

GRADUATE STUDIES IN
FRENCH
TULANE UNIVERSITY
NEW ORLEANS



Map attributed to the Abbé Claude Bernou charting lands identified by Marquette and Jolliet while en route to Louisiana.

NEW ORLEANS AND FRANCOPHONE LOUISIANA

In New Orleans and Louisiana, French is a living language. In no other city or state in the Union is French culture so integrally built into the urban fabric and its heritage still so vitally in play. The strong appeal of our program both nationally and internationally demonstrates that place matters: students who choose Tulane understand the compelling logic of pursuing their passion in a city so thoroughly steeped in its Francophone past. Our location at the northern tip of the Caribbean, our overlap with Francophone communities, our regional history and our city's archives offer significant untapped resources for research on New Orleans, Louisiana, the Caribbean, the French Atlantic and the rest of the Francophone world.

With an international faculty covering a broad range of research and teaching interests, our PhD program in French Studies lets you choose from a rich variety of courses and encourages you to approach the study of language, literature and civilization through transhistorical and cross-cultural perspectives. Our small classes and seminars allow for an enhanced student experience and students have the opportunity to explore rich archival resources on campus

and in the city, including the Hogan Jazz Archives, the Amistad Research Center (primary source materials pertaining to the history of America's race relations, and civil rights), the Historic New Orleans Collection, the Cabildo (formerly the seat of the Spanish government) and the New Orleans Notarial Archives (documents in French dating to the early eighteenth century). They also benefit from the linguistic laboratory that is "Acadiana," where they can do fieldwork on the region's vernacular varieties of French and form a distinctive perspective marked by a focus on the local as it is shaped by, and in turn helps to shape, the global.

While Tulane's location gives students a privileged vantage point from which to study French, Creole or Cajun cultures and literatures, it can also take you places. In the past five years, our graduate students have accepted tenure-track and instructional positions at The College of William and Mary, Jacksonville University, the University of Oklahoma, the University of Central Arkansas, Princeton and Columbia.

GRADUATE PROGRAM

Graduate study at Tulane fosters a comprehensive and integrative approach to French Studies, which provides students with intellectual depth and interdisciplinary dynamism. The program's areas of strength include Francophone and Afro-Caribbean Studies, medieval and early modern studies, cultural studies, critical theory, humanitarian law & ethics, gender studies, film and media studies, linguistics, European and African philosophy, performance studies, creole studies, and migration and diaspora studies. Interdisciplinary study is further fostered through the Department's course offerings in Arabic and Haitian Creole, and through its strong ties to other programs and departments at Tulane, including History, Political Science, Africana Studies, Gender & Sexuality Studies, Latin American Studies, Medieval & Early Modern Studies and Middle East & North Africa Studies.



Students from Prof. Klingler's French in Louisiana class record an interview with speakers of Louisiana French near Lake Charles

PH.D. COURSE WORK

Students must complete a minimum of 54 hours including transfer work and/or work already completed for the M.A. degree. It is expected that course work will be finished by the end of the third year of study. Students graduate with a Ph.D. in French Studies and a concentration in one of four integrated areas:

Francophone colonial and post-colonial cultures. Atlantic, Caribbean and African area studies; creole(s) and creolization; Islam in France and Beur culture.

Visual cultures and technologies. Film; urbanism; new media and performance.

European studies. Human rights; political, cultural and institutional histories; medical anthropology; ethnopsychiatry.

Language and Identity. Literary theory, philosophy, ethics and law, minority languages and identities, world languages and literatures.

The Ph.D. will be conferred on the basis of completed course work, exams, and reading competence in a language pertinent to field of study, such as Arabic, Creole (both taught within the Department), Spanish, Italian, Latin, German, or Old Occitan.

SAMPLING OF GRADUATE COURSES

L'HOMME MACHINE

Prof. Falaky. This course seeks to trace the literary genesis of the android. From the legends of the golem and the homunculus to the popular automata of the eighteenth century and the robot culture of contemporary society, we shall analyze the different literary manifestations of artificial creatures. The purpose of this course is to explore the reasons that push man to assume a power belonging a priori to the Creator, and to try to understand what this simulacrum of Genesis tells us about how man perceives and conceives himself in the world and in life.

ANIMALS, ANIMALITY, AND BEING HUMAN IN OLD FRENCH LITERATURE

Prof. Morton. What did animals mean for medieval people? How did people in the Middle Ages understand themselves in relation to animals, domestic and wild? How can tackling these questions help us understand our own complex relationship to animals, animality, and being human? This course will consider texts written in medieval French — bestiaries, beast-fables, narrative poetry, allegory — alongside medieval and modern theories about animals. Students will learn how to read Old French, how to read medieval manuscripts, and how to think about medieval European culture through its literature.

