



**University of London Institute in Paris**

## **BA in French Studies**

**Programme Information 2009-10**

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## BA IN FRENCH STUDIES

### Key Dates: Session 2009-10

The teaching year is divided into two 10-week semesters.

**Registration** 23, 24 and 25 September 2009

**First Semester** 28 September to 16 December 2009

**Course Work and Reading Week** 2 to 8 November 2009

**Second Semester** 11 January to 28 March 2010

**Course Work and Reading Week** 15 to 21 February 2010

**Examination Period** 29 April to 12 May 2010

**French Public Holidays**

- Wednesday 11 November 2009 (*Armistice 1918*)
- Friday 25 December 2009 (*Jour de Noël*)
- Friday 1 January 2010 (*Jour de l'an*)
- Monday 5 April 2010 (*Pâques*)
- Saturday 1 May 2010 (*Fête du travail*)
- Saturday 8 May 2010 (*Anniversaire 1945*)
- Thursday 13 May 2010 (*Ascension*)
- Monday 24 May 2010 (*Pentecôte*)
- Wednesday 14 July 2010 (*Fête nationale*)

## **AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE PROGRAMME**

The course aims to:

- develop advanced skills in understanding, speaking and writing authentic French.
- broaden and deepen students' knowledge and understanding of key aspects of the society and culture of France and of the francophone world from the Middle Ages to the present day.
- provide a learning environment in which students from all backgrounds are able to develop intellectually.
- provide experiences and opportunities for developing such transferable skills as
  - the capacity for critical analysis and judgement
  - the ability to articulate ideas, devise and sustain arguments
  - the ability to assimilate and evaluate complex material
  - the ability to present, orally and in writing, the results of rational and coherent thinking
  - team working skills
- introduce students to research methods, both in a general sense and to those methods specific to research in modern languages and literatures.
- prepare students for professional life by giving them a balanced understanding of European integration and an ability to compare British and French cultures.

Working within this overall outline, the Institute intends that students completing the BA degree programme should develop and be able to demonstrate knowledge, understanding and skills under the following headings:

- the phonetics, grammar, structure and vocabulary of the principal varieties of French;
- France and French culture: in particular, key aspects of the recent history of France and its social, cultural and political structures;
- key aspects of the arts in a French or francophone context, especially, literature, theatre, cinema and aesthetics, in a comparative, contemporary or historical perspective;
- the interaction between all three of the foregoing;
- the resources and techniques available to students and researchers in the field of French studies and of their wider applicability

## **STRUCTURE OF THE PROGRAMME**

The BA in French Studies is a three year, modular programme, consisting of 11 to 12 course units. Four course units are taken in each of the first and second years of study, and three to four units are taken in the third and final year of study.

The University of London requires that students obtain passes in a minimum of 9 units in order to qualify for the award of the degree. Students must therefore obtain passes in 2.5 units in their first year in order to be admitted into the second year, and a total of 5.5 units at the end of their second year of study in order to progress into the third year.

The course unit value of individual courses varies from 0.5 to 1 unit.

## **COURSE INFORMATION**

Each BA course consists of a number of modules, shown below. The member of staff responsible for a particular course is referred to as a Course Convenor, and each course module is taught by one or more Course Tutors. All full-time members of academic staff are Course Convenors.

**The options listed below may vary from year to year according to staff availability and research interests.**

### **BA Year 1**

The first year is a year of “introductions” intended to help students learn to read and write differently, because they will be reading and writing in French and with new objectives and questions in mind.

Students are required to follow three compulsory courses in their first year of study: L10, C10 and C11.

**L10 The grammatical and syntactical structures of written and spoken French; phonetics of French; development of communicative skills through exercises in written and aural comprehension.**

*2 Course Units – 3 modules*

**L10-1 The grammatical and syntactical structures of written French**

Course Unit: 1

Assessment: 2 assignments

**L10-2 Phonetics of French**

Course Unit: 0.5

Assessment: 2 assignments

**L10-4 Development of communicative skills through exercises in written and aural comprehension**

Course Unit: 0.5

Assessment: 1 assignment

**C10 Critical approaches to literature and visual arts.**

*1 Course Unit*

Course Unit: 1

Assessment: 2 assignments, 2 examinations

**C11 Social, Political and Cultural Issues: From the Revolution to the Present Day**

*1 Course Unit*

Course Unit: 1

Assessment: 2 assignments, 1 examination

## **BA Year 2**

The second year gives students the opportunity to specialise in some of the areas introduced in the first year, as well as introducing them to French-English translation.

