



## **Discipline of French**

### **Postgraduate Booklet 2011-12**

#### **MA in French**

The 2011-12 booklet is valid for that session. Whilst every effort is made to ensure the contents of the booklet are accurate, the booklet is issued for the guidance of students and staff only. The Booklet is not an offer to supply courses of study nor is it in any way to be construed as imposing any legal obligation on the University to supply courses either at all or in part in respect of any subject. No guarantee is given that courses, syllabuses, fees or regulations may not be altered, cancelled or otherwise amended at any time. The Booklet confers no rights on any student registered for the Session 2011-12.

## Master of French

**Full-time one year. Closing date for applications: Normally early April.**

MASTER OF ARTS

(FRENCH)

### GENERAL

The MA in French enables graduates to develop a high degree of oral and written fluency in French, in addition to developing skills in research methods and intellectual enquiry. The programme combines advanced work on language, literature, and cultural studies in France and the French-speaking world. It is suitable for those considering future careers in both secondary and higher education, as well as the creative industries, and other fields requiring high levels of communicative competence, intercultural awareness, and critical insight.

### DURATION

One academic year (September to May) (TAUGHT) Full-time

### COURSE CONTENT

<i>Code</i>	<i>Module</i>	<i>Semester</i>	<i>ECTS</i>
Core			
FR522	French Language Sem I	1	10
FR523	French Language Sem II	2	10
FR508	Dissertation (Minor Thesis)	2	30
Optional (students are assessed in four of the following)			
FR524	Autofiction in French Literature: (un) veiling the self	1	10
FR525	Representations of the Islamic Other in Medieval France	1	10
FR527	Critical Approaches and Methods	2	10
FR528	The Literature of France in Algeria	1	10
SH505	Translation Studies 1	1	10

### ASSESSMENT

Literature seminars will be examined by essay. Translation Studies will be examined by a written examination. Language proficiency will be assessed continuously throughout the year and examined in a 2-hour written examination. An oral examination, generally consisting of a research presentation, will take place. All seminars will not necessarily be available every year. The specialized dissertation prepared in the second semester of the course will then allow the student to engage in an individually negotiated project, which will generate a substantial piece of personal research.

### ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

A BA (Honours) degree (at National Framework of Qualifications level 8; [www.nfq.ie/nfq/eu/](http://www.nfq.ie/nfq/eu/)). Applicants must meet the entry requirements prescribed for admission to the MA programme, i.e. BA Second Class Honours Grade 2 overall, and at least a Second Class Honours Grade 2 in French. An interview may form part of the selection process. Candidates are expected to have resided in a Francophone region for one year or equivalent prior to taking the examination.

### CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Previous graduates have found employment in second and third-level teaching, media, administration, cultural industries, journalism, and further research.

## **PROGRAMME DIRECTOR**

Dr. P.D. Dine  
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**Candidates attend four Seminar Courses from those available in any year, and are assessed in all four. All seminar courses will not be available every year.**

### **Content of Individual Seminars:**

#### **Seminar title: FR528: The Literature of France in Algeria**

##### **Semester I**

**10 ECTS**

Lecturer: Dr. P.D. Dine

Course description: This course examines the reflection in French literature of the country's colonial presence in Algeria from 1830 to 1962. It thus focuses on the wide variety of French literary engagement with this most strategically, economically, politically, and, above all, psychologically important of France's overseas territories. The texts selected for study range from early travel writing, through the mature output of the celebrated *Ecole d'Alger*, as well as literary responses to the process of decolonization, including particularly the continuing output of the exiled European population of 'French' Algeria.

Emphasis will be placed throughout the course on the system of myths developed by the settler community, and repeated by its metropolitan defenders, in an ultimately vain attempt to legitimize European minority control of the territory.

Teaching and learning methods: Seminars

Methods of assessment and examination: Semester Essay

Core texts: Eugène Fromentin, *Une année dans le Sahel* (1859; Paris, Flammarion, 1991); Georges Perec, *Quel petit vélo à guidon chromé au fond de la cour ?* [1966]. New edition 1988, Denoël (Folio); Albert Camus, *L'Exil et le Royaume* (Paris, Gallimard, 1957); Albert Camus, *Le Premier Homme* (Paris, Gallimard, 1994); Georges Buis, *La Grotte* (1961; Paris, Seuil, 1988).

#### **Seminar Title: FR527: Critical Approaches and Methods**

##### **Semester II**

**10 ECTS**

Lecturer: N.N.

Course Description: The aim of this seminar is to consolidate the critical skills and reinforce the critical awareness and confidence of participants. A number of dominant modes of French cultural criticism will be examined, including structuralist, post-structuralist, psychoanalytic, genetic, feminist, and sociocultural. Discussion will focus on a selection of illustrative French critical responses to a number of short literary texts. A secondary objective of the seminar is to ensure familiarity with the bibliographic resources (paper and electronic) available to students of French culture, as well as familiarity with relevant bibliographic conventions.

Teaching and learning methods: Seminars

Method of assessment: Essay

Core texts: Anthology of critical essays and Charles Baudelaire, *Le Spleen de Paris: Petits Poèmes en prose* (any edition).

