DENIS DIDEROT, THE 18TH-CENTURY FRENCH PHILOSOPHER, SAID WE MUST CHANGE THE COMMON WAY OF THINKING (“CHANGER LA FAÇON COMMUNE DE PENSER”). IF YOU STUDY FRENCH AT CENTRE, YOU WILL ACCEPT HIS CHALLENGE. YOU WILL CHANGE YOUR MIND. YOU WILL STUDY A MELDIC LANGUAGE WITH A GRAMMAR REMARKABLY DIFFERENT FROM THAT OF ENGLISH, BUT WITH A VOCABULARY THAT HAS ENORMOUSLY ENRICHED OUR OWN.

TEACHING AND LEARNING FRENCH AT CENTRE

The study of French is more than the study of language. It is about people and places, too. Our students travel to France and French-speaking regions. They harvest grapes and climb mountains. They study in our abroad program in Strasbourg. Recently, many French majors have won the prestigious Fulbright scholarships for study overseas and have been named teaching assistants by the French government in places like Dijon, Paris, Rouen, Strasbourg, and Toulouse.

The French program at Centre strives to cultivate an understanding of the Francophone world through language acquisition, culture, and communication.

Beyond these broad goals, our French program is marked by the skill and passion of our professors. Professor Connolly, who joined Centre College in 2007, directed the Strasbourg program for academic year 2010-11 and visits France annually. Professor Wood has lived and studied in Europe and his enthusiasm for French has prompted him to conduct all departmental business in French, speak with majors and minors in French, and enjoy meeting students in the library or for coffee to converse en français.

On campus, our majors and minors tutor students, meet with faculty in round-table discussions and seminars, do independent research in the John C. Young honors program, or present papers at the RICE symposium. Frequently among the best at Centre—including the 2000, 2002, and 2014 valedictorians—they currently study for master’s degrees and doctorates at Johns Hopkins, The University of North Carolina, The University of Wisconsin-Madison, and Vanderbilt.

Centre’s curriculum for French is strengthened by a common vision. Initial courses emphasize daily communication. Second-year courses take the form of workshops in the fall and spring, where students gain practical experience in French history, painting, cinema, music, or current political events. At the next level, our program highlights conversation and composition, in courses such as French for International Relations or the Francophone World.

During the January CentreTerm, students can travel to France, study French Cinema, Algerian Culture, or engage in internships and other immersion experiences.

For the advanced level we have chosen the following themes and questions to guide our work together over the next years: French gastronomy, French Thought, and Beauty. Senior majors participate in a final seminar where they prepare a conference presentation with the assistance of all French faculty members.

STUDY ABROAD OPPORTUNITIES

Centre is strongly committed to international study, and the College maintains a permanent, residential program in
Strasbourg, France. Students apply for a semester of study based in Strasbourg, and a faculty member lives in Strasbourg for the semester to coordinate the program and teach courses. A French native also teaches in the program. Some students live in apartments, and others opt to live with local families on a home-stay basis. Virtually all participants travel extensively in Europe during the course of their semester.

**INTERNSHIPS**

An internship provides valuable experience that is important in securing future employment. French majors have participated in internships in Francophone areas such as the Centre de Linguistique Appliquée in Besançon, France; and the Institut de Génétique in Strasbourg, France.

**FACULTY**

**ALLISON CONNOLLY** (Ph.D., University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill), Associate Professor of French, winner of Tanner Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching at University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, 2009 recipient of the Kirk Excellence in Teaching Award, specialist in contemporary Francophone literature. Book: *Spaces of Creation: Transculturality and Feminine Expression in Contemporary Francophone Literature.*

**MARC DÉMONT** (Ph.D., University of South Carolina), Visiting Assistant Professor of French. His research interests include contemporary French philosophy, film studies, queer studies, feminist theories and methodologies, and masculinity studies.

**CHRISTIAN WOOD** (Ph.D., University of New Mexico); Assistant Professor of French. His research interests include 20th and 21st-century: Continental Philosophy, Francophone and French Literature, and Love as an intellectual discourse, focusing upon French Existentialist thinkers and Algerian novelists.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION**

**CONTACT**

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**RELATED WEBSITE**

French Program Overview

**VISIT CENTRE**

The best way to judge Centre is to tour the campus, talk to the professors and students, attend a class, and spend the night in a residence hall. We invite you to visit and encourage you to contact the Admission Office if you have any questions.

**THE CENTRE COMMITMENT**

We back our promise with a deeply engaging and intensely personal education guarantee. If you meet regular academic and social expectations, you will complete all three parts of the Centre Commitment, or the college will provide up to an additional year of study tuition-free.

**Centre students will:**

- Study abroad
- Have an internship or research opportunity
- Graduate in four years