

Master of Arts in French

Department of Spanish, French, Italian, & Portuguese

The University of Illinois at Chicago

Graduate Student Handbook

## Contents

Admission Requirements	3
Application Instructions (Domestic Applicants)	4
Application Instructions (International Applicants)	7
Degree Requirements	10
Graduate Courses in French	11
Comprehensive Examinations	14
General Description	14
Bibliographical Format	16
Suggested Schedules and Checklists	19
Teaching Assistantships	25
Around Chicago	27

## Admission Requirements

Applicants are considered on an individual basis. In addition to the Graduate College minimum requirements, applicants must meet the following program requirements:

**Baccalaureate Field:** A substantial background in French literature is essential, as is fluency in written and spoken French.

**Grade Point Average:** At least 3.00 (A=4.00) for the final 60 semester hours (90 quarter hours) of undergraduate study.

**Tests Required:** GRE general.

**Minimum TOEFL Score:** 550 (paper-based); 213 (computer-based), 80 (internet-based with minimum sub-scores of: Reading 19, Speaking 20, Listening 17, Writing 21).

**Letters of Recommendation:** Three required from professors or others familiar with the applicant's recent academic work.

**Personal Statement:** Required; 250 words, in French; the statement should address the applicant's reasons for wanting to take graduate work.

**Other Requirements:** Applicants must submit a sample of their academic writing in French.

**Mailing Address:** Director of Graduate Studies in French, Department of Spanish, French, Italian, and Portuguese, 601 South Morgan Street, MC 315, 17th Floor, Office 1722 U.H., Chicago, IL 60607-7116

**Campus Location:** 1729 U.H.

**Curriculum Code:** 0304

**Admission Code:** 20FS0304MA

**Telephone:** (312) 996-0254

**Email:** mminer@uic.edu

**Head of the Department:** Professor Rosilie Hernandez-Pecoraro

**Director of Graduate Studies:** Professor Margaret Miner

## Application Instructions for Domestic Applicants

If you wish to apply for admission in the Fall semester, the **deadline** every year is **February 1**. (If you wish to be considered for a University Fellowship, the deadline is **January 1**).

If you wish to apply for admission in the Spring semester, the **deadline** every year is **October 1**.

**The application process at UIC can sometimes be confusing. We want to help, so we've drawn up the following list. Here's what you need to do in order to submit a complete application dossier:**

1. Submit a Graduate College Application form, filled out on line at

[http://www.uic.edu/depts/oar/apply\\_grad.html](http://www.uic.edu/depts/oar/apply_grad.html)

Also on line, you will need to pay a non-refundable application fee of \$50.00.

**PLEASE NOTE:** UIC strongly recommends that all applicants submit their application and fee on line, since this helps prevent delays in the admissions process. But for those without access to the internet, a paper application is still acceptable.

2. Send the following documents (or arrange to have the appropriate people send them) to the Department of Spanish, French, Italian, & Portuguese. **Please note:** do **not** send any of these items to the Office of Admissions and Records. We have found that serious delays in the admissions process can be avoided if you send **ALL** items, or have them sent, directly to our department. We will make copies, on the basis of which we begin our evaluation of your application, and we will then forward the relevant originals to the Office of Graduate Admissions. The address to use is:

Director of Graduate Studies in French  
Dept. of Spanish, French, Italian, & Portuguese  
University of Illinois at Chicago  
601 South Morgan Street, M/C 315  
17th Floor, Office 1722 U.H.  
Chicago, IL 60607-7116  
U.S.A.

- A. Original transcripts from all undergraduate institutions attended, as well as transcripts from all previous graduate study. **ALL** documents must be official (certified by the institutional seal) and **MUST** be sent **DIRECTLY** from each institution in a sealed envelope to the Director of Graduate Studies at the address given above.

**PLEASE NOTE:** for many applicants, this is the most confusing and time-consuming step in the application process. We strongly advise you to begin early and to contact us if you have any questions.

- B. Three confidential letters of recommendation from **professors or others familiar with your previous academic work and your qualifications for graduate study in French language and literature**. Recommenders may use the form available from the Graduate College, or they are welcome to send a letter (printed on letterhead from their academic institution). They may write in either French or English.
- C. A 250-word personal statement in French. Please address the following issues: your reasons for undertaking graduate study, your previous training in French language, literature, and cultural studies, and your career goals.
- D. A sample of your academic writing in French (for example, an undergraduate or graduate research paper).
- E. The Graduate Record Examination (GRE). If possible, please send a copy of your score to the department at the above address. Otherwise, please have your scores sent to the Office of Admissions and Records, Graduate Division (MC 018), University of Illinois at Chicago, 1200 West Harrison Street, Chicago, Illinois 60607-7161.
- F. Students who wish to be considered for a Teaching Assistantship must submit an Application for Graduate Appointment. It is available on the Graduate College website at: <https://grad.uic.edu/cms/?pid=1000363>. Please note that we do not need either a second set of three recommendations or a second personal statement; we can use the ones submitted as part of your application for admission.

About financial aid:

Our Teaching Assistantships include a tuition waiver, a Service Fee waiver, and a stipend currently set at \$14,000 per academic year. This is a 50% Teaching Assistantship; students holding it must 1) teach three sections from among our Basic French sequence (FR 101, 102, 103, 104) per academic year, and 2) enroll in a minimum of two graduate-level courses (8 credit hours) per semester.

In addition, the Department is able to nominate candidates for several Fellowships funded through the Graduate College. These are extremely competitive Fellowships awarded by a university-wide committee. For further information, please consult the Graduate College website (<http://www.uic.edu/cms/?pid=1000082>) or contact the Director of Graduate Studies in French.

