Skidmore in Paris
Skidmore Center Courses
2014-2015

Students studying in Paris will enroll 14-17 credits per semester. Each student is required to take a 3-4 credit French language course (exact level will be determined by a French language placement test onsite). Courses are offered at the Skidmore Center and through a variety of partner institutions throughout Paris. Course numbers listed are not guaranteed and require department pre-approval.

French Language Courses

JPFF 195 Intensive Oral & Written French (4 credits) – SPRING ONLY
This course will allow students to acquire the basic elements of spoken and written French. Students will learn how to express themselves in everyday life situations through a functional and communicative approach based on acquiring vocabulary, acquiring basics in grammar, and working on pronunciation. The ability to communicate and interact will be the major focus of this course. Rigorous weekly homework and active participation in class are expected from all students. Assignments will consist of studying and practicing dialogues, learning vocabulary, grammar and verbs, preparing oral and written activities, and reading documents. This course is designed for students who have no or very little knowledge in French. (Taught in French)

JPFF 204 Low Intermediate French (4 credits) – FALL AND SPRING
This course is designed for intensive study of the French language, including grammatical structures in written and oral. From excerpts from literature, newspaper articles and other formal and informal documents, students will develop their vocabulary and knowledge of French culture and civilization. Students will conduct short written assignments. Oral skills will be developed from songs and audio documents and various videos. More specifically in terms of communication, the course will require students to talk about events, characterize people describe situations, inform and educate, place in time and space, make plans and assumptions, and express desire and obligation. Students will thus have to develop the four skills of the CEFR, namely understanding and written production, comprehension and oral production. This course is designed for students that have taken some French but not FF 203. (Taught in French)

JPFF 261 Grammar and Written French (4 credits) – FALL AND SPRING
Students are required to take a placement test for admission to this course. There are 4 hours of class per week. Primary attention is given to the development of oral and written language skills and to the acquisition of grammatical structures. Oral and written exposés will be based upon extra class-room activities and visits. Final grades are based upon weekly quizzes and a final examination. An initial placement test is required for admission to this course. This course is designed for students that have taken FF 203, FF 206, or FF 208. (Taught in French)

JPFF 361 Advanced Grammar and Composition (3 credits) – FALL AND SPRING
Thorough study of French grammatical structures and nuances. This course involves intensive practice in
expository writing on a wide variety of subjects. Students will analyze various French prose styles drawn from cultural, commercial, journalistic, and literary sources. They will also develop their own French prose style through exercises in sentence combination and expansion, paragraph contraction, letter writing, descriptions, reports, résumés, and commentaries. There will be frequent opportunities for students to appraise their own writing (through editing and re-writing) and that of their classmates in open seminar situations. This course is designed for students that have taken FF 210 or higher. (Taught in French)

**JPFF 362 Advanced Grammar & Methodology** (4 credits) – SPRING ONLY
This course provides intensive practice in expository writing on a wide range of subjects. Specific grammatical, idiomatic and structural points will be examined systematically as students analyze various French prose styles drawn from a selection of literary sources. They will develop their own French prose style through exercises in sentence combination and expansion, paragraph contraction, letter-writing, descriptions, reports, résumés, and commentaries. Each student will present a brief exposé on one particular topic or author studied during the semester. This course is available only to full-year students in the spring semester that have completed JPFF 361 or at the discretion of the Resident Director. (Taught in French)

**JPFF 304 Phonetics** (1 credit) – FALL AND SPRING
This course aims at helping the students to improve their knowledge of French phonetics in terms of perception and pronunciation. Competences of oral comprehension and expression will be also developed. (Taught in French. This course does not count as the required language course.)

**Skidmore Center Courses taught in French**

**JPFF 331 French Culture, Identity and the Media** (3 credits) – FALL AND SPRING
A study of the institutions, customs, mentality, and priorities of the French people today. Today's France is defined by indigenous and foreign languages, numerous ethnicities and religions, and regional cultural diversity such as one finds in Corsica, Guadeloupe, and Martinique. The French educational system, military service, and state linguistic and cultural policies all shape the national cultural identity. However, contemporary social forces such as the depopulation of the countryside, immigration, centralization, and the world economy push to change a society still defined by social class and by cultural and regional differences. Newspapers, magazines, visual documents, on-site visits, and investigations will provide up-to-date information for discussions and for the preparation of students'
dossiers and papers on a variety of subjects. Class visits include: The National Assembly, the Invalides and other monuments of historical and cultural interest in the Paris area. (Taught in French)

