

**DEPARTMENT OF MODERN LANGUAGES
FRENCH MAJOR SENIOR RESEARCH PROJECT**

PRINCIPLES:

1. “Liberal arts education frees not only by providing the content of the humanities and the sciences but also by emphasizing abilities necessary to analyze meaningfully the material one learns, to organize and integrate knowledge, to break out into new areas and acquire new knowledge. These are abilities necessary to free oneself from the tutelage of one’s teachers, and thus to become independent.... Thus, a liberal education is one that encourages the study of the many complex issues that cross the disciplines.... Liberal education is the beginning of a life-long personal integration which leads to practical, wise, and sensitive action in the world.” (*General education at Xavier University*)
2. “Xavier remains committed to offering students an educational experience that makes connections between acquisition of knowledge, development of values and a personal awareness of social responsibility. This requires an academic program that promotes a serious analysis of the contemporary scene and offers opportunities for students to clarify, challenge and apply their values to real life situations.” (*A Proposal for the Future*)

SENIOR RESEARCH PROJECT FOR FRENCH MAJORS:

In light of the above educational principles, the Department of Modern Languages encourages, through the Senior Research Project for French Majors, an interdisciplinary, independent study project, with written and oral components, as a requirement for French majors. Thus, French majors, under the primary supervision of faculty members from the French section and, secondarily, with assistance from faculty members from the other discipline(s) involved in the study will:

1. Explore a particular area of interest from the French curriculum. This may be, for example, a literary period, genre, work, author; an aspect of the history of French civilization; a topic related to contemporary francophone culture.
2. Integrate this area of the French curriculum with another disciplinary area of interest to the student. Some examples include: the social or physical sciences; theology; philosophy; English; the arts; business and the like. Typical examples of such research projects might be:
 - A study of French existentialist plays (French literature, Philosophy, English)
 - A study of bioethics in France today and its relation to the debate on the abortion pill, stem-cell research... (French culture, Philosophy/Theology, Biology)
 - A study of the effects of economic changes in francophone countries of West Africa (French culture/civilization, Economics, Political Science)
 - A study of the place of the French baccalaureate exam in the French educational system and the on-going debate over national proficiency examinations in the U.S. (French culture/civilization, Education)

GUIDELINES:

1. Students will normally begin to discuss with a French advisor the area of study to be pursued during their sophomore year. If not decided before, the study must be determined by early October of the senior year. At the time of finalizing the decision, a contract form will be completed and signed by the student and the advisors involved. All students must attend a session of the Senior Research Project Seminar given at the beginning of fall and spring semesters.
2. At least one-half of the bibliographic citations of the integrative research project must include works in French. The length of the paper will be determined by the nature of the study but must be, at the minimum, of about 15-20 pages in length (including the bibliography), double-spaced and word-processed.
3. An explicative and illustrative summary of the research project will be presented during either the Fall or Spring semester of the senior year sometime during the second-last week of classes for each semester. All French majors and minors as well as French faculty and research project advisors will be invited to these presentations and all new inductees of the French honorary society, Pi Delta Phi, will be inducted at the time of these meetings.
4. The research paper may be written in French or in English. In either case, the oral presentation must be done in French and both parts (written and oral) are integral aspects of the final evaluation. Should the student elect to write the paper in English, a précis, written in French and giving a summary of the introduction, body, and conclusion will accompany the paper and form the basis for the oral presentation in French.
5. Drafts of the research project will be submitted, at regular intervals, to the advisors. At the latest, the advisors must see the final draft by March or early November (for December graduates) of the senior year. The final, corrected version is to be presented to the advisors by early April or early December of the semester of the research project. Students should refer to the annual listing of research-project deadlines for the dates on which the detailed outline, bibliography, first, second, final drafts and final, corrected versions are due.

MEMO

To: Junior and Senior French Majors

From: Dr. Jo Ann M. Recker and Mrs. Margaret McDiarmid

Date: 2007-2008 Academic Year

Subject: Senior Research Projects and Amendments to Project Guidelines

You are asked to register for a one-credit tutorial for your Senior Research Project (FREN 399-01). This should be done during the semester in which you intend to complete your Senior Research Project.

For those of you who intend to graduate during the 2007-2008 academic year and, therefore, to register for your tutorial, you **MUST** submit to your Senior Research Project Advisers, Dr. Recker and Mrs. McDiarmid, as well as to the adviser in the second discipline with whom you will work:

1. an approved, detailed outline of the project, with bibliography by February 4, (September 24, for Fall);
2. a complete first draft by March 3, (October 15, for Fall);
3. a second draft by March 25, (November 12, for Fall);
4. a final copy by April 7, (December 3, for Fall).

These deadlines are absolute! Failure to adhere to any of them will result in your withdrawal from the tutorial, thus nullifying your chances of completing all graduation requirements. The details of the oral presentation will be discussed with Dr. Recker well in advance of the date of your public sharing of the project. This date will be communicated to you early in the semester in which you do your project and will most likely be scheduled during the second-last week of classes for that semester.

Attached you will find another copy of the Senior Research Project guidelines.

Bonne chance and we look forward to working with you as you undertake your last year of undergraduate studies.

(OVER)

Please sign below to indicate that you understand and agree to the above project guidelines. Return this page and retain a copy for your files.

SIGNATURES: _____

DEPARTMENT OF MODERN LANGUAGES
MAJOR SENIOR PROJECT CONTRACT

LANGUAGE _____

Name _____

Date _____

Subject/Title of Research Project _____

Interdisciplinary Adviser #1 _____

Department _____

Interdisciplinary Adviser #2 (If Applicable) _____

Department _____

Draft #1 _____ Submitted (date) _____

Draft #2 _____ Submitted (date) _____

Final Version Submitted (date) _____

(Signature of Language Major)

(Signatures of Language Advisers)

(A copy of this form is to be retained by the language major and each of the advisers listed above).