Final notes:

If need be, all the necessary forms (Application for Admission, Application for Graduate Appointment, Letter of Recommendation) can be downloaded from the following link:

<https://grad.uic.edu/cms/?pid=1000363>

To find answers to Frequently Asked Questions, please consult

[http://www.uic.edu/depts/oar/grad/grad\\_faq.html](http://www.uic.edu/depts/oar/grad/grad_faq.html)

For any remaining questions, please do not hesitate to contact either Professor Margaret Miner, Director of Graduate Studies ([mminer@uic.edu](mailto:mminer@uic.edu) OR 312-996 3229) or Ms. Rocío García, Graduate Administrative Assistant ([mexotic@uic.edu](mailto:mexotic@uic.edu) OR 312-996-0254).

## Application Instructions for International Applicants

If you wish to apply for admission in the Fall semester, the **deadline** every year is **February 1**. (If you wish to be considered for a University Fellowship, the deadline is **January 1**).

If you wish to apply for admission in the Spring semester, the **deadline** every year is **July 15**.

**The application process at UIC can sometimes be confusing. We want to help, so we've drawn up the following list. Here's what you need to do in order to submit a complete application dossier:**

2. Submit a Graduate College Application form, filled out on line at

[http://www.uic.edu/depts/oar/grad/apply\\_grad.html](http://www.uic.edu/depts/oar/grad/apply_grad.html)

Also on line, you will need to pay a non-refundable application fee of \$60.00.

**PLEASE NOTE:** UIC strongly recommends that all applicants submit their application and fee on line, since this helps prevent delays in the admissions process. But for those without access to the internet, a paper application is still acceptable.

2. Send the following documents (or arrange to have the appropriate people send them) to the Department of Spanish, French, Italian, & Portuguese. **Please note:** do **not** send any of these items to the Office of Admissions and Records. We have found that serious delays in the admissions process can be avoided if you send ALL items, or have them sent, directly to our department. We will make copies, on the basis of which we begin our evaluation of your application, and we will then forward the relevant originals to the Office of Graduate Admissions. The address to use is:

Director of Graduate Studies in French  
 Dept. of Spanish, French, Italian, & Portuguese  
 University of Illinois at Chicago  
 601 South Morgan Street, M/C 315  
 17th Floor, Office 1722 U.H.  
 Chicago, IL 60607-7116  
 U.S.A.

- A. Original transcripts and proofs of degree from all undergraduate institutions attended, as well as transcripts and proofs of degree from all previous graduate study. **ALL** documents must be official (certified by the institutional seal) and **MUST** be sent **DIRECTLY** from each institution in a sealed envelope to the Director of Graduate Studies at the address given above.

**ALL** transcripts and proofs of degree **MUST** be accompanied by an official (certified) English translation. If you are unsure about what translation will be accepted by UIC as official, please contact Ms. Rocío García, Graduate Administrative Assistant ([mexotic@uic.edu](mailto:mexotic@uic.edu)).

**PLEASE NOTE:** for many applicants, this is the most confusing and time-consuming step in the application process. We strongly advise you to begin early and to contact us if you have any questions.

- B. Three confidential letters of recommendation from **professors or others familiar with your previous academic work and your qualifications for graduate study in French language and literature**. Recommenders may use the form available from the Graduate College, or they are welcome to send a letter (printed on letterhead from their academic institution). They may write in either French or English.
- C. A 250-word personal statement in French. Please address the following issues: your reasons for undertaking graduate study, your previous training in French language, literature, and cultural studies, and your career goals.
- D. A sample of your academic writing in French (for example, an undergraduate or graduate research paper).
- E. TOEFL exam results. The minimum TOEFL score accepted by the Graduate College is 550 (paper-based test) or 213 (computer-based test), or 80 Internet based with the following minimum sub-scores: Reading 19, Speaking 20, Listening 17, Writing 21, and Total 80.
- F. Declaration and Certification of Finances form, available on-line at <https://grad.uic.edu/cms/?pid=1000363>
- G. Official certificate or letter **IN ENGLISH** from a financial institution (such as a bank), showing the amount available to the student in the form of savings accounts, certificates of deposit, or money market funds. This must certify that the student or her/his mentor(s) will be able to cover the student's academic and living expenses in the U.S.A. The current amount required is \$37,702.00. If the applicant is awarded a teaching assistantship, however, the amount is only \$23,702.00.
- H. The Graduate Record Examination (GRE). If possible, please send a copy of your score to the department at the above address. Otherwise, please have your scores sent to the Office of Admissions and Records, Graduate Division (MC 018), University of Illinois at Chicago, 1200 West Harrison Street, Chicago, Illinois 60607-7161.
- I. Students who wish to be considered for a Teaching Assistantship must submit an Application for Graduate Appointment. It is available on the Graduate College website at: <https://grad.uic.edu/cms/?pid=1000363>. Please note that we do not need

either a second set of three recommendations or a second personal statement; we can use the ones submitted as part of your application for admission.

About financial aid:

Our Teaching Assistantships include a tuition waiver, a Service Fee waiver, and a stipend currently set at \$14,000 per academic year. This is a 50% Teaching Assistantship; students holding it must 1) teach three sections from among our Basic French sequence (FR 101, 102, 103, 104) per academic year, and 2) enroll in a minimum of two graduate-level courses (8 credit hours) per semester.

In addition, the Department is able to nominate candidates for several Fellowships funded through the Graduate College. These are extremely competitive Fellowships awarded by a university-wide committee. For further information, please consult the Graduate College website (<http://www.uic.edu/cms/?pid=10000828>) or contact the Director of Graduate Studies in French.

