



GUIDELINES FOR SENIOR ESSAY AND INDEPENDENT STUDY PROPOSALS

1. TOPIC AREA

The Senior Essay (FRE490Y) and Independent Study (FRE 491H/492H) are special courses intended to enable students in good standing to study a topic or area not available from the regular offerings of the French Department.

Only 1.0 FCE of these special courses may be included in a Specialist program and only 0.5 FCE in a Major program. Those courses cannot be counted towards a Minor program.

2. ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

In order to apply for admission to FRE490Y or FRE 491H/FRE492H, students must:

- i) have satisfied the general departmental pre-requisites for admissibility to a 400-series course, preferably with a B average in all FRE courses;
- ii) have taken other courses in the same field as the topic proposed which would act as appropriate background to the subject area to be studied, including courses from other departments when appropriate;
- iii) complete the application form and return a signed copy to the Department, Rm. 226, 50 St. Joseph St. by the following deadlines: before the end of the first week of classes in September (for FRE490Y1Y/491H1F/492H1F), before the end of the first week of classes in January (for FRE491H1S/492H1S), and by the end of April for all Summer courses.

3. FACULTY SUPERVISOR

Each course is carried out under the supervision of a faculty member of the Department. Students should consult the departmental registry of faculty members' research and teaching interests to find the name of a suitable supervisor. This registry is available online at: <http://www.french.utoronto.ca/research/publications/professeurs>. The student will then consult the professor in question.

4. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

- i) The volume of work required for FRE 490Y should be commensurate with the amount of work required for a regular FRE full-course at the 400-level. Similarly, FRE491H/492H should be comparable, in work required, to a half-course at the 400-level.

ii) Independent Study courses (FRE491H/492H) are normally evaluated on the basis of a variety of discussions, oral presentations and written papers. The Senior Essay (FRE490Y) requires that 60-70% of the final mark be based on one major essay of substantial length or on two closely related essays (which could be considered as two chapters of a single project). In both cases, sufficient work (e.g., in the form of preliminary drafts for the Senior Essay) should be handed in by the student and marked by the supervisor before the deadline for withdrawal.

iii) The final mark for the course is to be submitted to the Department no later than the deadline announced for other FRE courses of the same session or term.

5. APPLICATION PROCESS

i) The student should submit a brief proposal, which will provide the basis for the application, to the supervisor, and complete the application form in collaboration with the supervisor.

ii) The supervisor must be satisfied that the student's topic is academically worthwhile and that the student is capable of undertaking the proposed project.

iii) In describing the project, the student should be as specific as possible and include the following: objectives, methodology, required readings, timeline.

iv) The student and the supervisor must agree on a regular schedule of consultations. The Department requires a minimum of 1 hour per week or 2 hours every other week, including virtual consultation, with a minimum of 1 hour of direct contact per month.

v) The completed form must be signed by both the student and the supervisor, and returned to the Department by the student.

6. DEPARTMENTAL EVALUATION OF THE PROJECT

i) The project will be examined by the Department's Curriculum Committee or its delegates, which may accept it, reject it, require modifications, or request further clarification.

ii) Both the student and the supervisor will be notified of the Committee's decision as soon as it has been made.