Students are required to follow three courses making up a total of 4 course units. L20 and L21 are compulsory courses each worth 0.5 course unit. A further 3 course units must be chosen from C20, C21, C22.

### **Compulsory Courses**

**L 20 – Advanced Grammar of Written and Spoken French; Study of Styles and Registers together with Development of Techniques of Written and Oral Expression in Various Situations.**

*0.5 Course Unit – 2 modules*

#### **L20-1 Advanced grammar of French – Part 1**

Course Unit: 0.25

Assessment: 1 assignment

#### **L20-2 Advanced grammar of French – Part 2**

Course Unit: 0.25

Assessment: 1 assignment

**L 21 – Contrastive Study of French and English Lexis and Syntax through Exercises in Translation**

*0.5 Course Unit – 2 modules*

#### **L21-1 English-French Translation**

Course Unit: 0.25

Assessment: 2 assignments

#### **L21-2 French-English Translation**

Course Unit: 0.25

Assessment: 2 assignments

### **Options**

**C 20** – Students must choose one of the following two courses:

#### **C20-1 Introduction to French Linguistics**

Course Unit: 0.5

Assessment: 1 assignment, one examination

The course looks at Saussure's structural account of language, and contrasts it with more socially-inflected approaches based on language variation.

#### **C20-2 Language, Media, Society**

Course Unit: 0.5

Assessment: 2 assignments, one examination

An introduction to theoretical principle – Ways of Seeing, Ways of Thinking, using texts from a variety of contemporary media, including business, advertising, politics and journalism.

**C 21** – Students must choose two of the following four courses:

**C21-1 Roots of French Identity**

Course Unit: 1

Assessment: 2 assignments, one examination

The origins of French nationhood in political and intellectual history: a study of the ethnic and linguistic constitution of France, and of the political, cultural and ideological forces which have shaped the French nation.

**C21-2 Sociological Roots of Contemporary France**

Course Unit: 1

Assessment: 2 assignments, one examination

The development of family life and related ethical values, through literary and social documents. A study of childhood, motherhood, paternal authority, sexual conventions, marriage and adultery, and social functions of the family unit from the 17<sup>th</sup> century to the present.

**C21-3 Intellectual and Cultural Roots of Contemporary France**

Course Unit: 1

Assessment: 2 assignments, one examination

Language and Image: a study of the semiological approaches to the visual arts and of earlier theories of the relationship between literature, language and art, from the medieval allegory to the present day.

**C21-4 History and Memory**

Course Unit: 1

Assessment: 2 assignments, one examination

The course explores some of the key themes of French history between the Revolution of 1789 and the events of May 68: nationalism, republicanism, modernity, traditionalism, Jacobinism.

**C 22** – Students must choose one of the following two courses:

**C22-1 A Tale of Two Cities**

Course Unit: 0.5

Assessment: 1 assignment, one examination

Comparative course exploring the interplay between fictional representation and material construction through the study of two of the great world cities, Paris and London.

**C22-2 Language of Business Administration- Part 1**

Course Unit: 0.5

Assessment: 2 assignments, one examination

A study of discourses of international business theory and practice.

## BA Year 3

L30 and L31 are compulsory courses. Options are chosen from C30 and C31.

### Compulsory Courses

**L30 – Advanced techniques in academic discourse: essays, dissertations, textual commentaries and oral presentations.**

Course Unit: 0.5

Assessment: 2 assignments

**L31 – Advanced English-French and French-English translation; contrastive syntax and stylistics.**

*1 Course Unit – 2 modules*

**L31-1 Advanced English-French translation**

Course Unit: 0.5

Assessment: 2 assignments, 1 examination

**L31-2 Advanced French-English Translation**

Course Unit: 0.5

Assessment: 2 assignments, 1 examination

### Options

**C 30** - Students must choose one or two of the following five courses:

*2 course units -6 modules*

**C30-2 French Cinema – the 1930s and the 1980s**

Course Unit: 1

Assessment: 3 assignments, 1 examination

A comparative study of two decades of French film, 1930-1940 and 1980-1990, with reference to the techniques, sociology, narratology, thematics, financing and parameters of success and failure of French cinema in the thirties and eighties.