Final notes:

If need be, all the necessary forms (Application for Admission, Application for Graduate Appointment, Letter of Recommendation, Declaration and Certification of Finances) can be downloaded from the following link:

<https://grad.uic.edu/cms/?pid=1000363>

To find answers to Frequently Asked Questions, please consult

[http://www.uic.edu/depts/oar/grad/grad\\_faq.html](http://www.uic.edu/depts/oar/grad/grad_faq.html)

For any remaining questions, please do not hesitate to contact either Professor Margaret Miner, Director of Graduate Studies ([mminer@uic.edu](mailto:mminer@uic.edu) OR 312-996 3229) or Ms. Rocío García, Graduate Administrative Assistant ([mexotic@uic.edu](mailto:mexotic@uic.edu) OR 312-996-0254).

## Degree Requirements

In addition to the Graduate College minimum requirements, students must meet the following program requirements:

Minimum Semester Hours Required: 32

*Coursework:* At least 12 of the 32 hours must be 500-level courses in the French section, excluding Fr 502 and Fr 596. At least 24 hours of coursework must be taken in the French section; Fr 502 counts as a course outside the section.

*Required Courses:* Fr 433 (for nonnative speakers); 4 hours from among Fr 415, 416, 417, 418, 419, 420, 422, or 440; 4 hours from among Fr 461, 462, 463, or 464.

Comprehensive Examination  
Required: written and oral.

Thesis, Project, or Coursework-only options  
Coursework only. No other options available.

### Interdepartmental Concentration in Gender and Women's Studies

A student earning a graduate degree in this department may enroll for a graduate concentration in gender and women's studies. The requirements for this concentration are application to the director of the Gender and Women's Studies Program; approval by a gender and women's studies graduate faculty member, preferably within the department of the degree, who becomes the student's gender and women's studies advisor; and a total of 16 hours of graduate coursework, including GWS 501 and GWS 502, plus eight additional hours of gender and women's studies or cross-listed courses at the graduate level. Up to four of these hours can be in directed study or thesis research on an appropriate topic approved by the student's gender and women's studies advisor. Students pursuing this concentration must consult the director of the Gender and Women's Studies Program.

## Graduate Courses in French

**401. Reading French for Graduate Students. 4 Hours.** Taught in English. Credit may not be applied toward a graduate degree. Grammar, vocabulary, general and specialized reading practice; for graduate students wishing to fulfill French reading requirements for the Ph.D. Prerequisites: Some prior experience with elementary French recommended, and consent of the instructor.

**413. French Feminist and Gender Theory. 4 Hours.** Same as GWS 410. An introduction to French theories of gender, philosophy, and multicultural studies. Taught in English. Students who intend to use French 413 toward the major in French must complete assignments in French. Prerequisite: Fr 301 or Fr 302; or consent of the instructor.

**415. French Literature of the Middle Ages. 4 Hours.** May be repeated for a maximum of 12 hours of credit. Introduction to major medieval genres (epic, romance, lyric, theater, allegory) works and authors, such as le Chanson de Roland, Tristan, Chretien de Troyes, Marie de France, Villon. Prerequisite: Fr 301 or consent of the instructor.

**416. Topics in Sixteenth-Century French Literature. 4 Hours.** May be repeated for a maximum of 12 hours of credit. Intensive analysis of Renaissance literature (Rabelais, Montaigne, Marguerite de Navarra, poetry of the Pleiade, etc.) in the cultural context of Humanism and the Reformation. Prerequisite: Fr 301 or consent of the instructor.

**417. Topics in Seventeenth-Century French Literature. 4 Hours.** May be repeated for a maximum of 12 hours of credit. Intensive study of Baroque and Classicism, with focus on major genres: theater (Corneille, Moliere, Racine); poetry (La Fontaine); prose (Pascal, de Sevigne); novel (de Lafayette). Prerequisite: Fr 301 or consent of the instructor.

**418. Topics in Eighteenth-Century French Literature. 4 Hours.** May be repeated for a maximum of 12 hours of credit. Introduction to the literature and philosophy of the Enlightenment through representative authors (Rousseau, Diderot, etc.) and major genres (novel, essay, conte, theater, etc.). Prerequisite: Fr 301 or consent of the instructor.

**419. Topics in Nineteenth-Century French Literature. 4 Hours.** May be repeated for a maximum of 12 hours of credit. Major genres and works from Romanticism to realism, naturalism, and symbolism will be studied within the context of the social, cultural and political movements of the century. Prerequisite: Fr 301 or consent of the instructor.

**420. Topics in Twentieth-Century French Literature. 4 Hours.** May be repeated for a maximum of 12 hours of credit. Study of major literary movements (surrealism, existentialism, nouveau roman, theater of the absurd) and intensive analysis of works by major authors from Proust to Beckett. Prerequisite: Fr 301 or consent of the instructor.

**422. Francophone Novel. 4 Hours.** May be repeated for a maximum of 12 hours of credit. Intensive analysis of a topic in Francophone literature. Scope includes Quebec, Africa, the

Antilles, and French novelists outside of France. Prerequisite: Fr 301 or consent of the instructor.

**433. Advanced Oral and Written French. 4 Hours.** Exercises in French pronunciation; oral interpretation of different texts (familiar style and formal discourse); discussion of newspapers, magazine articles; practice in critical writing. Prerequisite: Fr 334 or consent of the instructor.

**440. Topics in French and Francophone Cinema. 4 hours.** This course will examine a selection of French and Francophone films chosen around a period or theme or genre. Topics will vary. 3 undergraduate hours. 4 graduate hour. May be used for credit in the French major only with consent of the director of undergraduate studies. Taught in English. Students who intend to use French 440 toward the major in French must complete assignment in French. Prerequisite(s): FR 301 or FR 302; or consent of the instructor.

**461. French Civilization I: Medieval and Renaissance. 4 Hours.** Lectures and discussion in French. Interdisciplinary approach to French civilization of the Middle Ages and the Renaissance including history, literature, the beaux-arts, and philosophy. Prerequisite: Fr 302 or consent of the instructor.

**462. French Civilization II: Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries. 4 Hours.** Lectures and discussion in French. Interdisciplinary approach to French civilization of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries including history, literature, the beaux-arts, and philosophy. Prerequisite: Fr 302 or consent of the instructor.

