Welcome!

Congratulations on your acceptance to Carleton! As chair of French & Francophone Studies, I’m delighted to learn of your interest in French and the cultures of the French-speaking world.

Let me tell you a bit about our offerings. French & Francophone Studies is a vibrant program in language, culture and literature, and we touch on everything from Paris to Timbuktu (which, in fact, is a French-speaking town in West Africa!). We think of our department as a community—one where professors and students collaborate in their learning at the same time they have a good deal of fun. In addition to language classes designed to make you proficient, we offer courses on everything from the classics (Madame Bovary, anyone?) to the most vital current topics: French music, the cultural reading of food, French connections to the Middle East, North African culture, French cinema and theater, and the hybrid cultures in Paris. We offer a major and two different minors, including connections to disciplines like religion, history and art history. It’s quite a package.

French is an official language in over thirty countries (including 23 in Africa), and it’s the second most commonly studied foreign language in the world (after English). French is thus not just France, and we take this to heart, both in our courses and the experiential components we offer. We run our own term-length program in Paris every year (mostly for sophomores and juniors), during which we learn about immigrant influences in France—and then the groups travels to Morocco for a contrasting francophone experience. We also run occasional programs in Senegal, and we partner with organizations that offer study abroad programs in many other locations.

Experience is a key to learning. For this reason participants on our Paris program can extend their stay during the summer to participate in an internship or research fellowship that is specifically curated for their interests. (Students work in such areas as journalism, museology, cooking, lab sciences, and human rights.) Moreover, in collaboration with Carleton’s Center for Global and Regional Studies, competitive research fellowships are available for juniors who wish to deepen their expertise before senior year projects.

Whether you’re just starting your study of French or are already skilled, we look forward to meeting you. Come study with us. If you have questions about French & Francophone Studies, please give me a call at 507-222-4235 or send me an email at scarpent@carleton.edu. I’m looking forward to working with you in the very near future.

A très bientôt,

Scott Carpenter, Chair, Department of French & Francophone Studies