

France: The Country and the People
FREN 2510

Class Hours: M-F, 9-12, plus excursions

Credit Hours: 3

Laboratory Hours: N/A

Revised: April 2009

Course Description: No background in French required. Introduction in English to the history, arts, geography, and government of France, and to the social characteristics of the French people. **Prerequisites:** None

Textbook and other Course Materials:

1. *Sixty Million Frenchmen Can't Be Wrong: Why We Love France but not the French.* Jean-Benoît Nadeau and Julie Bartow. Naperville, Illinois: Sourcebooks, Inc., 2003.
2. Course journal (to be provided by the instructor)

I. Weekly Topics:

Week One: Who are the French?

Geography of France

Regions of France

History: Gallo-Roman France

History: The Middle Ages

History: The Renaissance

History: Absolute Monarchy, The Enlightenment, and Revolution

History: Napoleon, WWI, WWII, De Gaulle and the Fourth Republic

Test I

Excursion: Mont St. Michel and the Bayeux Tapestry

Week Two: French Institutions

The Fifth Republic

Government in France

The Economy of France

The French Legal System

Education in France

Religion in France

Test II

Excursion: The Chateaux of the Loire

Week Three: What Makes Modern France French

Paris

The French Melting Pot

France and Europe

France and the rest of the world

Test III

Presentations

Excursion (4 days): Paris and Versailles

II. Course Objectives:

- A. Present a general overview of the culture and civilization of France from a variety of perspectives including geographical, historical, political, artistic, philosophical, and literary
- B. Present the daily living patterns and institutions of France today and show how they affect French culture

III Instructional Processes:**Students will:**

- 1. Complete assigned readings and questions
- 2. Participate in class discussions
- 3. Complete three exams
- 4. Keep and submit an excursion journal

IV. Expectations for Student Performance:

Upon successful completion of this course, the student should be able to:

- 1. Identify the major figures and events in French history
- 2. Explain how major events impacted/impact French culture
- 3. Identify the regions of France and name basic characteristics of each
- 4. Identify the major geographical aspects of France
- 5. Identify and explain the basic workings of the French legal, educational, political, and economic systems
- 6. Identify and explain major aspects of modern French society

V. Evaluation:

- A. Testing procedures: Three one-hour tests will be given during the course; each will evaluate students' understanding of the material covered each week.
- B. Readings: Students will be assigned readings to complete and questions to answer for each class meeting. Each student is expected to participate in class discussions.
- C. Excursion journals: Students will keep and submit journals for each course excursion. The journal entries must be 3-4 pages for each excursion, and will include a brief history of the sites visited, along with each site's cultural significance and students' impressions of the site. The instructor will provide the journal to insure uniformity of format.
- D. Final grades will be computed as follows:
 Tests: 60%
 Journal: 15%
 Readings and course discussion: 25%
- E. Grading Scale: 90-100= A; 80-89=B; 70-79=C; 60-69=D; 0-59=F

VI. Policies:**A. Attendance Policy:**

Attendance is of utmost importance in study abroad courses. There are no unexcused absences permitted. Unexcused absences are grounds for removal from the program. Being in class on time is also very important. Frequent tardiness will be considered an absence and appropriate action will be taken. Absences due to illness must be reported immediately to the program director.

B. Academic Dishonesty:

Academic misconduct committed either directly or indirectly by an individual or group is subject to disciplinary action. Prohibited activities include but are not limited to the following practices: Cheating, including but not limited to unauthorized assistance from material, people, or devices when taking a test, quiz, or examination; writing papers or reports; solving problems; or completing academic assignments. In addition to other possible disciplinary sanctions that may be imposed as a result of academic misconduct, the instructor has the authority to assign either (1) an F or zero for the assignment or (2) an F for the course.

VII. Instructional Hours:

This course comprises 45 instructional hours, divided between classroom time (three hours each meeting) and excursions. Please note that because of the time that transportation and tours require, excursions will extend beyond the usual three hours of classroom time.