**463. French Civilization III: Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries. 4 Hours.** Lectures and discussion in French. An interdisciplinary approach to French civilization of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, including history, literature, beaux-arts, and philosophy. Prerequisite: Fr 302 or consent of the instructor.

**464. Topics in French Civilization. 4 Hours.** May be repeated for a maximum of 12 hours of credit. An interdisciplinary approach to French civilization, including history, literature, beaux-arts, and philosophy. Each topic focuses on a specific period between the Middle Ages and the present. Prerequisite: Fr 302 or consent of the instructor.

**494. Special Topics. 4 hours.** Topics will vary from term to term and may cover such areas as literary theory or culture. Same as SPAN 494 and ITAL 494. 3 undergraduate hours. 4 graduate hours. May be repeated. Students may register in more than one section per term. Taught in English. Prerequisite(s): Junior standing or above; and approval of the department.

**496. Independent Study. 1 to 4 Hours.** Supervised study in an area not covered by regularly scheduled courses under the direction of a faculty member designated by the chairperson of the department. Prerequisites: French major and consent of the department.

**502. Theoretical and Research Foundations of Communicative Language Teaching. 4 Hours.** Same as Span 502. No credit given if student has credit in Span 450 or Fr 450 or Ger 407. This course introduces students to contemporary theory and research on second language acquisition. Emphasis is on understanding the research and examining classroom practice.

Taught in English. Prerequisite: Appointment as a teaching assistant. For students outside the department: consent of the instructor.

**510. Seminar in Literary Studies. 4 Hours.** May be repeated for credit; beyond 12 hours of credit, consent of the director of graduate studies required. Topics vary.

**560. Seminar in Cultural Studies. 4 Hours.** May be repeated for a maximum of 12 hours of credit. Topics vary.

**575. French Abroad. 0 to 16 Hours.** May be repeated for a maximum of 33 hours of credit. Lectures, seminars and practical work in francophone literature and civilization in France. Prerequisite: Consent of the department.

**596. Independent Study. 1 to 4 Hours.** Supervised study in an area not covered by regularly scheduled courses under the direction of a faculty member designated by the chairperson of the department. Prerequisites: Graduate standing in French and approval of the department.

**598. Thesis Research. 0 TO 16 hours.** Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory grading only. May be repeated to a maximum of 8 hours. Prerequisite(s): Approval of the director of graduate studies.

# Comprehensive Examinations

## General Description

### Purposes

The current format for the M.A. exams is intended to accomplish the following general goals:

1. promote flexibility and creativity by allowing students to design topics fitted to their particular interests and circumstances while still covering a broad field of research
2. promote rigorous thinking by giving students the opportunity to pursue in-depth critical and theoretical reading pertinent to a carefully chosen set of primary texts
3. promote linguistic and rhetorical skills by offering students the chance to present their own research in both written and oral contexts

### Procedures

To meet the above goals, students should do the following:

1. Students will choose three broad topics of research. These topics should span a variety of literary periods and genres and should **complement**—not repeat—course work. Two of the topics should be designed to fill in gaps not covered by coursework; the third topic may be an extension of work already begun in the context of a course. Some examples: le théâtre existentialiste; le roman pendant la monarchie de juillet; l'autobiographie féminine au 18e siècle.

Students should begin to define their topics before the end of their second semester. They should consult first with the DGS on their choice of topics, then with faculty advisors specializing in each of the topics chosen.

2. In consultation with their three advisors, students will develop and annotate a list of primary and secondary sources for each topic. Students will then submit a final bibliography **one month** before the exams; this should be distributed to all faculty members. For most—but not necessarily all—topics, the final bibliography will consist of four to eight primary texts and eight to ten secondary texts. This bibliography must be **annotated**: for each book or article listed, students must provide a concise summary of the arguments pertinent to their topic and a brief critique of any important flaws.
3. Students will take written examinations on two of the three topics. To insure that students have time for reflection and planning as well as writing, each exam will last five hours (two hours for outlining and three hours for writing, with a break in between); exams will be given on separate days. Precise exam questions will be set by the faculty, who will evaluate the resulting essays with primary attention to quality of argument and strength of research. Written exams will normally take place during the student's fourth semester.

4. Students will take a one-hour oral examination based on the one remaining topic of research. Students are welcome to designate the topic they wish to cover orally. This exam will consist of a 10-minute presentation by the student followed by general discussion with the faculty. It will normally take place in the fourth semester, shortly after the written exams.

#### Important things to note

1. For both the written and the oral exams, students are expected to elaborate a **critical argument** that reflects their own thinking in light of the research they have done. Exam essays and presentations should not be limited to a summary of readings or a simple overview of the topic in question.
2. From the beginning of their third semester until their exams, students are required to meet **regularly** with the faculty advisor for each of their topics. To make the exam experience a success, it is crucial to focus as sharply on the preparation process as on the final outcome. It is the student's responsibility to contact faculty advisors for appointments. If a student fails to meet with advisors at least once a month during the semester preceding the one in which exams are scheduled, or if any advisor feels there has not been sufficient dialogue to insure adequate preparation, the faculty may postpone the exams for a semester.
3. Please be aware of the following:
  - a. Students must take their comprehensive exams within one year of finishing required course work.
  - b. Students may retake any part of the exams only once if they fail it the first time.
  - c. Any retakes must be completed within the same semester that the original exam was taken.
  - d. Students must be registered at UIC, either for course work or for 0 hours if their course work is completed, during the semesters in which they prepare and take their exams.

# Comprehensive Examinations

## Bibliographical Information

Each of your bibliographies should consist of three parts:

1. Following the title of your topic, you should provide a brief overview of the main goals of your research and the primary questions you have raised in the course of it. The purpose of this overview is not to squeeze everything you have done into a super-dense (and thus unreadable) summary, but rather to suggest the kinds of questions that seem fruitful to you and that you might enjoy discussing during the exams. One paragraph should be enough; concision is as crucial as precision.

