Advanced French, <u>La France comtemporaine à travers ses films</u>, by A-C Rice (2011), will help you moving towards abstraction through French cinema, and to better circumscribe the cultural, social and political differences between the US and France/Francophone countries.
- * For Textual Interpretation, Schofer, Rice and Berg's anthology <u>Poèmes, pièces Prose</u> will introduce you with the key movement of French Literature, from Enlightenment and Romanticism to Existentialism.

Upper Level courses:

At this point of the curriculum, in order to complete your degree in French, you will have to take two (for Minors) or eight (for majors) French/Francophone content-oriented courses offered either by the TU French faculty, other affiliated TU departments (such as Comparative Literature, Film Studies, History, Philosophy, Art History, Political Science, Women's and Gender Studies...), or the French/Francophone University associated with our Study Abroad Program.

Upper-level courses offered each semester by TU French Faculty are designed to respond to the student's specific interests, in connection sometimes with their second major. TU French Professors also have backgrounds in Films Studies, Comparative Literature, Linguistics, Science of Education and Philosophy, and are more than willing to design their courses in close consultation with students' academic needs (Individual Studies can be offered to Senior French Majors who have a specific research project).

Below is a list of upper-level French courses that have been offered at TU in recent years, or that are about to be offered in the next semesters:

- ¤ French Translation
- ¤ African Literature
- ¤ Literature and Evil
- ¤ French Science-Fiction
- ¤ Creation and Dumbness in Modern times
- ¤ Contemporary French Literature
- ¤ Reflections about madness
- ¤ Childhood readings, Reading childhood
- m Methods of Foreign Language Education (for future French teachers)

- ¤ African Cinema
- ¤ Knowledge and Desire in the 18th century
- ¤ 1870: Love must be reinvented
- ¤ Business French
- ¤ Language, Gender and Society
- ¤ Aesthetics of French Cinema
- ¤ French Theater

For more information about upper-level courses or the TU French program in general, <u>please do not hesitate to contact our faculty by e-mail</u>: Dr. Meunier (lydie-meunier@utulsa.edu) or Dr. Pollin (karl-pollin@utulsa.edu). You are also more than welcome to meet with them individually if you want to be sure that the TU Language Department can effectively match your expectations as an aspiring French Minor/Major.

Testimonies:

After having graduated from TU, many of our French Majors/Minors decided to pursue Graduate Studies, and were accepted in prestigious programs all across the nation. Most of those who have completed their degrees also managed to get their once-dreamed jobs, and we want to share with you their comments about their career path.

" Since I graduated college, my degree in French has afforded me the opportunity of working in interesting fields and for competitive companies in terms of recruitment. I was hired by Total (French oil & gas multinational) with operations in Angola. I worked as a liaison for the exploration dept and then as a government liaison for their biggest producing asset in Angola. Being able to communicate in French has helped me forge advantageous networks with people in neighboring governments and I have found myself in a position of key contact between my company and foreign government representatives. I am very grateful for my French Education at TU and acknowledge that it has made me stand out as an employee as well as afforded me career. Opportunities that I would otherwise might not have had."

Constancia Miranda (Graduated in May 2001)

"Since obtaining my degree at TU, there has been great joy in a multitude of experiences that have contributed to what I consider to be the French fabric of my life. If I arrange it as a lovely list of statistics, I would have to begin with the one Fulbright grant that I received directly after my graduation. During that adventure, I gained a sort of "French hometown" which would become the future city of the exchange program that I directed and orchestrated for Holland Hall's 8th grade students during my 7-year teaching position there Another number to add to my list would be that of the 352 students that I've had the joy of introducing to French over the eleven years while teaching here in Tulsa—either at Eisenhower International (4th grade), or Holland Hall (6th-8th)—or with my current French tutoring business [...]. These amazing experiences have been but a few of the fibers in the tapestry of my time since receiving my degree at I'Universite de Tulsa (TU) and I'm thrilled to call them my own French connections."

Christy Mason (Graduated in May 1998)

" After TU I went on to graduate school at Sciences Po (and am still grateful to my TU professors for their help and guidance in the tough application process). After graduation, I worked briefly at a company organizing cultural tours for visitors to France. Among other reasons, I was hired because as a speaker of French and English I was able to liaise between the English-speaking visitors and the French-speaking local service providers. Then last year I was selected to assist the head of the OECD (a former Minister of Finance and Minister of Foreign Affairs, who now runs our approx. 2,500-person organization). Again, linguistic skills were key in their selection; this time English, French and Spanish (as my boss is Mexican). Part of my responsibilities include regular contact with Embassies here in Paris, most of which is done in French".

Kally Walsh (Graduated in 2006)

" Since my graduation from TU I got a master's degree in Human Resources Management from Sciences Po, Paris, in 2009 while at the same time doing an apprenticeship at an international headhunting firm. After graduation I started working as an HR Consultant at the OECD (Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development). After awhile I realized that a regular day job wasn't what I wanted to do with the rest of my life, so I set up my own small company in Paris in 2010. I had done a lot of translations in my previous jobs, so I knew that there was a market demand for it, and it was something I'd always enjoyed, so I decided to focus on translations and editing (mostly in the fields of business, law, and marketing). I've been working as a translator (French to English) in Paris for almost two years now."

Katherine Bennani-Parks (Graduated in May 2007)

" When I tell people what my undergraduate degree is in, I usually hear "Well, how did you become a Librarian?" And, while, to some, going from a Bachelor's degree in French and Russian Studies to a Librarian might seem odd-- I owe my undergraduate studies to shaping me to who I am today. My French and Russian Studies degree helped round me as an individual. My study abroad experiences, in Amiens, Quebec City and Zelenograd, gave me the courage to apply and take a job after my Bachelor's degree teaching English in Japan. Upon returning from Japan, I entered into the Masters of Library and Information Studies program at the University of Oklahoma. As a Librarian, I teach various research classes. In addition, in my previous Librarian position at the University of Central Oklahoma, I was the library liaison for the department of Modern Languages (thanks to my language background) and ordered library materials for all the language programs and department. I feel my French and Russian Studies degree not only helped me better communicate in other languages, but also opened my eyes to worlds beyond my present. It helped shape me to become an adaptable, curious individual."

Amanda Lemon (Graduated in May 2004)

"While I was enrolled in the College of Engineering and Natural Sciences as a Biochemistry student, I was still quite interested in continuing to learn the French language. The University of Tulsa French Department truly welcomed me into their program and aided me throughout the process of juggling chemistry courses and laboratories along with a variety of French literature/media, business or translation courses. Currently, I am pursuing a Medical Doctorate at the University of Oklahoma College of Medicine. Majoring in French has both provided an advantage in a highly competitive admission process and helped me prepare for the clinical aspect of medicine. A physician, one of my current professors, has repeatedly insisted that one of the most difficult tasks of medicine is to understand and analyze a patient's narrative. My experience from TU's French courses have begun developing that very skill. Additionally, being proficient in the French language has made available opportunities to act as a translator for patients and visiting physicians or medical students and to practice medicine abroad."

Landon Massoth (Graduated in May 2010)

"The four years of French I took at TU not only expanded my knowledge of language and global literature, it also enhanced my writing skills as an English major. Currently I am pursuing graduate work in postcolonial and diasporic literature at Florida State University, and my strong background in French literature and film has made me more experienced in my field. Intensive studying of a foreign language is imperative to any student interested in exploring a career in writing, literature, or the humanities. TU's French department is especially wonderful for students who enjoy literature and film. I am incredibly grateful to TU for offering such an enriching French department."

Liz Polcha (Graduated in May 2010)