Humanities

French

The French department offers a doctoral program with a strong critical and interdisciplinary orientation. In addition to their respective specialties in French and Francophone literature, the faculty pursues research in related disciplines such as philosophy, aesthetics, psychoanalysis, rhetoric, intellectual history, and postcolonial studies.

While mastery of all areas of knowledge is not within the reach of a single individual, the ability to analyze the discursive strategies of the various fields—their vocabularies, their structures, their presuppositions, and their goals—can be. Criticism, or critical theory, is the discipline that takes as its object of study discourse itself, in an attempt to recognize and evaluate the functions of the different languages of knowledge when they are deployed in various texts and also to understand when it is feasible and productive to mobilize them in one’s own analyses.

The Ph.D. in French

We offer a distinct doctoral program in French, whose interdisciplinary curriculum is designed to train teachers and researchers who

- understand the nature of French and francophone literatures and the theoretical idioms that inform and shape our understanding of these literatures;
- are acquainted with the critical tradition, especially the main currents of continental theory that have in recent decades oriented literary critical studies in America;
- are familiar with current developments in the field of criticism;
- know the fundamentals of second language acquisition and technology-aided instruction.

In keeping with this orientation, graduate courses reflect the faculty’s interest in viewing French literature from multi-disciplinary critical approaches, emphasizing both the close reading of texts and modern theories of interpretation. Moreover, through cooperation with programs in Comparative Literature, Philosophy, Women’s, Gender,
and Sexuality Studies, and Film Studies, students can readily incor-
porate an interdisciplinary focus into their coursework and disserta-
tion. A certificate in Comparative Literature, Women’s, Gender, and
Sexuality Studies, Film Studies, or a minor in Psychoanalytic Studies
is available for students who seek to combine their Ph.D. in French
with literary and theoretical issues outside the historic or generic
boundaries of French literature.

**Intellectual Community**

Emory has a thriving intellectual community focusing around lit-
erature and cultural studies, whose members include the graduate
programs in Comparative Literature, English, Women’s, Gender, and
Sexuality Studies, Film and Media Studies, and the European Studies
seminars.

The Department of French and Italian also regularly brings distin-
guished scholars and authors to campus for seminars and lectures.
One of these lecturers each year is selected by the graduate students.
Recent visitors include:

Rachid Boudjedra, Cynthia Chase, Michel Chion, Tom Conley, James
Creech, J. Michael Dash, Monique David-Menard, Souleymane
Diagne, Peggy Kamuf, Yasmina Khadra, Elisabeth Ladenson,
Frank Lestringant, Serge Margel, D.A. Miller, Marie Ndiaye,
Pascal Quignard, Jean-Michel Rabaté, Jacques Rancière, Mireille
Rosello, and David Wills.

**Program of Study**

Students are expected to take courses and engage in independent
studies leading to: a comprehensive knowledge of the whole body
of French literature; the capacity to use specific critical methods; a
mastery of the chosen field of concentration; and a mastery of the
language itself. All doctoral candidates must also demonstrate profi-
ciency in one foreign language in addition to English and French.
Medievalists must demonstrate knowledge of either Latin or Old French.
The language requirement must be fulfilled before the presentation of
the Ph.D. thesis proposal.

A normal graduate timetable would entail the following: Students ad-
mitted in full standing (with no previous graduate credit) take seven-
teen courses: eight in the first year, six in the second, and three in the
fall semester of the third year. The doctoral qualifying exam, based
on an assigned reading list, will be taken just prior to the beginning of
the student’s fifth semester. The Ph.D. orals, based upon a personal-
ized list of readings in four areas related to the student’s dissertation
part and drawn up in consultation with appropriate faculty advisors,
will be taken in the semester following the completion of coursework.
Students admitted in advanced standing (normally, with an M.A. in
French) take fourteen courses: eight the first year and six the second;
the doctoral qualifying exam will be taken at the beginning of the
third semester, and the Ph.D. orals later that year.

Shortly after the Ph.D. orals, the students present a thesis proposal
before the dissertation committee (three members from French with
the option of a fourth member from outside the program).

Every candidate in the program is encouraged to have the experience
of and exposure to French intellectual and cultural life. Students may
choose to spend the fourth or fifth year, or a portion of these years, in
Paris. This experience will familiarize students with French cultural
and critical events, as well as provide an expanse of time in which to
undertake specialized research for the thesis project. The dissertation
should represent original research and writing on a topic of signifi-
cance to the scholarly community. It will be presented to the three
committee members (a fourth member is optional).

**Professional Activities and Placement**

Graduate students are encouraged to participate fully in their future
profession by publishing papers and presenting them at professional
meetings. Travel support is available for students who present papers
at professional meetings, as is travel to the Modern Language Associa-
tion convention for students seeking teaching positions. Additionally,
all PhD students participate in the Laney Graduate School’s “Program
for Scholarly Integrity” (PSI), which involves workshops and special
sessions addressing issues of professional ethics.