Example:

### Le Théâtre au 17e Siècle

La représentation théâtrale participe à une imitation et à une authenticité qui lui sont propres, à l'image du vaste théâtre humain où le paraître se mélange aisément à l'être. Dans la société de cette époque, une seule personne a le pouvoir: le roi. Cependant, la trilogie auteur/acteur/spectateur remet ce pouvoir en question. Que devient-il une fois mis en scène? Si le théâtre n'est qu'une illusion et ne représente que de l'illusion, le pouvoir est-il lui aussi illusion ou illusoire?

2. Next should come a list of the Œuvres de base that have constituted your primary reading. The list will typically contain 4-8 works of literature, but the number and type of texts may vary considerably depending on the topic. Each work should be accompanied by a brief annotation; 3-5 sentences will often suffice. It is obviously impossible to summarize everything that is involved in your primary works, which tend to be rich and complex. Instead, your annotations should highlight the aspects of each work that are most important for your topic, while setting these aspects if necessary in the general context of the work or its history.

Example (for a topic entitled "La Fronde: la subjectivité dans la cour de Louis XIV"):

Corneille, Pierre. Othon. Paris: Garnier-Flammarion, 1964.

Écrite en 1664 sous une monarchie absolue, cette pièce peut s'interpréter ou bien comme une manière de flatter Louis XIV, ou bien comme une critique de ce roi. Othon, le "héros" apparent du drame, n'a pas de qualités héroïques: il n'est pas original, et ses mots n'ont pas de poids. C'est peut-être une mise en question de l'identité du roi: est-il vraiment exceptionnel, ou est-ce possible qu'il soit exactement comme tout le monde?

3. Finally, you should list the Ouvrages critiques that you have selected from among the

sources uncovered during your research. Again, this list should generally contain 8-10 titles (books and articles), but this number also may vary a good deal from topic to topic. In this section of your bibliography, the annotations may need to be a little more detailed (5-7 sentences). Their purposes are (a) to summarize the main argument of the book or article; (b) to suggest how this argument is useful to your project (i.e. because it supports your thinking, contradicts your ideas in provocative ways, contrasts with other sources, etc.); and (c) to indicate your position with respect to the argument (that is, whether you find it convincing, intriguing but incomplete, unpersuasive because unclear, helpful but exaggerated, etc.).

Example (for a topic entitled "Le Paradoxe de la parole: les femmes dans la littérature du Québec"):

Marcotte, Gilles. "Bonheur d'occasion et la grand réalisme." Voix et Images 14.1 (1989): 408-413.

Marcotte examine le réalisme de Bonheur d'occasion, de Gabrielle Roy. Il fait référence à la théorie lukacsienne du "grand réalisme," selon laquelle l'écrivain s'attache aux conflits essentiels de son époque pour éclairer le présent en lui donnant une dimension épique. Ce réalisme n'aurait rien à voir avec celui du détail (le réalisme photographique, par exemple). Le "grand réalisme" est plutôt "donneur de sens," et ce sens ne peut naître que des forces antagonistes. Expliquée ici avec lucidité, cette idée de forces contraires est pertinente aux femmes qui s'affirment au moyen de la parole, mais qui se trouvent en même temps affaiblies par leur langue "inférieure."

### Format

Styles of documentation are notoriously arbitrary, differing as they do not only from country to country, but even from publisher to publisher. For the sake of uniformity and consistency, we ask that you follow the guidelines for "Preparing the List of Works Cited" given in Chapter 4 of The MLA Style Manual. As recommended there, each of your lists should be alphabetical by authors' last names and should use reverse indentation. The only exception to MLA formatting is that you may single space within—but not between—entries in your lists (in order to conserve paper). In case of any questions, you should consult your advisors. A few examples:

For a book:

Gouges, Olympe de. Œuvres d'Olympe de Gouges. Ed. Genoîte Groult. Paris: Mercure de France, 1986.

Harth, Erica. Cartesian Women: Versions and Subversions of Rational Discourse in the Old Regime. Ithaca: Cornell UP, 1992.

Musset, Alfred de. Poésies complètes. Ed. Maurice Allemand. Paris: Gallimard, 1940.

For a chapter in a book by one or more authors:

Benjamin, Walter. "Some Motifs in Baudelaire." Charles Baudelaire: A Lyric Poet in the Era of High Capitalism. Trans. Harry Zohn. London: NLB, 1973. 107-154.

Cave, Terence. "1512: Writing Without Reserve." A New History of French Literature. Ed. Denis Hollier. Cambridge and London: Harvard UP, 1989. 133-136.

For an article in a journal:

Bowles, Brett. "Poetic Practice and Historical Paradigm: Charles Baudelaire's Anti-Semitism." PMLA 115 (2000): 195-208.

Cixous, Hélène. "Le Rire de la Méduse." L'Arc 61 (1975): 39-54.

Danahy, Michael. "Marceline Desbordes-Valmore et la fraternité des poètes." Nineteenth-Century French Studies 19.3 (1991): 386-93.

# Comprehensive Examinations

## General Schedule and Checklist

### SECOND SEMESTER

#### April:

Meet with DGS in order to

- review topics covered in coursework and
- delimit three general areas (time periods and genres) for exam topics.

Meet with one advisor for each area in order to

- arrive at a preliminary definition of each topic and
- sketch out a plan for exploratory research to be done over the summer.

### THIRD SEMESTER

#### September:

Meet with advisor of each topic in order to

- report on summer research;
- submit and discuss a first draft of the title and précis;
- submit and discuss a first draft (without annotations) of the primary sources list.

