

# Academic Bulletin for Aix-en-Provence, France

## 2023-24

### Introduction

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The Academic Bulletin is the CSU International Programs (IP) “catalog” and provides academic information about the program in Aix-en-Provence, France. This bulletin supersedes any previous bulletin(s) published.

CSU IP participants must read this publication in conjunction with the *Academic Guide for CSU IP Participants* (also known as the “*Academic Guide*”). The *Academic Guide* contains academic policies which will be applied to all IP participants while abroad. Topics include but are not limited to CSU Registration, Enrollment Requirements, Minimum/Maximum Unit Load in a Semester, Attendance, Examinations, Assignment of Grades, Grading Symbols, Credit/No Credit Option, Course Withdrawals, and other policies. The *Academic Guide* also contains information on academic planning, how courses get credited to your degree, and the academic reporting process including when to expect your academic report at the end of your year abroad.

To access the *Academic Guide*, go to our [website](#) and click the year which pertains to your study abroad period. For general information about the Aix-en-Provence Program, refer to the CSU IP website under “[Programs](#)”.

### The Academic Program

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CSU IP is affiliated with the *Service Universitaire de Langues (SUL)*, a department at Aix-Marseille Université specializing in foreign language instruction. *Aix-Marseille Université* has campuses in Aix-en-Provence and Marseille, and is the largest university in France.

The Aix-en-Provence Program is comprised of the required components below for students participating in this program:

- A one-week Intensive Language Program (ILP) conducted by SUL (1 unit) which begins and ends before the semester begins (units are counted towards semester unit totals),
- French language courses,
- Seminar: Themes in Contemporary France (1 unit)
- Elective courses, and
- Units to total a minimum of 15 CSU semester units.

**Note:** The ILP course will not be offered in Spring 2024. The total unit load requirement for Spring 2024 is 14 units.

Prior to arrival (normally in June), students receive a link to take a written French test and an appointment to take an oral French test. These two mandatory but informal tests are placement tests, in order to place students in groups according to their language level. Students must take both tests on their own, without assistance, to obtain a fair assessment of their language proficiency. Once students are placed in their groups, this cannot be changed. If students feel that they are not placed correctly, they may approach their instructor upon arrival on campus. Ultimately, the instructors decide if the students are placed appropriately.

Placement test results, along with their professor’s recommendation, determine the language objective (*objectif*) that students will follow during their program. Language objectives are A1, A2, B1, B1+, B2, B2+, or C1 and are based on the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR). Objectives A1, A2 (“*Niveau 1*” in this bulletin) are considered beginning/intermediate level. Students in Objectives B1 and B1+, (“*Niveau 2*” in this bulletin) are low to mid intermediate, and students in Objectives B2, B2+, and C1 (“*Niveau 3*” in this bulletin) are high intermediate to advanced. (Refer to the section “Course Levels and Codes” for more information.) In placing students into their language classes, each objective is further divided into several groups (*groupes*). Year-long students are expected to make progress from one objective to the next after the first semester.

SUL awards a certificate, the *Diplôme Universitaire de Langue et culture françaises (DU)* to students who successfully complete the full schedule of courses for their language objective (*objectif*) listed in the SUL bulletin (*plaquette*). To qualify for the *DU*, students need to pass each course with a minimum of 10/20 (B-), and an overall average of 12/20 (B). Students can pass their exams with a score of 8/20, and still pass to the next language level without receiving the *DU*. Students do not have to formally apply for or pay for this certificate. A *DU* is offered each semester to students who complete the requirements.

For additional information on SUL, go to: <https://www.univ-amu.fr/fr/public/sul-service-universitaire-des-langues>.

## Academic Culture

American students may find that professors in France are less accessible than US faculty members. There are no set office hours, and some faculty may not have an office on campus. They occasionally cancel classes or change meeting times with no prior warning. Students are expected to take responsibility for pursuing their own learning during breaks in regular class meetings. Generally, professors expect that students have learned how to study with little direction in the high school years, so that when they ask their students to “read” Chapter X for the next meeting, they actually mean for the students to “master the content of Chapter X” for next time. This might involve doing related exercises independently and/or performing extra research if not familiar with a term or concept.

