

FRENCH DEPARTMENT GUIDELINES FOR DEPARTMENTAL HONORS

The French Department encourages majors with good preparation to consider a senior project. It is important to start planning well in advance, however.

According to the Middlebury College *Handbook*, in order for a student to be eligible for Departmental Honors, there must be significant independent research (500 project, Spring OR Fall semester) or an Honors thesis (700 project, WT + Spring OR Fall semester) in a student's program, and the grade must be B or higher. The French Department's own guidelines are as follows:

Students wishing to do a 500 or 700 project for Honors must satisfy the following criteria:

1. at least a B+ average in French Department courses; students must provide a copy of their transcript to the department (web copy ok)
2. a broad background in the French major, including at least two courses at the 300 level; and
3. course preparation in the area of the independent project.

In addition they must, of course, have a faculty advisor for the project and have received Departmental approval of the project before registration for the term in which the work is to be conducted. The normal way to proceed will be to discuss the project in some detail with the faculty member who has agreed to supervise, agree with him or her on a draft proposal, and then to submit the final proposal, in French, to the Department Chair by the deadline. This will allow the Department to consider your project and, if necessary, suggest any modifications prior to granting final approval. The proposal should be 2-3 pages long and should include:

1. a description or outline of the project, and the name of the faculty member who has agreed to act as supervisor (whose initials should be on your project as evidence he or she has seen it and approved it);
2. a summary of your preparation (see criteria above);
3. a short bibliography, or evidence that source and reference material will be available to you.

The Chair will present your proposal to the full Department, which will consider the originality and validity of the project, its feasibility, and the quality of your written French. **Please note that submitting a proposal does not guarantee approval by the Department.** Departmental approval of all such projects must be given before any student may register for a 500 or 700 course, so plan ahead.

For a 500 project (one semester) a 30-40 page essay is expected. A 700 Honors thesis (winter term and one semester) should be 50-60 pages long. In neither case should the independent work coincide substantially with material covered in courses offered by the Department; and both should involve a very high component of independent work. All Honors projects will require a second faculty consultant/reader in addition to the project director, and this second reader will participate in the attribution of a grade to the project.

N.B. Juniors studying abroad who wish to do a 500 or 700 project for Departmental Honors when they return to Middlebury are governed by the same guidelines as students on campus. They should speak with the Director of the School in France, write to the faculty member best able to direct their project, obtain his or her agreement to do so, and submit their proposal to the Chair by the above deadline. In the past it has usually proven more feasible for students spending the academic year or spring semester abroad to conduct their 500 or 700 projects in the spring (or winter and spring) of their senior year. Juniors studying abroad who wish to do an independent project or Honors thesis starting in the fall of their senior year should be sure to find out whether the materials they will need to complete the project are readily available at Middlebury. If they are not, or if the project proposal involves research that can be done only with sources available in France, you will want to secure such material before returning to Middlebury.

Please keep in mind that Honors projects should not be the equivalent of reading courses but should involve the in-depth exploration of a well-defined topic. Independent projects undertaken for a winter term alone may not be considered for Departmental Honors, according to College regulations.

Calendar and Deadlines: As soon as you begin working on your project, establish a calendar of the various stages and submission dates for your work with your project advisor: outline, first draft, second draft. **In all cases the final copy must be submitted on the Friday of the week preceding the last week of that term's classes.** Failure to adhere to the project calendar and deadlines may result in a lowered grade. In addition to the copy or copies submitted to the project director and second reader, each student is responsible for delivering one copy of the project to the French Department Coordinator (Château 101).

Departmental Determination of Honors:

Honors will be attributed to graduating senior majors in the French Department according to the following scale:

	<u>Average in French</u>	<u>Honors Project Grade</u>
Honors	B+	A- or A
High Honors	A- A	A- or A A-
Highest Honors	A	A or A+

FRENCH DEPARTMENT FACULTY and their areas of academic interest and specialization:

Prof. Mireille BARBAUD- MCWILLIAMS

Chât. 114 x5525 19th, 20th-century poetry; 19th-century theater; art and literature

Prof. Armelle CROUZIÈRES- INGENTHON

Chellis House 2, x2427 20th and 21st-century French and Francophone literatures

Prof. Brigitte HUMBERT

Chât. 104, x5237 French film, film/adaptation

Prof. Bethany LADIMER

Chât. 105, x2021 20th-century literature; women's studies; Québec studies

Prof. Charles NUNLEY Chât. 115, x5240	Questions of national, regional, & individual identities as expressed in fiction & poetry from Romanticism to the present; 19 th and 20 th -century poetry & theater.
Prof. Nancy O'CONNOR Chât. 113, x5722	17 th & 18 th -century French literature; 17 th & 18 th -c. women's education; translation
Prof. William POULIN-DELTOUR Chât. 102, x5248	French studies; anthropology of contemporary France; gender and sexuality
Prof. Carol RIFELJ Chât. 104, x3146	19 th -century literature and culture; 18 th -century novel; autobiography/memoirs; literature and fashion; detective fiction; philosophy and literature
Prof. Paula SCHWARTZ Ross 009, x5802	French studies; 20 th -century history and society; contemporary France

Some reasons why project proposals might not be accepted:

- Failure to seek the advice and input of the potential project advisor well ahead of time; lack of attention paid to the proposed advisor's suggestions. It is in your interest to take advantage of faculty expertise when defining a topic and choosing a methodology; doing so will help you avoid common pitfalls.
- Failure to provide the required information and materials as part of the proposal.
- Failure to pay attention to *presentation* and/or to the *quality of the French*: Your proposal stands for you, and for the project you hope to carry out. It is your opportunity to convince Department faculty that you are capable of doing work of very high caliber *in French*. Careless presentation and/or elementary language mistakes can only convince them otherwise.
- Failure to meet the submission deadline. This deadline has been set to allow Department faculty time to review all project proposals, and if necessary suggest modifications, before registration. It applies to all students wishing to write an independent project in French.