#### October:

Meet with the advisor of each topic in order to submit and discuss

- a revised draft of the title and précis;
- a revised list (without annotations) of primary sources;
- a first draft (without annotations) of the secondary source list.

#### November:

Meet with the advisor of each topic in order to submit and discuss

- a revised draft of the title and précis;
- the final list of primary sources, together with a first draft of annotations;
- a revised draft (without annotations) of the secondary source list;
- an outline of work to be accomplished over the winter break.

#### FOURTH SEMESTER

##### January:

Meet with the advisor of each topic in order to submit and discuss

- a final draft of the title and précis;
- a revised draft of primary source annotations;
- the final list of secondary sources, with a first draft of annotations.

##### February:

Meet with the advisor of each topic in order to submit and discuss

- a final draft of primary source annotations;
- a revised draft of secondary source annotations.

Last week of February or first week of March (exact date to be specified):

- Provide a hard copy of all three finished bibliographies for each member of the French faculty.

##### February – March:

Meet with advisors in order to

- review and refine the major questions and arguments involved in each topic

##### March:

Meet with the advisor of each topic in order to

- propose a question for a practice exam
- discuss results of the practice exam.

First two weeks after spring break:

- Take written exams, generally on successive Mondays.
- Take oral exam, generally during the same week as the second written exam.

PLEASE NOTE:

It is the students' sole responsibility to adhere to this schedule by making appointments in a timely manner with faculty advisors and by turning in work on time.

Exams are normally given in the spring; exceptions will ordinarily be granted only to students who begin their M.A. studies in the spring semester. All other students must obtain special permission from the French faculty to take exams in the fall. Schedules for those with permission to take their exams in the fall are available from the DGS.

# Comprehensive Examinations

## General Schedule and Checklist

### SECOND SEMESTER

#### November:

Meet with DGS in order to

- review topics covered in coursework and
- delimit three general areas (time periods and genres) for exam topics.

Meet with one advisor for each area in order to

- arrive at a preliminary definition of each topic and
- sketch out a plan for exploratory research to be done over the winter break.

### THIRD SEMESTER

#### February:

Meet with advisor of each topic in order to

- report on summer research;
- submit and discuss a first draft of the title and précis;
- submit and discuss a first draft (without annotations) of the primary sources list.

#### March:

Meet with the advisor of each topic in order to submit and discuss

- a revised draft of the title and précis;
- a revised list (without annotations) of primary sources;
- a first draft (without annotations) of the secondary source list.

#### April:

Meet with the advisor of each topic in order to submit and discuss

- a revised draft of the title and précis;
- the final list of primary sources, together with a first draft of annotations;
- a revised draft (without annotations) of the secondary source list;
- an outline of work to be accomplished over the summer.

#### FOURTH SEMESTER

##### August:

Meet with the advisor of each topic in order to submit and discuss

- a final draft of the title and précis;
- a revised draft of primary source annotations;
- the final list of secondary sources, with a first draft of annotations.

##### September:

Meet with the advisor of each topic in order to submit and discuss

- a final draft of primary source annotations;
- a revised draft of secondary source annotations.

Last week of September or first week of October (exact date to be specified):

- Provide a hard copy of all three finished bibliographies for each member of the French faculty.

##### September – October:

Meet with advisors in order to

- review and refine the major questions and arguments involved in each topic

##### October:

Meet with the advisor of each topic in order to

- propose a question for a practice exam
- discuss results of the practice exam.

First two weeks in November:

- Take written exams, generally on successive Mondays.
- Take oral exam, generally during the same week as the second written exam.

PLEASE NOTE:

It is the students' sole responsibility to adhere to this schedule by making appointments in a timely manner with faculty advisors and by turning in work on time.

Exams are normally given in the spring; exceptions will ordinarily be granted only to students who begin their M.A. studies in the spring semester. All other students must obtain special permission from the French faculty to take exams in the fall. Schedules for those with permission to take their exams in the fall are available from the DGS.

## Teaching Assistantships

Teaching assistantships are usually awarded for one academic year, with a mid-year review. Depending on the needs of the department, one-semester appointments may be possible.

TAs teach 3 courses a year in the French Basic Language section (100-level classes); this is a 50% appointment.

TAs are ordinarily available for the two years of the French Masters Program; in some cases it may be possible to extend the contract while the student is finishing the French M.A., depending on funding and the needs of the French section.

### Policies and regulations

**Appointment:** The annual TA contract starts in mid August and ends in mid May. TAs teach three courses a year (50% appointment). Summer-term teaching is sometimes available but cannot be guaranteed. Teaching assistantships carry a stipend plus a tuition and service fee waiver. Teaching assistants must register for at least eight credit hours each semester they teach. Teaching Assistants are represented by a union, and the first collective bargaining agreement went into effect in Fall 2007.

**Work requirements:** TAs are required to attend a teaching workshop in the week before classes begin in the fall semester. A 50% appointment implies a workload of approximately 20 hours a week for each week of the contract. TA responsibilities include: teaching 3 100-level classes per year, preparing daily lesson plans, collaboratively creating and evaluating all oral and written assignments including exams, using and demonstrating classroom technology, ability to read and send email and attachments, keeping clear and accurate records in gradebook, holding two-three office hours per week (including one tutoring hour) depending how many courses you are teaching that semester, attending weekly TA meetings and teaching workshops as scheduled by the Director consulting with the Director on a daily basis, proctoring final exam, calculating and submitting final grades.

**Training:** We are proud to provide our teachers with solid training and support: a pre-semester workshop in the week before classes begin (Fall) as well as constant interaction with the Director during the academic year, including weekly meetings, classroom observations, occasional workshops, and individual meetings.

**Evaluation:** Evaluation of teaching consists of

- classroom or videotaped observations by the Director (with one week's advance notice, as per the TA union contract): minimum of 3 per year
- section mid-semester evaluations
- section end-of-semester evaluations
- university end-of-semester evaluations: these evaluations are made available to the Head

as well as to the Director of the BLP.

