



Center for French Studies
FRE 333-AIX 1
Contemporary France: Society, Politics and Culture
202425 Fall

Course Details

Credit Hours: 3

Days: Mondays and Wednesdays

Time: 10:35 to 12:00

Prerequisites: 4 semesters in French and/or sufficient score on the ACM/IAU French placement test 3. Instructor's approval is required.

Instructor Information

Stephanie Berard

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Course Description

Intended for students who have completed the equivalent of four semesters of college-level French. Study of contemporary French civilization through political, cultural, and social issues. Definition of French identities through political, educational and cultural perspectives.

Course Objectives

- Develop Awareness of the similarities and differences between the target culture and personal culture.

- Identify cultural variables and universal dimensions of culture.
- Elaborate and describe the communication norms, rituals and taboos of other cultures.
- Develop a critical eye for current perspectives on globalization, and the ability to initiate discussions on the subject.

Learning Outcomes

At the end of the semester, students will be able to:

- List and explain the different values, attitudes and characteristics of French society.
- Settle a protocole to answer a question related to cultural or social issue in France.
- Construct an organized, factual discourse on the subject and deconstruct cliché and stereotypes.
- Compare French societal systems with those of the student's culture.
- Discuss and debate on French societal mores and those of the student's culture.

Instructional Methods and Activities

- Lectures (usually to introduce a subject).
- Discussions based on readings to be done and questions to be answered.

Primary/Required Textbooks and Materials

Francoscopie 2030
ISBN: 9782035969132
Authors: Gérard Mermet
Publisher: Larousse
Publication Date: 2018-10-24



La France sous nos yeux - Livre de l'année LiRE Magazine littéraire 2021

ISBN: 9782021481570

Authors: Jérôme Fourquet, Jean-Laurent Cassely

Publisher: Editions du Seuil

Publication Date: 2021-10-07

Assessment, Evaluation, and Grading

- **Four essays** on a theme covered during the course (French identity, secularism, environmental issues

and glottophobia). These texts will count for **20% of the final grade.**

- **A field survey** must be carried out in pairs during the first half of the semester. A presentation (lasting around 30 minutes, then discussed with the class) during the second half of the semester. **This counts for 25% of the final grade.**

Participation: Participation is graded "A" (95), "B" (85), "C" (75) or "D" (65) according to the student's involvement (answering and speaking in class) and attitude in class (use of telephone or computer). **15% of final grade.**

- **The mid-term exam** will be an individual oral presentation on three themes discussed during the early part of the semester, discussed and debated in class. The exam counts for **20% of the final grade.**

- **The final exam** will be a written paper based on the documents and themes discussed in class. The final exam counts for **20% of the final grade.**

Grading System/Grade Distribution

Grading System/Grade
Distribution

U.S	ACM	French Equivalent
95-100%	A	17-20
90-94%	A -	16
88-89%	B+	15
84-87%	B	14
80-83%	B-	13
78-79%	C+	12
74-77%	C	11
70-73%	C-	10
68-69%	D+	9
64-67%	D	8
60-63%	D-	7
0-59%	F	0-6

Attendance

One of the primary requirements this semester is that you attend class. This is not a lecture class; it's essential that you come to class on time, be prepared for the lesson, and be ready to participate in discussions and activities. Attendance will be part of your final grade. Any absences can harm your final grade. It will be up to the student to manage and communicate with professors about their absences. For every absence, your final grade may be lowered by one half-letter grade (B+ to become a B, B to become B-, and so on). ACM-IAU professors are empowered to impose academic sanctions (including a lowered grade or even failure) upon students for unexcused absences, frequent tardiness, work submitted late, or any other actions or behaviors that violate ACM's academic standards and policies.

Academic Policies

All students are responsible for reading, knowing, and understanding the information pertinent to their areas of study available in the ACM Catalog. The catalog contains requirements for all degree programs, course descriptions, academic policies, and regulations that govern ACM. All parts of the catalog are subject to annual changes as university rules, policies, and curricula change. It is your responsibility to keep informed of such changes; failure to do so will not exempt you from whatever penalties you may incur. Catalogs are published from August through July.

Review the latest catalog at: <https://www.acmfrance.org/academics/catalog>

Schedule of Classes and Assignments

Students must have read the articles and answered the questions BEFORE the corresponding course.

Theories and methods in cultural studies / cultural anthropology.

Course 1: Course presentation

Course 2: Evolution and theoretical models of cultural studies and cultural anthropology

- **Course objective:** Define cultural studies and cultural anthropology, and provide a definition of "culture".
- **Homework:** Read the articles "anthropologie culturelle" and "culture", Larousse. Read the field survey methodology.

