



SUNY at La Sorbonne

Course Descriptions and Information

Welcome to Paris! Upon arrival, students begin a ten-day intensive French review taught by our program director. At the end of this review, students take the Sorbonne placement test to determine their level and placement in language classes for the semester as outlined below.

Standard Program: Students in the standard program will take:

- 9 credits = French Language course at their appropriate level.
- 3 credits = Director's Course
- 4 credits = Two *conférences* (worth 2 credits each)

Total: 16 credits

Internship Option: Students choosing the internship will take:

- 6 credits = French Language course at their appropriate level.
- 3 credits = Director's Course
- 6 credits = 8-week internship placement

Total: 15 credits

****Additional Option for High Intermediate and Advanced students****

Business French (Sorbonne/Chambre de Commerce de Paris)

This course covers the main aspects of French business language, commercial office work and correspondence, commercial French, the language of company management, the language of international relations. The course runs for 12 weeks, with six hours of practical language (6 credits) and four hours of business French (4 credits of FRE 399 Business French) plus 10 hours of phonetics per month. There will be two final examinations: the Practical Language Exam and the Business French Exam. (Certificate of the Chamber of Commerce of Paris)

French Language Courses (10 hours per week)

The courses below include Intensive grammar review, dictation and comprehension, oral practice, composition, vocabulary, and 10 hours of phonetics per month. Once in Paris, students will take a proficiency test to determine their appropriate level placement.

Fall Semester

- ☐ - FRE 110 - Beginning
- ☐ - FRE 210 - Low Intermediate
- ☐ - FRE 310 - Intermediate
- ☐ - FRE 341 - High Intermediate
- ☐ - FRE 380 - Advanced

Spring Semester

- ☐ - FRE 111 - Beginning
- ☐ - FRE 211 - Low Intermediate
- ☐ - FRE 321 - Intermediate
- ☐ - FRE 342 - High Intermediate
- ☐ - FRE 381 - Advanced

Program Director's Course

Paris, France and Europe in the 19th century (FRE 495A)(3 credits) – **Fall Semester**

(history, politics, art, and literature)

This course meets 2 times a week.

- A. Political Evolution and History: Students will study the major political, economic, and social problems of France in the 19th century, and how the industrialization and urbanization developed through the main European capitals. A focus on how the birth of new European nations and new political ideology has lead to another understanding of human beings in society.
- B. Art and Literature: Particular attention will be paid to the history and architecture of Paris from Lutèce to the "City of Light" of Napoleon III. Paris - capital of the arts: from Neoclassicism to Romanticism, Realism and Impressionism. Study of the famous authors who wrote about Paris, how they recaptured the city, related to it, and identified with it.

Contemporary France in Europe and in the World (FRE 495B)(3 credits) – **Spring Semester**

(history, politics, economy, international relations, and art) - *This course meets 2 times a week.*

- A. The course will explore the historical, political, economic, and social aspects of France in the 20th century. Students will examine customs and rituals, population and diversity, work and transportation, communication, media, and environment in French society. Particular attention is given to the study of the place of France in the European Community, in the Francophone countries, as well as in the rest of the world.
- B. Art and Architecture: Paris as capital of the arts. A focus on the architectural history of Paris will help the student to better appreciate the diversity of each area of the city.

Conférences – Fall Semester

Each of the following *conférences* meets once a week for 2 hours. You will choose 2 (minimum), to 4 (maximum).

Note: Students choosing the internship program option will not attend the conférences.

The *conférences* are open to students of all proficiency levels. Exams and evaluation for each course are targeted to each student's French proficiency level. Your Program Director will also help you with your choice of the *conférences* to make sure it corresponds to your curriculum.

French Art (ART 364) (2 credits + 1 credit (optional))

- A. Architecture and Sculpture: The origins of Christian art. The Merovingian and Carolingian periods. Romanesque and Gothic art: its beginning to the end of the Middle Age and early Renaissance.
- B. French paintings from the Renaissance (school of Fontainebleau) to the end of the 18th century.
- C. Special focus on the 19th century and the 20th century with study of major painters of these centuries. Projection of numerous slides in class. Students are demanded to regularly visit museums such as Cluny, Louvre, Orsay, Giverny, Centre Pompidou, Jeu de Paume, Picasso, Rodin etc...

An additional 1 credit can be earned by visits to museums and writing a final paper.

French History and Territory (FRE 350)(2 credits)

This course is a study of French history from its origin to today's issues, through the diversity of France's territories. Each region of France (Normandy, Brittany, North-East, The Alps, South of France, The Antilles, New Caledonia etc...) will be studied through its cultural, political, religious, demographic aspects.