**C30-3 Franco-German Wars**

Course Unit: 1

Assessment: 2 assignments, 1 examination

The course covers the Franco-Prussian War, France in the First World War and Vichy France and the occupation.

**C30-4 *Fin de siècle* – French Literary Culture of the Late Nineteenth Century**

Course Unit: 1

Assessment: 2 assignments, 1 examination

A study of late nineteenth-century literary culture in France contextualized in terms of the major literary, intellectual and socio-political developments of the era.

**C30-6 The Arts of Negation: 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> Century Avant-gardes**

Course Unit: 1

Assessment: 2 assignments, 1 examination

A survey of relation between visual arts and literature from the early twentieth century to the present day. The art movements under scrutiny include Impressionism, Symbolism, Surrealism, Lettrism and Situationism.

**C30-7 Paris au pluriel**

Course Unit: 1

Assessment: 2 assignments, 1 examination

A study of the history and representations of Paris from the Second Empire to the present day involving a field study of a particular area or institution of the city.

**C30-8 Women and/in Fiction**

Course Unit: 1

Assessment: 3 assignments, 1 examination

An exploration of fictional production by women writers and film-makers in the thirty years following the Second World War, an era marked by the emancipation of women and the development of feminist thought.

**C 31** - Students must choose one of the following two courses:

*0.5 course unit – 2 modules*

**C31-1 Urban Visions: Writing the City**

Course Unit: 0.5

Assessment: 1 assignment, 1 examination

A study of the relationship between the city and literature with a focus on Paris, New York, London, Tangier and an analysis of the works of Joseph Roth, Paul Bowles, Martin Amis and Zadie Smith.

**C31-2 Language of Business Administration- Part 2**

Course Unit: 0.5

Assessment: 2 assignments, 1 examination

A study of discourses of international business theory and practice.

## **UNDERGRADUATE MARKING CRITERIA / DESCRIPTORS FOR HONOURS ASSESSMENT**

These following descriptors are intended to apply to all assessed student work that contributes to the final degree award. They reflect the specific requirements of the subject discipline, including published subject benchmark statements.

90 – 100% Outstanding work of publishable quality, displaying an exceptional degree of originality and creativity and / or exceptional analytical and problem-solving skills. Shows critical understanding of current knowledge, including relevant research papers and reviews.

80 – 90% Outstanding work which displays a high level of originality and creativity and / or the ability to suggest realistic solutions to novel problems. Evidence of wide reading which includes recent research papers and reviews.

70 – 80% Excellent work displaying a comprehensive knowledge and understanding of the subject together with the ability to evaluate critically selected aspects of current knowledge and to suggest original solutions to problems which are complex but not entirely novel. Evidence of wide reading which includes research papers and reviews.

60 – 70% Shows a good knowledge and understanding of the subject with no major gaps or omissions. Displays ability to analyse, interpret and organise information to produce coherent accounts or solve relatively complex problems. Evidence of wide reading beyond lecture notes and standard texts.

50 – 60% Shows a satisfactory knowledge and understanding of the essentials of the subject with an ability to integrate information into a clear, well-structured account, but lacking in breadth or depth, or with some significant aspects omitted. Demonstrates an ability to solve limited, defined, problems. Evidence that sources other than lecture notes and set texts have been consulted.

40 – 50% Shows a general knowledge and understanding of the subject but very limited in depth or breadth. Ability to solve basic familiar types of problem. Little or no evidence of reading around the subject. Work displaying deficiencies and omissions but not serious enough to warrant a failure.

30 – 40% Marginal Failure – knowledge and understanding of the subject are fragmentary, some aspects showing a very basic level of understanding but other aspects displaying fundamental errors and omissions.

20 – 30% Very limited range of knowledge with many important gaps and omissions. Shows incomplete understanding with numerous errors of interpretation.

10 – 20% Shows only the most limited and fragmentary knowledge of the subject with little or no understanding of essential principles and concepts.

0 – 10% Virtually devoid of any evidence of knowledge or understanding of the subject.