French

Program-specific competencies

Competencies are the skills, knowledge and attributes gained through every work, educational, volunteer and life experience. UVic students in the French program develop the following program-specific competencies.

French language

Communicates effectively in French

- Reads and writes effectively in French
- Engages in conversations effectively in French
- Uses appropriate French grammar, syntax, pronunciation and vocabulary
- Prepares and delivers effective presentations in French
- Translates from French into English and from English into French
- Demonstrates awareness of historic and contemporary varieties of French
- Demonstrates awareness of the diversity and global dispersion of contemporary varieties of French

Literature in French

Demonstrates knowledge of literature in French

- Demonstrates knowledge of the literary canon from Canada, including Aquin, Hébert, Blais, Saint-Denys-Garneau, Tremblay, Laferrière, Conan, Dickner; from France, from the medieval period to the present day, including Rabelais, Molière, Voltaire, Stendhal, Baudelaire, Flaubert, Proust, Sartre and Camus, and from other French-speaking areas of the world
- Demonstrates knowledge of literature in French, including Québécois, French-Canadian, French, European, African, Caribbean, Indian Ocean and Pacific Ocean literatures
- Demonstrates awareness of literary history and movements
- Demonstrates awareness of genre and styles

Literary interpretation

Critically reads works of literature in French and describes how literary texts generate meaning

- Demonstrates awareness of major issues in literary criticism and cultural studies
- Demonstrates knowledge of, and ability to read literature, in relation to literary theory and culture
- Exercises close reading skills and demonstrates ability to read a text using appropriate literary terminology, including metre, figurative language, speaker/persona, tone and voice
- Determines the critical questions to be asked of a body of material
Historical, social and cultural perspective

Understands works of literature in their historical, social and cultural contexts

- Identifies the historical, social and cultural context in which a text is produced
- Understands how historical, cultural and social contexts impact the production and interpretation of literary texts
- Demonstrates intellectual curiosity to explore historical, social and cultural perspectives
- Reflects on issues such as globalization, nationalism, history, imperialism, postmodernism, postcolonialism, politics, religion, feminism, ethnicity, race, gender and class in the context of literary production

UVic Co-op and Career worked with the UVic Department of French to develop this competency document.