Political, institutional and economic issues

Course 3: Introduction to the political system in France

- **Course objective:** Create a synthetic picture of the French political system and the French political landscape.
- **Homework:** Read the document "les institutions de la France" and click on this [link](#).

Course 4: Introduction to political parties in France

- **Course objective:** List the main characteristics of the French political parties (tendency on the political parties i.e. left/right wing, extreme...economic and social ideas).
- **Homework:** Read the document "les partis politiques en France" and click on this [link](#).

Course 5: The French and politics (deadline for choice of survey topic and method)

- **Course objective:** Understand the relationship between French people and their political representatives.
- **Homework:** Read the article "La crise de la confiance politique" and click on this [link](#).

Course 6: French identity - The main characteristics.

- **Course objective :** Discover the main elements of French identity from the past to the present.
- **Homework:** Read the article "Les Français et leur identité: entre fierté et dénigrement" and click on this [link](#).
- *First essay on French identity due next class (350-400 words) (5%).*

Course 7: French identity - French secularism.

- **Course objective:** Understand the French principle of "Laïcité", its history and evolution through the years.
- **Homework:** Read the article "La laïcité en France" and click on this [link](#).

Course 8: French people, their history and secularism.

- **Course objective:** Understand the issues surrounding secularism and related discrimination.
- **Homework:** Read the article "Etat des lieux de la laïcité en France" and click on this [link](#) and [this one](#).

Course 9: The French educational system.

- **Course objective:** Explain the principles and workings of the French education system.

- **Homework:** Read the following links on [school's organisation](#), the [education system](#), and [its principles](#).
- *Second essay on French secularism due next class (350-400 words) (5%)*

Course 10: The challenges facing the French education system.

- **Course objective:** Identify problems in the French education system.
- **Homework:** Read the document on Teams (*Francoscopie 2030*, pp.138-151) and this [link](#).

Course 11: Work and business in France

- **Course objective:** Identify the elements that characterize the notions of work and money in France.
- **Homework:** Read the document on Teams (*Francoscopie 2030* pp.255-284).

Course 12: Is the French business world sclerotic?

- **Course objective:** Identify the strengths and challenges of the post-Covid French economy.
- **Homework:** Listen to the podcast on [French economy](#).

Mid-term exam

Societal and cultural issues

Course 13: The French population. Family, home, immigration

- **Course objective:** Identify the main features of the French population in terms of family, household composition and immigration.
- **Homework:** Read the document on Teams (*Francoscopie 2030*, pp.114-122 ; 163-184) and the [statistics](#) on immigration.

Course 14: Debate session

- **Course objective:** Identify the main differences in work ethics between France and the United States.

FALL BREAK

Course 15: Environmental issues in France

- **Course objective:** Understand environmental policies in France and how they apply to everyday life.
- **Homework:** Click [here](#) to read the opinion of French people on environmental issues.

Course 16: France and Europe

- **Course objective:** Understand France's relationship with other European countries and how Europe works today.
- **Homework:** Read the article on the [European construction](#) and the [love/hate relationship French people have with Europe](#).
- *Third essay on environmental issues in France due next class (350-400 words) (5%).*

Course 17: France and the French-speaking world. Languages, dialects and accents.

- **Course objective:** Understand how the French language has evolved over time. Recognize linguistic differences and associated discriminations.
- **Homework:** Read the article on [history of the French language](#), and learn more about [the regional languages](#).

Course 18: Glottophobia.

- **Course objective:** Understand the notion of glottophobia and compare language discrimination in France and the United States.
- **Homework:** Watch Philippe Blanchet's interview on [glottophobia](#) and the [Ted Talk](#) about French grammar and structures.

Course 19: Food, consumption, leisure.

- **Course objective:** List the major trends in French society in terms of leisure, food and consumption.
- **Homework:** Read the documents on Teams (Loisirs : *Francoscopie* 2030, pp.151-161; Alimentation : *Francoscopie* 2030, pp.200-209; Consommation : *Francoscopie* 2030, pp.302-307).

Course 20: Religion, beliefs and non-beliefs; Inclusion and discrimination.

- **Course objective:** Summarize what the religious (and non-religious) landscape looks like in France.
- **Homework:** Read about [separatist laws](#), and [racist acts](#) in France.
- *Fourth essay on glottophobia due next class (350-400 words) (5%).*

Course 21: Survey presentations.

Course 22: Survey presentations.

Course 23: Survey presentations.

Final exams (date to be confirmed with the administration)