MIGRANT, DIASPORIC AND TRANSNATIONAL LITERATURES

Prof. Sabo. This course explores “migrant” literary texts written in French by late 20th and 21st-century authors who have immigrated to France and Québec. Migrant literature will be studied as an emergent genre of contemporary literature that destabilizes neat linguistic and national categorizations, proposing transnational frameworks for the writing and reading of literature today. To understand how migration affects literary culture in a global age, political contexts as well as radical changes in the publishing industry and shifting definitions of authorship will be thoroughly considered. Students will read literary texts written by a variety of migrant authors such as Vassilis Alexakis, Ying Chen, Dai Sijie, Milan Kundera, Dany Laferrière, Anna Moï, and Gisèle Pineau, but also crucial theoretical texts in order to determine the distinctiveness of this genre.

FIELD RESEARCH ON FRENCH IN LOUISIANA

Prof. Klingler. A hands-on introduction to linguistic fieldwork using Francophone Louisiana as a laboratory. Students travel to Louisiana's Francophone communities to interview native speakers of Louisiana French and Louisiana Creole. They then transcribe and analyze the recordings in an effort to document these endangered languages and to better understand the rich complexity of Louisiana's linguistic landscape. This is a service learning course in which students contribute to the communities in which they conduct fieldwork. In recent years this contribution has taken the form of a documentary video of local Francophone culture, the latest of which is *Fleur de lys et alligators: voyages en Louisiane francophone*.

STAGING NATURE

Prof. McCarren. What is Nature? What nature, and what science, make it to the stage? What roles does the stage in turn offer to the various actors of nature, not only human actors? This course explores historical stagings of nature and natural history, human and biodiversity, considering the stage not only as a place for timeless reflection on nature, but also as a timely, opinion-shaping arena, and performance as a site for creation and experimentation with bodies. Students will learn to think about the cultural history of performance, and the natural history of diversity and biodiversity that accompanied it, and engage in current debates around the performativity of race and gender.

LA PEINE DE MORT: A CHALLENGE

Prof. Bidima. The death penalty is a major issue in philosophy and in law. The stakes of this issue could be summarized in terms of these questions: does the transgression of law justify the suppression of life? How and why do our postmodern societies, with their rhetoric of the rule of law and the preservation of the environment, accept the death penalty? Is there any alternative to the death penalty? How do our societies, with their democratic views, still act within the framework of vengeance? In order to answer these political, sociological, and legal questions, we call upon various theorists, including the Italian philosopher Beccaria, the scientist Arthur Koestler, the novelist Albert Camus, the poet Victor Hugo, and the philosopher Michel Foucault.

WRITING ALGERIA: TRAUMA, MELANCHOLIA, FICTION

Prof. Tamalet. This course explores representations of trauma and processes of memorialization in postcolonial Algeria. Through a study of literary, cinematic, and cultural texts, we will examine multiple challenges to FLN sponsored readings of national history and the myth of the national liberation struggle. What roles do literature and culture play in the elaboration of collective memory? How do reimaginings of the past on the mythical or historical modes foster a political praxis of the present? Drawing from the corpus of Memory Studies, Trauma Studies, and Postcolonial Theory, as well as theoretical texts on postFreudian concepts of melancholia, we will investigate issues of allegory, amnesia, testimony, myth, utopia, and deterritorialization. Representative authors include Kateb, Farès, Camus, Daoud, Bachi, Mokeddem, Djébar.

HISTORY OF THE FRENCH LANGUAGE

Prof. Mignot. This course retraces the history of the French language from its Indo-European roots to its contemporary varieties across the world. It focuses both on the external history of the French language, that is, on the historical circumstances that have influenced the evolution of the language, and as on the internal history of the language, that is, on the evolution of its linguistic features. This course also serves as an introduction to Old French, providing students with the fundamental linguistic characteristics of Old French as well as practice in reading and interpreting texts written in Old French.