All these factors will be considered when a TA applies for renewal of the contract, and serve as a basis for letters of recommendation. Failure to maintain the expected standards of academic and teaching professionalism will result in a revocation of the teaching assistantship at the discretion of the Director of Graduate Studies.

## **Around Chicago:**

### **Welcome to the UIC French Program!**

Here's a sampling of places to find help, make friends, or buy things you might need as you settle in to the Chicago area.

Most of the listed places are very easy to get to from the UIC campus either with the Blue Line train or the Halsted #8 bus.

Do you have more tips for people new to Chicago?? Are there other places you'd like listed? Please let me know.

#### **IN THE DEPARTMENT:**

- 1) Director, Basic French Program: Professor Elizabeth Weber ([edweber@uic.edu](mailto:edweber@uic.edu)), 1627 U.H. For all teaching-related questions.
- 2) Director of Graduate Studies: Professor Margaret Miner ([mminer@uic.edu](mailto:mminer@uic.edu)), 1617 U.H. For ALL questions about the MA program, including what courses to take, how many credits to sign up for, information about the MA exams, etc.
- 3) Graduate Administrative Assistant: Ms. Rocío García ([mexotic@uic.edu](mailto:mexotic@uic.edu)), 1729 University Hall. For questions about salary, contract, visa health insurance, anything administrative.
- 4) Keys: Ms. Sharon Carillo ([anthony@uic.edu](mailto:anthony@uic.edu)), 1727 University Hall.
- 5) Video cabinet keys, copy machine code, help w/copy machine: staff in 1722 U.H
- 6) Mailroom: your mailbox, copy machine: 1730 U.H.
- 7) Lounge/Library: 1732 U.H.

#### **ON CAMPUS:**

- 1) INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS: Office of International Students: Suite 2160 Student Services Building (1200 West Harrison Street). 312-996-3121. Questions about visa, right to work, entering and leaving the country, etc.  
<http://www.ois.uic.edu/>
- 2) STUDENT ID (I-Cards): Get your student ID (I-Card) at the Photo Identification Office, Student Services Building (1200 West Harrison Street). Information about I-Cards: 312-413-5940. YOU MUST HAVE A STUDENT ID. Get it before first day of orientation.

3) EMAIL: Computer accounts for e-mail/personal web pages are administered by the Academic Computing and Communications Center (ACCC). To create an account, you need your UIC I-Card (see above) and the account creation web page (<https://ness.uic.edu/htbin/autocr>).

Information on computing at UIC (including creating new accounts): Client Services Office of ACCC 312-413-0003 or on the ACCC web site at: <http://www.uic.edu/depts/accc>. **YOU MUST HAVE UIC EMAIL: Set it up before first day of orientation.**

4) SUBWAY/BUS PASS: U-Pass (CTA Student Pass): All full-time UIC graduate students receive a U-Pass. The U-Pass entitles the student to unlimited rides on all Chicago Transit Authority buses and trains during academic terms. More information on the U-Pass and information on U-Pass distribution on-line: <http://upass.cas.uic.edu/>. PLEASE NOTE: to qualify for a U-Pass, you must enroll in a minimum of **NINE credit hours** each semester.

5) Parking Services: UIC parking permits can be obtained from the UIC Parking Office. Customer Service Offices are located in Suite 2620 Student Services Building (1200 West Harrison Street) and in 217 Student Residence Hall (818 South Wolcott Avenue). Parking information: 312- 413-5800.

6) FOOD: Cafeterias in Student Center East and BSB, “Café” on first floor of University Hall. SCE also has a food court with Wendy’s, other fast food places. If possible, walk 2-3 blocks and eat OFF campus. Greek Town 3 blocks north (Halsted), Little Italy 3 blocks south (Taylor).

## **OFF CAMPUS:**

### **D) INFORMATION FOR FRENCH/FRANCOPHONE STUDENTS:**

#### **➔UFEC (UNION DES FRANÇAIS DE L'ETRANGER DE CHICAGO)**

<http://www.ufechicago.org/html/accueil/mission.htm> [info@ufechicago.org](mailto:info@ufechicago.org)

Association d'utilité publique, fondée à Paris en 1927, l'UFE a pour mission de créer et de maintenir un contact entre les Français résidant hors de France, de développer leur esprit de solidarité et de défendre leurs intérêts moraux et matériels. C'est la plus grande association de Français de Chicago.

#### **➔CHICAGO ACCUEIL**

<http://www.chicagoaccueil.com/>

Antenne de la Fédération Internationale des Accueils Français et Francophones à l'étranger. Pour les Français qui arrivent à Chicago, pour ceux qui y sont depuis longtemps, pour ce qui concerne la France et les Français.

Associations

Histoire

Le Midwest

Papiers importants

Climat

Logement

Ecole  
 Santé  
 Restaurants  
 Transport  
 Finances  
 Loisirs  
 Shopping  
 Religion  
 Jours fériés  
 Adresses  
 Journaux  
 Livres  
 Radio, video  
 Télévision  
 Mots-clefs  
 Equivalences

**➔ ALLIANCE FRANÇAISE DE CHICAGO**

<http://www.afchicago.com/>

810 North Dearborn Street, Chicago, IL 60610

Créée il y a cent ans, c' est une association de droit américain, sans but lucratif, initiant et propageant la culture francophone par des cours de français et des manifestations culturelles et activités diverses. Cotisation spéciale pour les membres de l'UFEC (et pour les étudiants UIC).

