



CONNECTICUT COLLEGE

STUDENT EXPERIENCE



“When I arrived at Connecticut College, I had four years of high-school French and I had been to France on a two-week exchange program. I had heard good things about the French department’s professors and the attention they give to the majors.

My favorite courses were French Cinema and Introduction to Literary Analysis.

In the cinema course we caught a glimpse of what happened in the preparation of films, why certain angles were used for certain images, and the points that filmmakers tried to get across in making their films in a certain style. It was all in French.

Introduction to Literary Analysis was a demanding course with a lot of analysis, but I came to appreciate a subject in which I hadn’t had much prior experience.

In the summer between my junior and senior year, I did a two-month internship with an Internet-based wine marketing organization in Montpellier, France. I worked almost entirely in French, and I was given a lot of responsibility. I also got the opportunity to travel around France to certain wine functions. The internship contributed to my understanding of how businesses are organized and run in France.”

— Andrew Carten '08
French major



French

AS A FRENCH MAJOR at Connecticut College, you will develop linguistic and cultural proficiency — regardless of your starting point. Incoming students range from nearly fluent to having no previous experience in French. At every level, as you move through the major, you will find challenging courses in language, literature and film.

The core areas of the major are French language and French literature and culture, and the two domains will be interdependent throughout your four years. The beginning courses will introduce you to the language using authentic materials in literature and culture. Conversely, as you develop a better, finer command of the language, you will be able to penetrate more sophisticated and complex texts.

The benefits of the major extend beyond knowledge of French, France and the Francophone world. In small classes with attentive faculty, you’ll be challenged to hone your critical thinking skills. Many courses are co-offered with other academic departments, including anthropology, film studies, and gender and women’s studies. In this way, the unique perspective provided by language study is augmented by the perspectives and analytical modes of multiple academic disciplines.

When you speak only one language, it is hard to grasp the extent to which language itself shapes our thoughts, perceptions and values. As a French major, you will step outside your own linguistic framework and acquire a different view on the world. You will learn to recognize and value cultural differences and to look at issues from different perspectives. With this understanding, you will be well-prepared for advanced studies and career opportunities in a limitless range of fields.

Special Opportunities

On campus, you can improve your language skills in the language lab or at the French language table in Knowlton House’s international dining room. You will also study abroad for at least one semester and possibly an entire year. You might use this time to concentrate on literature; study political institutions, economy and history; or learn more about current issues such as immigration and multiculturalism. Many students study in France, but other French-speaking countries are also an option. In recent years, our students have studied literature and native crafts in Senegal and Cameroon, family health and economic development in Mali, and environmental issues in Madagascar.

You might also combine your French major with one of the College’s interdisciplinary certificate programs. The certificate program of the Toor

Cummings Center for International Studies and the Liberal Arts is particularly popular among French majors. But depending on your other interests, you may consider the certificate programs in environmental studies, public policy, arts and technology, or museum studies. Any of these programs may have an international focus, including an internship abroad.

Faculty

James Austin, *Assistant Professor of French and Film Studies*

B.A., Pomona College; M.A., M.Phil., Ph.D., Yale University
French film; Proust; pastiche; 20th-century narrative writing

Alexandra Place, *Instructor in French Licence, Maîtrise, D.E.A, Université de Paris-Sorbonne; Charles V, Institut du Monde Anglophone (Paris)*
French/American political, social and economic relations in the 20th

and 21st century; frontier women in 19th-century America; French/English translation; sociolinguistics

Catherine Spencer, *Professor of French*
Ancienne élève de l'École Normale Supérieure (Paris); Maîtrise, Agrégation, Doctorat, Université de Paris-Sorbonne

17th-century French literature; French cinema; theory (structuralism & post); gay and lesbian/queer theory

Selected Courses

The French Cultural Experience; The French Literary Experience; Words In Translation; Civilization Through Conversation; French Cinema; Cities On The Screen: Constructing Urban Space In The Cinema; New Wave Film; Then And Now, Bodies For Sale: Prostitution In Early Modern And Modern Europe; French Poetry Of The 19th Century; Dandyism And Performance In French Literature

About Connecticut College

Connecticut College is a highly selective residential liberal arts college with 1,900 students from all over the country and the world. The academic program offers more than 50 majors in the arts, sciences, social sciences and humanities, as well as innovative interdisciplinary programs. Students engage with dedicated faculty and each other to create a vibrant social, cultural and intellectual community in which learning is valued for its own sake — and individuals' diverse perspectives enrich the experience of all.

What can you do with a major in French?

Alexa Lynch '04

French, Hispanic studies

Associate in the commodity trade finance group of Brown Brothers Harriman & Co. in New York City.

Alexis Miller '04

French, dance

Finance assistant and box office/house manager at nonprofit dance company, school and theater in San Francisco. Also dances with the San Francisco-based modern dance company RAWdance.

While at Connecticut College, studied art history, dance and French in Paris.

Rachel Lamson '05

French, English

Candidate for a master's degree in teaching English to speakers of other languages at Hunter College in New York. Previously worked as an editorial assistant at Pearson Education's Allyn & Bacon division.

At Connecticut College, took music lessons and gave a senior recital in French called "An Evening of French Music."

Norah Longendyck '05

French

Team support manager for a pharmaceutical advertising agency in New York City.

Abby Geller '06

French

Now enrolled at Brooklyn Law School, working toward a career in civil rights and social action.

For more information, visit
www.conncoll.edu/academics/