Aspects of Contemporary French Politics and Economics (FRE 499) – Part 1 (2 credits)

This course offers to the student an analysis of the principal themes that dominate current debates in French society. The course deals with French society with regard to the following aspects: the economy, politics, administration and social movements.

Each class deals with a particular subject, which, when linked with all of the other topics, should provide the student with an understanding of the cultural identity of France in an historical perspective. Also studied is the situation of France in the European Union and in the other countries of the world.

French Media (FRE 355)(2 credits)

This course is an introduction into the history of communications in France, starting in the 17th century and finishing with present day. It covers newspapers, magazines, radio, television, internet and marketing and how they have developed and changed.

French Literature and Society in French Cinema (FRE 361)(2 credits)

This class presents the transformations of French cinema in the 20th and 21st centuries. Symbols and style are analyzed as well as their impact on French society (e.g. *Amélie Poulain*, *Orphée*, *L'auberge Espagnole*, *les Poupées Russes*, *Jules et Jim*, *La Belle et la Bête*).

Also, this class features a modern interpretation of traditional French literature expressed through film. It involves reading and comparing literary excerpts from the past with contemporary cinema, while also examining the artistic value and cinematography of each selection. Some works include: *Les Misérables*, *Don Juan*, *L'Avare*, and *Les liaisons dangereuses*.

French Literature and Civilization: 17th Century and 18th Century (FRE 362)(2 credits)

This course deals with the relationship of literature to the civilization and history of the period. For French literature of the 17th century, particular attention is given to the study of Corneille, Pascal, Racine, Molière, Bossuet and the “écrivains mondains,” and then on to La Bruyère and Fénelon. The classical period of the Age of Enlightenment; Bayle, Fontenelle, and Montesquieu as critics and thinkers. **Novels:** Le Sage, Marivaux, Prevost, Laclos, In **Theater:** the comedies of Marivaux, the works of Voltaire and his ideas. The Encyclopedia and Diderot. Rousseau: naturalism and pre-Romanticism.

Children's Literature (FRE 356)(2 credits)

This introductory course shows the culture of literature taught to French youth. The study begins with fairy tales (Contes de Perrault), continues with 19th century young adult literature (Comtesse de Ségur, Jules Verne, Hector Malot) and with stories of the 20th (Le petit prince, Le petit Nicolas, Zazie dans le metro etc...). There is also a special focus on the youth literature publishers of today.

History of Paris (FRE 358) (2 credits)

A study of the origins of Paris and of the Parisians, with an emphasis on the evolution of the city and the way of living, from the Middle-Ages through the French Revolution and up to today. A special focus will be on how great French Women participated to its history.

Painting in Paris (ART 363)(2 credits)

Special focus on the 19th century and the 20th century lifestyle and productions of famous painters living in Paris at that time and how they are related to the changes of French history. Projections of numerous slides in class. Students are demanded to regularly visit museums such as Cluny, Louvre, Orsay, Marmottan, Giverny, Centre Pompidou, Jeu de Paume, Picasso, Rodin etc...

Economic and Social Aspects of Contemporary France (GEO 397)(2 credits)

The study of the economic and social problems relative to France's geographical regions: Brittany, Alsace, the southwest, etc. are examined and discussed in class. Included are aspects such as: natural resources or industrial development, agriculture or technical equipment, demographic data, the concepts of crisis or normalization regarding the present economic and social structures.

French Society and Literature (FRE 351)(2 credits)

This course deals the following aspects: family, demography, religion, politics, privileges, and taxes. These have faced French society since medieval times under the monarchy and the absolute power of Louis XIV. This course also deals with 18th century society and life just before 1789. The consequences of the French Revolution; a study of the First and Second empires and the Republics regarding social, economic and demographic aspects in France. In the 20th century, a study of the two world wars, the evolution of French politics in the new European context; the changes in French society and thought since the 1968 revolution, and the present state of crisis. All along the centuries, are presented the major writers, in relation to changes in literary forms and contemporary thought.

Sorbonne dans la Ville (FRE 499)(2 credits)

Series of lectures given by eminent guests on contemporary issues of French society. *Syllabus to be provided upon arrival. *For advanced students.*

Offerings are subject to change. Please be sure to get approval for more courses that you plan on taking.

Conférences – Spring Semester

Each of the following *conférences* meets once a week for 2 hours. You will choose 2 (minimum), to 4 (maximum).

