

## French

---

Module descriptors for Inbound Students.

<b>Name</b>	French Travel and Exploration
<b>Code</b>	FRU33021
<b>Semester</b>	1
<b>ECTS credits</b>	5
<b>Module Co-ordinator</b>	Prof Michael Cronin (croninm8@tcd.ie)

### Module Content

The desire to move is one of the most fundamental aspects of the human condition. Mythologies, world religions, literatures all contain accounts of people who set out on journeys of exploration to discover new worlds, new forms of behaviour, new ways of understanding the self and other.

Accounts of travels have existed for centuries in the French language and this course will focus in particular on the late modern period. In addition to considering the basic impulses behind the desire to travel and give an account of these travels, the course will examine how travel has been used to explore questions around identity, politics, aesthetics, gender and language.

The uniquely hybrid genre of travel writing has meant that writers have been free to explore a wide variety of issues while bringing their readers to places and cultures that are often little understood or analysed.

In addition, attention will be paid to the effects of movement, travel and exploration on the development of a variety of practices from photography to airport culture which have deeply influenced the experience of late modernity. Following in the footsteps of French-language travellers from the late 1930s to very recent times, the aim will be to show how travel writing offers us a unique way of engaging with writing and the world.

### Learning Outcomes

The desire to move is one of the most fundamental aspects of the human condition. Mythologies, world religions, literatures all contain accounts of people who set out on journeys of exploration to discover new worlds, new forms of behaviour, new ways of understanding the self and other. Accounts of travels have existed for centuries in the French language and this course will focus in particular on the late modern period.

In addition to considering the basic impulses behind the desire to travel and give an account of these travels, the course will examine how travel has been used to explore questions around identity, politics, aesthetics, gender and language. The uniquely hybrid genre of

travel writing has meant that writers have been free to explore a wide variety of issues while bringing their readers to places and cultures that are often little understood or analysed.

Attention will be paid to the effects of movement, travel and exploration on the development of a variety of practices from photography to airport culture which have deeply influenced the experience of late modernity. Following in the footsteps of French-language travellers from the late 1930s to very recent times, the aim will be to show how travel writing offers us a unique way of engaging with writing and the world.

On successful completion of this module, students should be able to:

- Discuss key theoretical aspects of the concept of mobility
- Identify a wide range of issues relating to identity, politics, aesthetics, gender and language as they are articulated through French language travel narratives
- Critique the historical role of travel writing in the construction of imperial and colonial paradigms
- Explain the different ways in which travel writing has evolved over time in the French-speaking world
- Produce essays in both English and French demonstrating the ability to organise, analyse and evaluate relevant material

## Assessment

One end-of-term essay