**JPFF 363 French Cinema in its European Context** (3 credits) – FALL ONLY
This course is a study of European cinema in its relationship to history in France, Germany, Italy, Spain, Great Britain, so as to understand what aesthetic and symbolic answers each film director chose to give both catastrophic wars, from the 20’s to 50’s, and what cinematographic language he chose to write his country’s political, historical and social fate. We will see why and how, in-between the World Wars and until a few years later, all the directors adopted a nightmarish vision of the present and the future, developing two major themes: desperation and loss, presided over by the tutelary figure of Death. (Taught in French)

**JPFF 363 The Maghreb, the Middle East and the "Arab Spring"** (3 credits) – SPRING ONLY
The objective of this course is to help students better understand the Maghreb, the Middle East and current events of the "Arab Spring" in Egypt, Tunisia, Libya, Morocco and Syria, asking key issues: After the test of French colonization, Italian and English, what happened to the Maghreb and the Middle East since their independence? What are the reasons that led to these revolutions and what are the political, sociological and religious? What new religious movements and their demands? What is the role of the media? (Taught in French)

**Skidmore Center Courses taught in English**

**JPAH 351 Paris Art & Architecture from 1750 to the present** (3 credits) – FALL AND SPRING
This course deals with the 18th, 19th, and 20th centuries, and their legacies, which constitute most of what we see around us in Paris today by interweaving an investigation of the city's development with a history of French architecture. The study of major monuments will include a survey of the art of their period. We will study key monuments on-site. Knowledge of French history is helpful, and a good pair of walking shoes indispensable. This course provides a thorough knowledge of the history of the city and its architecture during the periods studied. (Taught in English)

**JPEN 228 Introduction to Creative Writing** (4 credits) – FALL ONLY
This course is an introduction to creative writing, with no previous experience required. Reading and writing assignments will draw on being abroad in Paris and, in general, on experiencing a foreign culture, though any topic is valid. Students will perform two major activities in this course: 1) produce their own writing in poetry and prose (fiction and nonfiction), 2) read published material with an eye both toward critical analysis and stylistic thievery. Reading and discussing material in each genre will serve to generate familiarity with structure, form, etc. of high quality creative writing beginning with the medieval period through the modern and into the contemporary. It will also serve to promote critical analysis techniques aimed toward students’ own writing for extensive in-class peer-workshops. Guidelines and criteria will be provided both for textual critiques and writing exercises. Texts will be available digitally. At the end of the semester, students will submit a well-crafted portfolio of their work including defined analyses of the discussed outside material. Blackboard will be used for exchanging students’ writing, discussion questions and for peer interactions outside the classroom. There will also be an opportunity to organize a public reading of students’ work at Shakespeare & Co. at semester’s end.
JPEN 320 American Expatriate Writers (3 credits) – FALL AND SPRING
Students will investigate the works of American writers who chose to live in Paris for a considerable part of their creative lives and who were influenced in important ways by this city. American perceptions both of themselves and of Europeans are closely studied as are European attitudes toward Americans. Visits are conducted to places within the Paris regions specifically mentioned in the various works. Authors for particular study will include Henry James, Henry Miller, Ernest Hemingway, Gertrude Stein, and Scott Fitzgerald. (Taught in English)

JPEN 363 Metaphysical Poetry (3 credits) – SPRING ONLY
This course will focus on English poems of the 17th century Metaphysical school of poetry. Exploring poetical works by John Donne, Andrew Marvell, George Herbert, Henry Vaughan, as well as Donne’s sermons, we will analyze the intellectual currents that these texts reflect. Individual poems will be examined within the historical, cultural, and scientific context that gave rise to their works. (Taught in English)

JPFL 363 French civilization, past and present (3 credits) – SPRING ONLY
A historical and sociological analysis of French civilization and culture from Roman to contemporary times, this course engages you in the life and culture of France’s capital city, Paris, in order to encounter, analyze and appreciate French society, culture and behavioral patterns. In this process, you will acquire knowledge of the main events, personalities and periods of the history of France and, importantly, of their ongoing influence over current French life and contemporary ideas. You will also survey the major institutions and power structures of French society and assess how they have changed over the last century. At the conclusion of this course, you will be able to evaluate the role history plays in shaping French culture and identity today. The course includes an intercultural component and therefore you will critically reflect on cultural differences between U.S and France as a means towards both analyzing the host culture more intelligently and navigating it more successfully. (Taught in English; This course replaces the JPFL 325 French History and Society).