PROFESSIONAL FRENCH

Professor Sojic. This course is a skills-based practicum designed to meet the needs of students wanting to incorporate their knowledge of French language into a variety of future workplaces. It is devoted to the acquisition of advanced linguistic proficiencies within the context of French and European business and professional scenarios. This course is intended for French majors or for those in the 5-year combined B.A. and M.A. program in French. The course targets the Intermediate High/Advanced Low proficiency levels defined by ACTFL. It prepares students for the *Diplôme de français professionnel Affaires (niveau B2)* delivered by the Paris Ilede-France Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

VOIX D'ESCLAVES

Prof. Stieber. This course explores the history and memory of enslavement in the French colonies. We begin by considering the problem of the archive, its construction, and its (in)ability to register the subjectivities of the enslaved. Next, we investigate different approaches to the archive that allow us to “sound” or “hear” the voices of the enslaved, primarily through court cases and recorded testimony in French Louisiana, Martinique, Guadeloupe, and French Guyana. We also consider the genre of the slave narrative and its supposed absence from the French colonial tradition, in order to look toward other possible sites of writing the self in the French colonial tradition: mémoires, petitions, and histories. Next, we look to the speculative and imaginative practice of fiction to consider how literary representations of enslavement allow for a kind of “sounding” of enslaved voices. We conclude with an assessment of “alternative” (non-written) sites of memory and archive: Vodou, song, dance, among others.



Students playing pétanque during Tulane's annual French Week, planned and run by graduate in French and Francophone Studies

DEPARTMENT COLLOQUIA

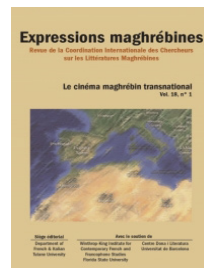
The Department maintains a rich intellectual life, organizing conferences and hosting numerous distinguished scholars every year. Recent colloquia and roundtables have included “Marginalized Voices: Representation and Resistance in Three Creole Societies” and “New Perspectives on War in the Middle East.” Symposia have explored themes such as “Black Internationalism in Translation and the Cartographies of Emancipation” and “Unpacking Lyautey’s Moroccan Library: French Women’s Colonial Travel Writing as World Literature?” Recent lectures have featured talks including “The Suicide Archive: Reading Resistance in the Wake of French Empire,” “Prizes are Political: Francophonie and the Rewriting of African Literary History,” and “Proust essayiste: le pastiche comme critique en action.”

Recent guest speakers include Doyle Calhoun (Cambridge University), Brent Hayes Edwards (Columbia University), Madeline Bedecarré (Davidson College), Anne Cheng (Collège de France) W.J.T. Mitchell (University of Chicago), Mark Danner (University of California, Berkeley), Sharon Kinoshita (UCSC), Safoi Babana-Hampton (Michigan State University), Nuccio Ordine (University of Calabria).



EXPRESSIONS MAGHRÉBINES

The Department houses Expressions maghrébines, the leading peer-reviewed journal of the Coordination Internationale des Chercheurs en Littératures Maghrébines (CICLIM), under the editorship of Edwige Tamalet Talbayev since January 2015. With its editorial office now among us, Expressions maghrébines is one more testimony to our program’s long-standing leadership in the field of Francophone Studies.



ENS EXCHANGE

Tulane has a yearly exchange with the École Normale Supérieure. The appointments are normally given to a student in the fourth year of graduate study and include a traveling fellowship to cover airfare and living expenses.

ADEEFF



Thanks to ADEEFF, the French graduate student association, our graduate students look at Tulane as a home away from home. In addition to providing students with a support system, ADEEFF organizes picnics, parties and events such as National French Week and the Department’s Graduate Conference. In 2017, the Embassy of France in the United States recognized the students’ dedication by awarding them the first prize in the national France on Campus contest.

FACULTY

FELICIA MCCARREN

Ph.D. Stanford University. Professor. Member of the faculty in Film Studies. Felicia is the author of four books of cultural history and performance theory, including: *French Moves: The Cultural Politics of “le hip hop”* (Oxford UP, 2013) on the urban dance of minorities in France; and *One Dead at the Paris Opera Ballet “La Source” 1866-2014* (forthcoming from Oxford UP, 2020), on the colonial and post-colonial political and environmental resonance of French Orientalist ballet. Felicia has held fellowships at the Paris Institute for Advanced Study, the Fondation Maison des Sciences de l’Homme, and funding from Lurcy and NEH. She is working on archival performance history with international research groups PARIFA (www.parifa.org) and “Le Corps ‘Oriental’” based at EHESS, Paris.

FAYÇAL FALAKY

Ph.D. New York University. Associate Professor. Fayçal specializes in 18th-century French literature, culture and politics. He is the author of *Social Contract, Masochist Contract: Aesthetics of Freedom and Submission in Rousseau* (SUNY Press, 2014), and his articles have appeared in the *Journal of Eighteenth-Century Studies*, *European Journal of Political Theory*, *Small Axe* and the *Journal of the History of Ideas*. He is currently working on edited volumes on modes of play in eighteenth-century France and on Diderot’s landscapes; and his second book project examines the notions of movement and stillness during the eighteenth century.

