Major in French at Connecticut College and you will develop linguistic and cultural fluency, regardless of your starting point. The benefits of studying French extend far beyond knowledge of the language and the Francophone world. When you speak only one language, it’s hard to grasp the extent to which language itself shapes our thoughts, perceptions and values. As a French major, you step outside your own linguistic framework and acquire a different view of the world. You learn to recognize and value cultural differences and to look at issues from different perspectives. With this understanding, you are well-prepared for advanced studies and career opportunities in a limitless range of fields.

Special Opportunities

Many courses are co-offered with other academic departments, including anthropology, film studies, Africana studies, and gender and women’s studies. Classes are small and faculty are attentive. You are challenged to hone your critical thinking skills and augment your language study with the perspectives and analytical modes of many disciplines. Some French majors pursue a certificate with one of the College's interdisciplinary centers or with the museum studies program.

International Opportunities and Study Abroad

You can hone your language skills on campus in the language lab or at the French table in the dining hall. As a French major, you study abroad for at least one semester and possibly an entire year. Many students go to France, but in recent years, others have studied literature and native crafts in Senegal and Cameroon, family health and economic development in Mali, and environmental issues in Madagascar.
Faculty

James Austin, Associate Professor of French
B.A., Pomona College; M.A., M.Phil., Ph.D., Yale University
French film; Proust

Nathalie Etoke, Associate Professor of French and Africana Studies, French Department Chair
B.A., M.A., University of Lille III, France; Diplôme d’études approfondies, University of Cergy-Pontoise, France; Ph.D., Northwestern University
Africana studies, LGBT in the Afro-diasporic context; Melancholia Africana; cultural studies (immigration, post-Colonial French identities, French Hip Hop and urban films)

Lovia Mondeşir, Visiting Assistant Professor of French
B.A., Ecole Normale Supérieure; M.A., Université des Antilles et de la Guyane; Ph.D., Emory University
19th-century French literature; Francophone literature and culture; French realism and history; women’s involvements and representations in history; the Haitian revolution; Caribbean abolitionist movements

Benjamin Williams, Visiting Assistant Professor of French
B.A., University of Virginia; Ph.D., Princeton University
French cultures and literatures of the 19th and 20th centuries

Selected Courses

The French Cultural 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; Black Blanc Beur Cinema/Literature

About Connecticut College

Connecticut College educates students to put the liberal arts into action as citizens in a global society. A leader in the liberal arts since 1911, the College is home to nationally ranked programs for internships, community action, arts and technology, environmental studies and international studies. Our beautiful 750-acre arboretum campus is located in the historic New England seaport community of New London, Conn.