**➔ LE GROUPE DES JEUNES DE L'ALLIANCE**

Restaurant "Portillo's," 100 W. Ontario (2ème étage), Chicago

Tous les mercredis à partir de 18H

**➔ Le livret du Français à l'étranger (publication, sur internet)**

<http://www.mfe.org/lfe/lfe.htm>

**➔ LE GROUPE PROFESSIONEL FRANCOPHONE**

<http://www.gpfchicago.org/ibhp.htm>

Réunions le dernier jeudi du mois à l'hôtel "Renaissance", Chicago (17h30 à 20h)

**➔ INTERNATIONAL VISITORS CENTER**

930 Merchandise Mart Plaza, Chicago

Tél. 312645-1836

Cette association est administrée par l'U.S. Information Agency à Washington. Pour ses adhérents, des visites et réunions réunissent les membres de la communauté internationale et des Américains ayant vécu à l'étranger.

**➔ CHICAGO OFFICE OF TOURISM-VISITOR INFORMATION CENTER**

Water Tower (Chicago et Michigan Avenues), Chicago Cultural Center (77 E. Randolph Street) et Navy Pier (700 E. Grand Avenue)

Cartes, dépliants et brochures gratuits pour vous donner une idée de tout ce qui peut être intéressant dans la ville et aux alentours.

## ➔ LE COMITE CONSULAIRE POUR LA PROTECTION ET L'AIDE SOCIALE

Peut apporter aide et soutien en cas de détresse.

Consulat Général de France  
737 North Michigan Avenue, Suite 2020  
Chicago, IL 60611

Tél.312-787-5359

### II) French Books/Magazines/Newspapers:

➔ **Europa Books:** Europa Books. 832 N. State St Chicago, IL. 312-335-9677. Downtown, near Water Tower Place.

➔ **Borders Books:** There are several. <http://www.Borders.com>

1) 150 N. State St. Take Blue Line toward O'Hare, get off at Washington.

2) 830 N. Michigan. Across from Water Tower shopping mall.

3) 2817 N. Clark St. At Clark and Diversey: take Halsted bus (#8) going north, get off at Diversey, walk east (right) for 4 blocks. It will be on your left.

4) N. Halsted: Take the Halsted #8 bus to North Avenue. Borders is on corner of Halsted and North.

### III) French books/videos/DVDs on the web (for example):

➔ **Canadian site:** <http://www.archambault.ca>

➔ **French sites:** Alapage.com, Chapitre.com, Amazon.fr

### IV) Used books (including French):

➔ **Myopic Books:** Take the Blue Line toward O'Hare. Get off at Division OR Damen. The bookstore is between these two stops on Milwaukee Avenue.

➔ **Powell's Books:** 2850 North Lincoln Ave. <http://www.powellschicago.com/stores.html>

➔ There are also several used bookstores on Broadway between Diversey and Addison.

### V) Used CDs/Videos/DVDs: <http://www.reckless.com>

➔ **Reckless Records:** 1532 N. Milwaukee Ave. Take Blue Line toward O'Hare. Get off at Division OR Damen. The store is between these two stops on Milwaukee Avenue.

➔ **Reckless Records:** 3157 N. Broadway. Take Halsted #8 bus north to Diversey. Get off and walk east (right) down Diversey till you hit Broadway, then walk north to Belmont.

➔ There are also many used CD stores on Clark between Fullerton and Diversey, and Broadway between Diversey and Belmont.

### VI) Discount stores (clothes, furnishings, linens, etc):

➔ **K-Mart:** 1360 Ashland Avenue. Take Blue Line toward O'Hare. Get off at the stop called Division. K-Mart is beside the Jewel-Osco grocery store. You can buy household stuff here as well (shampoo, file cabinets, jewelry, bike tires, CD players, t-shirts...).

➔ **Marshalls:** Corner of Halsted and Belmont. Take Halsted #8 bus north to Belmont. Marshalls is actually one stop before Belmont, on the right-hand corner. Mostly clothes.  
--Another Marshalls is on Fullerton in the same shopping mall as the T.J. Maxx (see below).

➔ **T.J. Maxx:** Several locations. Mostly clothes.  
--one right beside Borders on Broadway.  
--one on Fullerton: take Halsted #8 bus north to Fullerton, then take Fullerton bus west till you see a big shopping mall on both sides of the street.  
--one on State Street downtown (take Blue Line to Washington, then walk east).

#### **VII) Used furniture, books, CDs, DVDs, clothes, etc:**

➔ **Ark Thrift Shop:** 1302 N. Milwaukee Ave, 773-862-5011. Take Blue Line toward O'Hare. Get off at the stop called Division. Clothes, books, furniture.

➔ **The Brown Elephant: (several other locations)**  
3651 N Halsted St, Phone: (773) 549-5943. Take Halsted #8 bus north till you hit the end of the line (Waveland). You'll see it on your right and get off right in front of it. Clothes, books, furniture, +

➔ **The White Elephant:** 2380 N. Lincoln Avenue. Take Halsted #8 bus north to Fullerton. You'll see it on your right and get off right in front of it. Clothes, books, furniture,

➔ **Mount Sinai Resale: At corner of Halsted and Diversey.** Take Halsted #8 bus north to Diversey. Walk ½ block west (left) on Diversey. Clothes, books, furniture,

#### **VIII) Restaurants**

On-campus restaurants are not always cheaper and rarely better than off-campus restaurants. Walk only a couple of blocks south or north to find something better!

**On campus:** For fast food, there is a Taco Bell in the dorm on the corner of Harrison and Halsted. There is a Wendy's, a Sbarro's, a Subway's, and a burrito place on the second floor of CCC.

**Off campus:** UIC is sandwiched between Little Italy (Taylor street, a few blocks to the south) and Greek Town (just across the expressway on Halsted). There are lots of restaurants within walking distance. For example: Zorba's on Halsted is cheap diner food; across the street from it on Halsted Artopolis is slightly more expensive Greek food. To the south of campus and a bit west (turn right) are a variety of cafés, Thai, Italian, burgers, another Subway's, even a fancy French place.