Note: Students choosing the internship program option will not attend the conférences.

The *conférences* are open to students of all proficiency levels. Exams and evaluation for each course are targeted to each student's French proficiency level. Your Program Director will also help you with your choice of the *conférences* to make sure it corresponds to your curriculum.

French Art (ART 364) (2 credits + 1 credit (optional))

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Comparative Literature (FRE 372)(2 credits)

In this course the class explores comparative literature through specific texts from ancient Greek mythology, orientalism, and post-colonial theories. In each class, selections of readings are given on each topic, which, linked with all of the other topics, should provide the students with an understanding of the view of the Western world. S  n  que, Ch  ateaubriand, Senghor, Conrad, etc. are studied.

Francophone Literature (FRE 371)(2 credits)

In this course the class explores texts and poems of writers from francophone countries. An analytical approach is taken to French as a language and its importance in the world. Several authors from countries such as Senegal, Tunisia, Algeria and Canada are explored. An overview of how French differs as a language in writing and poetry.

Music and Poetry in France (FRE 355)(2 credits)

This is a study of French music and poetry along the centuries, with a study of famous writers such as Victor Hugo, Rimbaud, Jean Paul Satre, Boris Vian and of artists such as Jacques Pr  vert, Edith Piaf, Serge Gainsbourg..This course describes the evolution of thoughts and cultural transformations of French society through poetry and songs.

19th-20th Century French Literature (FRE 375)(2 credits)

Topics covered are literary feelings and tastes during the period of the First Empire (B. Constant, Chateaubriand); Romanticism of 1830 and its particular French characteristics (Lamartine, Hugo, Vigny, Musset); the novel: Balzac and Stendhal; French literature during the Second Empire: Leconte de Lisle, Baudelaire, Nerval, Hugo in exile and Flaubert; after 1870: naturalism and symbolism. And presentation of the major writers of our century, in relation to changes in literary forms and contemporary thought:

- a) the generation of great literary figures: Apollinaire, Valery, Giraudoux, Proust, and Gide;
- b) the tragic period (1935-50): Sarte and Camus;
- c) 1950 onward: the Nouveau Roman and Theater of the Absurd.

French Literature and Cinema (FRE 364)(2 credits)

This class features a modern interpretation of traditional French literature expressed through film. It involves reading and comparing literary excerpts from the past with contemporary cinema, while also examining the artistic value and cinematography of each selection. Some works include: *Les Misérables*, *Don Juan*, *L'Avare*, *Les liaisons dangereuses* etc.

French Cinema (FRE 364)(2 credits)

This class presents the transformations of the cinema in the 20th and 21st centuries. Symbols and style are analyzed as well as their impact in the French society. (*Amélie Poulain*, *Orphée*, *L'auberge Espagnole*, *les Poupées Russes*, *Jules et Jim*, *La Belle et la Bête*, etc.)

French Gastronomy and French Regions (FRE 356)(2 credits)

This course deals about each region of France, its gastronomy, each of the specialties and their origins. There is also a special focus with all the aspects of “bien manger”, “l’art de la table”, and “œnologie” (study of wine).

Aspects of Contemporary French Politics and Economics (FRE 499) - Part 2 (2 credits)

This course offers to the student an analysis of the principal themes that dominate current debates in French society. The course deals with French society with regard to the following aspects: the economy, politics, administration and social movements.

Each class deals with a particular subject, which, when linked with all of the other topics, should provide the student with an understanding of the cultural identity of France in an historical perspective. Also studied is the situation of France in the European Union and in the other countries of the world.

Regions of France (FRE 350)(2 credits)

The study of the economic and social problems relative to France’s geographical regions: Brittany, Alsace, the southwest, etc. are examined and discussed in class. Included are aspects such as: natural resources or industrial development, agriculture or technical equipment, demographic data, the concepts of crisis or normalization regarding the present economic and social structures.

Contemporary French Society (FRE 399)(2 credits)

This course deals with the main problems that French society has been facing over the last 20 years: family, education, health, unemployment, culture, immigration, demography, etc.

French History from the 19th to Present (HIS 328)(2 credits)

The consequences of the French Revolution; a study of the First and Second empires and the Republics regarding social, economic and demographic aspects in France. In the 20th century, a study of the two world wars, the evolution of French politics in the new European context; the changes in French society and thought since the 1968 revolution, and the present state of crisis.

Sorbonne dans la Ville (FRE 499) (2 credits)

Series of lectures given by eminent guests on contemporary issues of French society. *Syllabus to be provided upon arrival. *For advanced students.*

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