

FREN 500: Pro-Seminar in French and Francophone Studies (4 units)

Instructor: **Edwin HILL**

Course Description

Becoming a scholar in French and Francophone Studies requires gaining a broad understanding of the field, its range of methods and subjects, its interdisciplinarity and heated debates, and its uncharted terrains. What are some of the tools and methods of analysis scholars take up in the study of French and Francophone cultures in the academy today? How are scholars at USC engaging in the research and study of French and Francophone cultures? How do different research units and centers around the world produce thought about French and Francophone cultures? This pro-seminar will serve as an introduction to the current state of French and Francophone studies as well as its evolution and latest trends, considering everything from critical methods of research in literature and cultural studies to the history of French studies and contemporary issues in the profession. Led by a faculty member from the Department of French and Italian, it will feature guest speakers from other units and programs at USC as well as our partner institutions in the SoCal area. The course will culminate with two faculty roundtables where our guest speakers will outline new directions in the field of French and Francophone Studies.

Learning Objectives

- To introduce students to the current state of the field of French and Francophone Studies
- To present students with a diverse array of methodologies and approaches to research in French and Francophone literary studies
- To familiarize students with the ways in which research is shared and presented at the graduate level
- To introduce students to the work of faculty in their field at USC, with an eye toward creating future mentoring or advisement relationships

Required Texts

Alongside recently published articles concerning the history, contemporary state, and future the field of (and within) French and Francophone studies, this course will feature chapters from books published by USC French studies faculty.

**This course is conducted in English, and is open to students in other tracks and adjacent PhD programs. Readings are in English and French.