Graduate Students are thoroughly prepared for the job market by
their faculty advisors, who counsel them at every step of the process,
from the composition of the application letter and the preparation of
sample syllabi, to the job interview, for which we hold practice ses-
sions. We have had an excellent placement record, with recent gradu-
ates obtaining positions at such institutions as Princeton, UCLA,
The University of Texas at Austin, Georgia Tech, The University of
Pennsylvania, American University, The University of the South, and
Auburn University.
Training in Teaching

All graduate students must participate in the Teaching Assistant Training and Teaching Opportunity (TATTO) program, developed by the Graduate School. TATTO represents a graduated approach to preparing graduate students to teach and requires:

- completion of a two day summer course prior to the student’s first teaching experience;
- completion of “Problems in Foreign Language Teaching,” a departmental methods course;
- teaching assistantship and/or associateship for at least five semesters.

Whenever possible, over the course of TATTO students will have the opportunity to teach a broad range of courses, including elementary and intermediate language, conversation and composition, introduction to civilization, and literature courses. Students who demonstrate exceptional research promise and teaching ability may be eligible to apply for appointment as Dean’s Teaching Fellows. Teaching fellows have complete responsibility for one course each year.

Students

There are typically 24 – 26 French graduate students in residence. They work on a wide variety of topics, virtually always interdisciplinary in nature. Titles of some recent dissertations include:

- The Letter Killeth: Rhetoric of Sodomy in De Planctu Naturae, Roman de la Rose, and Roman de Silence
- To Speak or Not to Speak?: Postcolonial Readings of Silence in Racine’s Theatre
- Dying in Detail: Feminine death and the question of authorship in 19th century French fiction
- Severed Hands: Amputation, Anxiety and Alienation in 19th and 20th Century French Literature
- Writing the Unseen: Envisioning the Face in the Works of Marguerite Duras and Hélène Cixous
- ‘Je suis croisée’: The Transnational Scholarship, Literature, and Photography of Fatema Mernissi, Leïla Sebbar, and Lalla Essaydi
- Dangerous Appetites: Violent Consumption in the Works of Flaubert, Baudelaire, and Césaire
- Staging the Psyche: Representing the “Other Scene” in the Theater of Michel Tremblay, Marie NDiaye and Wajdi Mouawad
- Violent Legacies: Family and Nation in post 1990’s Algerian Literature
- First Language Acquisition, assessing strategies for classroom learning, using technology to enhance foreign language instruction.
- Ruptures in Address: the Letter as Technical Device in Guilleragues, Sévigné, and Lafayette
- Corps et corpus bilingues d’Abdelkebir Khatibi et d’Abdel fattah Kilito

French Faculty

- GEOFFREY BENNINGTON
  Asa G. Candler Professor of French and Modern French Thought
  Professor of French and Comparative Literature
  Chair, Comparative Literature Department
  D.Phil. in French, Oxford University, 1984
  Modern French Literature and Thought, 18th Century Novel, Literary Theory, Deconstruction.

- VINCENT BRUYÈRE
  Assistant Professor
  Co-Director of Graduate Studies in French and Comparative Literature
  Ph.D. in French, University of Warwick (UK), 2009
  Historiography and Research Ethics, Medical Humanities, Francophone Studies and French Canadian Literature

- SHOSHANA FELMAN
  Robert W. Woodruff Professor of Comparative Literature and French
  Ph.D., University of Grenoble, France, 1970
  19th and 20th century French, English and American literature; literature and psychoanalysis, philosophy, trauma and testimony, law and literature; feminism, theater and performance.

- CAROL HERRON LUSTIG (on leave 2014-15)
  Professor
  Ph.D. in French and Foreign Language Education, University of Wisconsin-Madison, 1978
  Second Language Acquisition, assessing strategies for classroom learning, using technology to enhance foreign language instruction.

- Dalia Judovitz
  National Endowment for the Humanities Professor
  Interim Chair, 2014-15
  Ph.D. in French, The Johns Hopkins University, 1979
  Seventeenth-century French literature and philosophy, modern and postmodern aesthetics.

- VALÉRIE LOICHOT
  Professor of French and English
  Ph.D. in French, Louisiana State University, 1996
  Literature of the Americas, Caribbean Studies, Francophone Studies and Postcolonial theory.
La pyramide" at the Louvre.

- ELISSA MARDER  
  Professor of French and Comparative Literature  
  Chair, Department of French and Italian  
  Ph.D. in French, Yale University, 1989  
  Nineteenth- and twentieth-century French literature, feminist and psychoanalytic theory, photography and film.

- CLAIRE NOUVET  
  Associate Professor  
  Director of the Psychoanalytic Studies Program  
  Ph.D. in French, Princeton University, 1981;  
  Graduate from the Emory University Psychoanalytic Institute, 2006  
  Medieval French literature, psychoanalysis, and critical theory.

- SUBHA XAVIER  
  Assistant Professor  
  Ph.D. in French, University of Wisconsin-Madison, 2007  
  Global French Literature including Subsaharan Africa, the Caribbean and Quebec, Migration and Diaspora Studies, Critical Theory, Film.

For more detailed faculty information, please visit our website, at http://french.emory.edu/people/index.html.

Contact Information
Director of Graduate Studies  
Department of French & Italian  
Emory University  
Atlanta, GA 30322  

Phone: (404) 727-6431  
Fax: (404) 727-4579  
http://french.emory.edu

Requests for Additional Information:  
(404) 727-6028 (ask for the French program)  
Fax: (404) 727-4990  
www.graduateschool.emory.edu  
www.french.emory.edu