#### **Seminar title: FR524: Autofiction in French literature: (un)veiling the self**

**10 ECTS**

Lecturer: Dr. Sylvie Lannegrand

Course description: The seminar considers recent developments in autobiographical writing. It focuses on the controversial concept of «autofiction» referring to texts which can neither be described as autobiographical or fictional and which therefore challenge the traditional view of autobiography and particularly call into question the referential nature of autobiographical writing.

Teaching and learning methods: Seminars

Methods of assessment and examination: Semester essay

Core texts: S. Doubrovsky, *Fils*; N. Sarraute, *Enfance*; A. Robbe-Grillet, *Le miroir qui revient*; C. Juliet, *Lambeaux*

**Seminar title: FR525: Representations of the Islamic Other in Medieval France**

**Semester I**

**10 ECTS**

Lecturer: Dr. Catherine Emerson

Course description: To what extent were modern perspectives on Islam already prefigured in medieval Europe? Muslims appear as stereotyped adversaries in a wide range of medieval texts. Usually depicted with manifest ignorance of their traditions as pantheists, they may be bloodthirsty savages but are often more civilized counterparts of the European knights whom they encounter. In either case, the encounter with the Islamic other tells us more about the fears and aspirations of French writers than it does about contemporary Islam. Most intriguing is the tradition of the erotic encounter with the Saracen blonde where the exotic is rendered both exciting and docile through feminization.

Teaching and learning methods: Seminars

Methods of assessment & examination: Essay

Core texts:

*La Chanson de Roland*, Lettres Gothiques, 1990

Jean Bodel, *Le Jeu de Saint Nicolas*, Flammarion, 2005

*La Prise d'Orange*, Klincksieck, 2002

*Aucassin et Nicolette*, Gallimard, 1999

**Seminar title: FR522, FR523: French Language I, French Language II**

**Semester I & II**

**10 ECTS per semester**

Lecturer: Dr. P.D. Dine, Ms. M. Denis

Course description: To perfect language skills by appropriate written exercises, mainly translation (French-English, English-French) of passages suitable for graduate students.

Teaching and learning methods: Language classes in small groups

Methods of assessment & examination: C/A & 2-hr written exam.

Core texts: In-house handouts.

**Seminar title: FR529: Spirituality and Literature**

**Not 2011-12**

**Semester I**

**10 ECTS**

Lecturer: Professor P. Ó Gormaille

Course description: Following the decline of the Catholic Novel in France (sometimes referred to as the Metaphysical Novel) a new genre can be discerned in French literature, generally referred to as littérature d'inspiration chrétienne and within which it is possible to identify a form of writing which is spiritual in style and in content. This course will look at three contemporary writers (Jean Sullivan, Roger Munier, Petru Dumitriu) active in the genres of the essay, poetry, and the novel and will examine in their work signs and forms of mystical writing evocative of the apophatic tradition of Christian mysticism.

Teaching and learning methods: Seminars

Methods of assessment and examination: Semester Essay

Core texts: Jean Sullivan, *Mais il y a la mer*, Folio n° 628 *Joie errante*, Folio n° 1917, *Devance tout adieu*, Folio n° 1451; Petru Dumitriu, *Incognito*, Seuil (Points).

**Seminar title: The Literature of Francophone Canada**

**Not 2011-12**

**10 ECTS**

Lecturer: Professor P. Ó Gormaille

Course description: This course examines the perception of Ireland and the Irish in twentieth century literature in French from Canada, i.e. Québécois, Franco-Ontarian and Franco-Albertan.

Teaching and learning methods: Seminars

Methods of assessment and examination: Semester Essay

Core texts: Jacques Ferron, *Le Salut de l'Irlande*, Montréal: Lanctôt Éditeur

Madeleine Ferron, *Sur le Chemin Craig*, Montréal: Stanké Mariline, *Le Flambeau Sacré*, Sudbury:

Prise de Parole; Marguerite-A. Primeau, *Dans le muskeg*, Fides, 1960

## Assessment (MA)

Students will be assessed by essay and/or examination at the end of the First and Second Semesters. All areas taught will be subject to examination. The topic for the minor dissertation should be confirmed with the supervisor and lodged with the Head of Discipline before December 15th. The completed thesis must be submitted to the School of Languages according to Examinations' Office deadlines. Candidates are reminded of the importance of submitting drafts of the minor thesis to Supervisors at an appropriate time before the end of the academic year. In practice it is frequently not possible for drafts to be submitted after the end of June.

## Distribution of Marks

<u>Module</u>	<u>ECTS</u>
Language Sem. I	10
Language Sem. II	10
Seminar 1	10
Seminar 2	10
Seminar 3	10
Seminar 4	10
Minor dissertation	30

## Marks and Standards

The standard for the examination is:

First Class Honours	70 per cent on the aggregate
Second Class Honours, Grade I	60 per cent on the aggregate
Second Class Honours, Grade II	50 per cent on the aggregate
Pass	40 per cent on the aggregate

At M.A. Degree Examination where a written Examination is prescribed, there shall be Orals in Modern Continental Languages. Where the M.A. Degree is taken by Thesis in these subjects, an Oral or a Written Examination, or both, may be held if the Examiners so decide.

No Candidate will be permitted to pass any University Examination in Modern Continental Languages who does not satisfy the Examiners at the Oral Examination in these subjects.