THOMAS KLINGLER

Ph.D. Indiana. Associate Professor. French linguistics; creole studies; Louisiana French; dialectology; lexicography. His research focuses on documenting and describing endangered French and Creole in Louisiana, as well as on understanding the relationship between language use and identity in Louisiana’s multiethnic Francophone communities. Selected publications: *If I Could Turn my Tongue Like That: The Creole Language of Pointe Coupee Parish, Louisiana* (LSU Press, 2003); “How much Acadian is there in Cajun?” (2009); co-editor, *Dictionary of Louisiana French as Spoken in Cajun, Creole, and American Indian Communities* (University Press of Mississippi, 2009), “La variation ethnolinguistique en créole louisianais au cours du XXe siècle” (2019).

JEAN-GODEFROY BIDIMA

Ph.D. Université de Paris I Panthéon-Sorbonne. Yvonne Arnould Chair in Francophone Studies. A former Directeur de Programme at the Collège International de Philosophie (Paris), Jean’s research includes continental philosophies (French and German continental Philosophy of XXth Century, Spanish Enlightenment), intersections between literatures and arts of the Francophone world, African philosophies, legal anthropology (conflict resolutions and restorative justice) and medical ethics.

CHELSEA STIEBER

Ph.D. New York University. Kathryn B. Gore Chair in French Studies. Associate Professor. Chelsea specializes in nineteenth-century Caribbean literature, history, and culture with an emphasis on Haiti. Her research engages local print culture; the relationship between literature and politics; ideas of freedom, rights, and republicanism; and Black Atlantic thought. She is the author of *Haiti’s Paper War: Post-Independence Writing, Civil War, and the Making of the Republic, 1804–1954* (New York University Press, 2020) and co-editor with Brandon R. Byrd of the critical translation of Louis-Joseph Janvier’s *Haiti for the Haitians* (Liverpool University Press, 2023). Her scholarship and essays have appeared in academic journals including *Small Axe*, *Francosphères*, *French Studies*, the *Haitian Historical Review* and the *Journal of Haitian Studies*, and digital platforms such as *Africa is a Country*, *The Abusable Past* (RHR), and *Public Books*.

JONATHAN MORTON

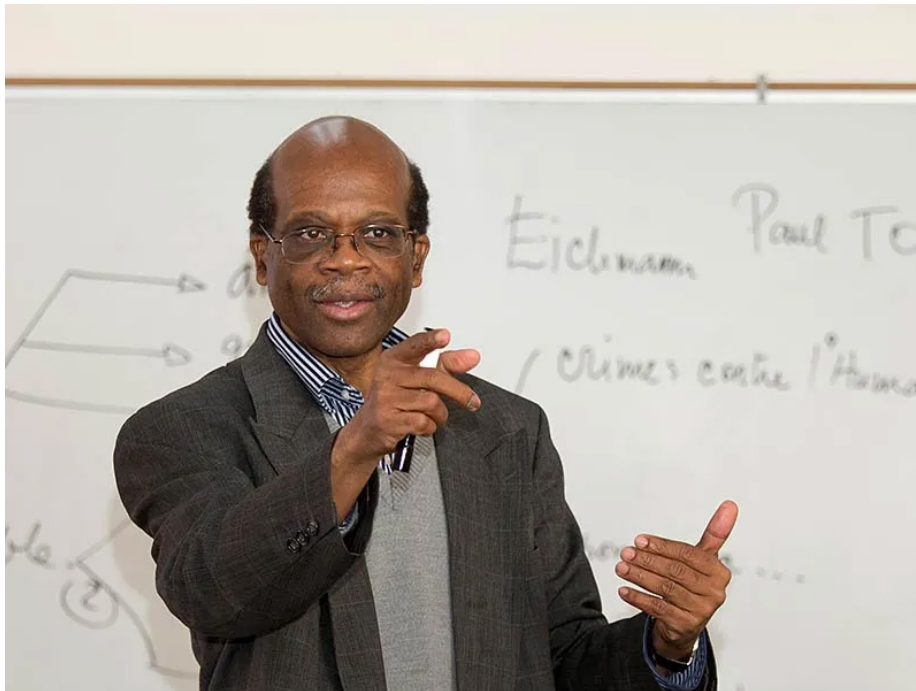
D. Phil. University of Oxford. Associate Professor. Medieval French literature and intellectual history. Recent works include *The “Roman de la rose” in its Philosophical Context* (Oxford UP) and two edited collections, *Medieval Thought Experiments* (Brepols) and *The “Roman de la Rose” and Thirteenth-Century Thought* (Cambridge UP). Prof. Morton has published articles on medieval bestiaries, gender and sexuality, allegory, and robots in the Middle Ages. He is currently writing a monograph with the working title *Engines of Invention: Thinking Technology in the High Middle Ages*, which considers, inter alia, twelfth-century romance, Neoplatonist cosmologies, and Arab and Byzantine automata.

