

TEACHING REQUIREMENTS FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS IN FRENCH

Standard teaching duties:

- Graduate students in French typically teach one course per semester of elementary or intermediate French language / culture for four of their five years of study. They are considered “instructors of record” with full classroom responsibility.
- Students who come into the PhD program with the MA degree begin teaching during their first semester and are typically granted a service-free year during their fourth or fifth years of study.
- Students who come into the PhD program without the MA degree have a service-free year during their first year of study.

Oversight and mentoring of graduate teaching assistants:

- All graduate students in French participate in a departmental 3-day pre-teaching orientation workshop each fall; this orientation is closely coordinated with the TA orientation hosted by the Center for Teaching.
- All graduate students in French are required to take Second Language Studies (SLS) 6030, *Learning and Teaching Second/Foreign Languages*. Offered every fall, this course is taught by a faculty member with expertise in second language acquisition and pedagogy. This course includes a theoretical overview of the field as well as an in-depth initiation into current teaching practice. Students typically take this course during the fall semester of their first year of study; students who have a service-free first year may opt to take it when they begin teaching in their second year of study.
- Graduate teaching assistants work closely with the French Language Program Director (LPD). The LPD prepares all course materials – syllabi, tests, assessment rubrics, etc. – and meets with the graduate teaching assistants weekly to discuss issues related to teaching approaches and classroom management.
- The LPD observes the teaching assistants at least twice during each semester of their first year and offers detailed feedback. These observations are designed to mentor novice teachers and to ensure that the undergraduate students are getting the best possible learning experience.
- Further observations are scheduled when a graduate teaching assistant needs additional mentoring. Once the graduate teaching assistants feel comfortable with their teaching performance, other faculty members in French are encouraged to observe them.
- Each year, the LPD names an advanced PhD student with an excellent teaching record to serve as Assistant Course Coordinator. The ACC helps with the fall orientation, general oversight, and observations. The ACC typically works 2-3 hours per week and receives a modest stipend.
- All graduate teaching assistants are strongly encouraged to observe each other regularly and share best practices.

Opportunities for additional teaching experience:

- All graduate students are encouraged to participate in the various professional development opportunities offered by the Center for Teaching.
- Graduate students who are native speakers of English have the opportunity to spend a year teaching at the Sorbonne in Paris or at the University of Aix-Marseille. Their teaching duties typically include courses in English phonetics and conversation.
- The graduate program in French includes an apprenticeship opportunity for students interested in teaching an upper-level literature / culture class. Students work closely with a faculty member and teach several units of the course. They receive graduate credit for this course.

Virginia Scott
Professor of French and Applied Linguistics
French Language Program Director