

French

Module descriptors for Inbound Students.

Name	New Boundaries of French Identity: Expression, Transmission and the Notion of the Third Space
Code	FRU33081
Semester	1
ECTS credits	5
Module Co-ordinator	Dr Rachel Hoare (RMHOARE@tcd.ie)

Module Content

Identity is a difficult term to define – most people have an idea about what it means, but there is no agreed precise definition. The complexity of questions of identity and cultural diversity means that these concepts can be studied from many different theoretical perspectives, and the difficulty of providing a precise definition for the term ‘identity’, is widely recognised.

However, it has also been suggested that an overall definition is not crucial, as the term ‘identity’ can be used to refer to many different aspects of an individual, and any discussion of identity is unlikely to be limited to a single aspect. For example, it may be used to refer to an individual’s sense of self, the perceptions which others have of an individual, an individual’s reactions to others’ perceptions, and the social categories which become attached to the individual.

It is also important to note that the salience of these different identities will be constantly changing depending on circumstance and context. The notion of what constitutes a French identity is particularly difficult to determine in a country which has a long history of immigration both from neighbouring countries and many other parts of the world. This difficulty is further compounded by the fact that France has traditionally adopted assimilationist acculturation strategies.

This module explores the expression and inter-generational transmission of multifaceted identities in French contemporary society, with a particular focus on French young people with a dual or ‘hyphenated’ identity, also referred to as second or third generation immigrants.

The module explores the ways in which these young people carry out their lives at the intersection of two cultures and how well they are adapting to their intercultural experiences. This exploration draws upon Henri Tajfel’s Social Identity Theory, Erik Erikson’s

theory of identity and psychosocial development, Stuart Hall's theory of cultural identity, and Homi Bhabha's third space theory, in order to explore different forms and notions of identity in the French context.

Aims

This module aims to provide students with an understanding of psychological and sociological theories of identity and with the tools to be able to apply them to the French context, particularly to marginalised groups.

Learning Outcomes

On completion of this module students will be able to:

- Critically evaluate developmental theories of identity
- Critically evaluate social identity theory
- Reflect on aspects of your own personal identity
- Interrogate the sociological and sociolinguistic concepts associated with French identity

Assessment

One group presentation (50%) and one group report (50%).