OANA SABO

Ph.D. University of Southern California. Associate Professor. Research and teaching interests include 20th- and 21st-century French and Francophone literature; migration, diaspora, and globalization studies; and visual culture (especially photography). She is the author of *The Migrant Canon in Twenty-First Century France* (University of Nebraska Press, 2018) and of various articles on exile, diaspora, transnationalism, and multilingual literature. Her second book project investigates a new body of narratives about asylum seekers and refugees.

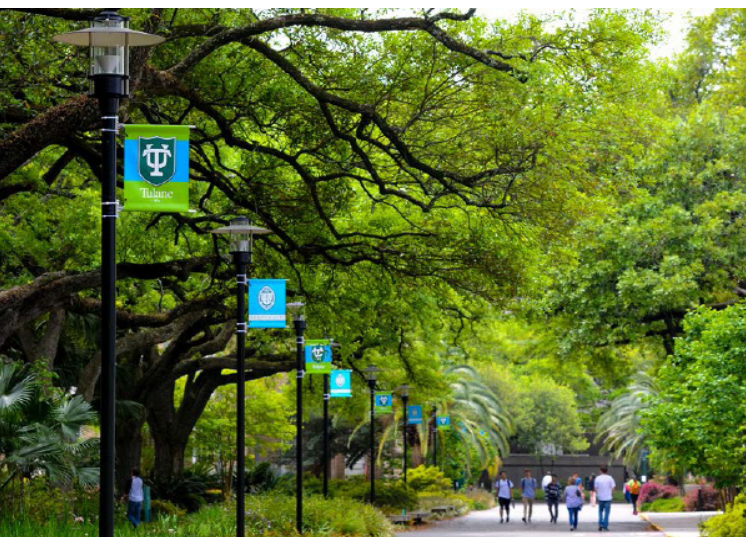
EDWIGE TAMALET TALBAYEV

Ph.D. UC San Diego. Edwige is a scholar of Maghrebi literature and Mediterranean studies. She is the author of *The Transcontinental Maghreb: Francophone Literature across the Mediterranean* (2017) and the co-editor of *The Mediterranean Maghreb: Literature and Plurilingualism* (2012) and *Critically Mediterranean: Temporalities, Aesthetics, and Deployments of a Sea in Crisis* (2018). She is the Editor of the Maghrebi literature journal *Expressions maghrébines*, housed in the Department. Ongoing research projects include edited books on Mediterranean hospitality and aqueous epistemologies, as well as a monograph on loss and drowning in an Anthropocene context.



FINANCIAL SUPPORT

The PhD program is fully funded for 5 years for students entering with a BA degree (4 years for students entering with an MA). Students admitted to the program receive full tuition remission, a stipend, and full coverage of health insurance premiums for students who elect to enroll in the Tulane-sponsored Student Health Insurance Plan. They also have the opportunity to apply for competitive summer research funding through the Beth Poe Travel Grant (currently worth \$5000) and the Summer Merit Fellowship Award (up to \$5000), and for conference travel grants during the school year of up to \$2250 annually (through the GSSA Fund, the Land Fund and the Alfred Mercier and Lafcadio Hearn Travel Grants).



BROCHURE CREDITS

Front cover: Guillaume Delisle's *Carte de la Louisiane et du cours du Mississippi*, 1718.

Page 1: *Carte de l'Amérique septentrionale et partie de la méridionale depuis l'embouchure de la rivière St. Laurens jusqu'à l'isle de Cayenne avec les nouvelles découvertes de la rivière de Mississippi ou Colbert* by Claude Bernou, 1681.

Brochure designed by Alison Popper Design Studio LLC.

INFORMATION AND APPLICATION MATERIALS

For a list of application requirements and to apply online go to: <https://liberalarts.tulane.edu/french-italian/french/graduate-admission-requirements-funding>

The deadline for application is mid-January. Please visit <https://applygrad.tulane.edu/apply>