Students in France are required to become independent learners, taking charge of their own learning by researching and building their own knowledge when faced with a gap in their understanding. French students often rely on the “système D,” which stands for “Débrouillardise,” a French national concept that basically means resourcefulness and self-reliance. “Débrouille-toi” means “figure it out.” Building a network of friends who can help by sharing information with you or forming study groups is a good idea and is a definite component of “système D”.

## Course Levels and Codes

SUL offers intensive (required) language courses and elective courses (*ateliers* and *séminaires*) at the levels below.

Language Level	CSU IP Course Number	Description	Lower or Upper Division
Niveau 1 (A1, A2)	200-299	For beginning French language students, typically with one or two semesters of language study; offers an opportunity to make rapid progress toward fluency in French and some options to explore aspects of French cultural traditions.	Lower division
Niveau 2 (B1, B1+)	300-399	For intermediate level students who have more advanced proficiency in French (corresponding to three to five semesters of language study); offers an opportunity to improve fluency in French and explore aspects of French cultural traditions.	Upper division
Niveau 3 (B2, B2+, C1)	400-499	For students with advanced proficiency in French (corresponding to six semesters or more of language study); offers an opportunity to master fluency in French and explore aspects of French cultural traditions.	Upper division

### CSU IP Course Abbreviation

FLL French Culture, History, Language, Literature

## Grading

Below is the grade conversion that is used to convert grades earned to the CSU grading system.

SUL Grade	CSU Grade
16 and above	A
14-15	A-
13	B+
11-12	B
10	B-
9	C+
8	C
7	C-
6	D+
5	D
4 and below	F
ABI (Absence injustifiée or unjustified absence)	WU*

The CSU grade of WU (Withdrawal Unauthorized) may be given in some circumstances, e.g., for uncompleted courses and withdrawn courses without CSU IP approval. Refer to the *Academic Guide* for additional grade information.

Note that when converting French numeric grades to CSU grades, French grades are not rounded up. To receive the CSU grade, the student must receive the minimum numeric grade listed in the tables above. For example, if a student received 13.9, the student would receive a B+ at the CSU. To receive an A-, the student must receive at least a 14.

The French grading system is based mostly on a 20-point scale. This number is not a percentage like it might be in the US where 75% is considered a C grade. Rather it is more of a qualitative evaluation. Therefore, multiplying the number awarded by 5 to find the US equivalent will not work at all. For example, a grade of 12/20 would become 60% (a poor grade in the US) while it is a relatively good grade in France. Content, level, reputation of the university, and type of course can also factor in “translating” a French grade back to the US system.

**\*Class attendance is mandatory, and absences are considered in final grades.** The attendance policy is very strict and only a limited number of absences are permitted. An excess of unjustified absences for a given course will result in a “WU” (which is equivalent of an F for GPA purposes) regardless of grades received for assignments and exams. All students are expected to be mindful of and adhere to attendance policies.

## Required Courses

### Intensive Language Program (ILP)

Students are placed in a one-unit course in the appropriate course according to their language level:

**FLL 100 Elementary French:** For students in A1 or A2

**FLL 200 Intermediate French:** For students in B1 or B1+

**FLL 300 Advanced French:** For students in B2, B2+, or C1

**Course Description:** This is a required one-week intensive course that meets every day for four hours for a total of 20 hours and begins and ends before the regular semester starts. This course provides an intensive review of the language skills needed in French to study at the University. It also serves as an

academic orientation and introduces students to French culture, customs, and society. The content of the language courses for each group is adapted by level. Taught in French.

Note: The ILP course will not be offered in Spring 2024. The total unit load for Spring 2024 is 14 units.

### Program Structure

After the ILP, all students are enrolled in a minimum of 20 class hours during the regular semester (which is equal to 15 semester units not including the ILP). The class hours will be distributed differently according to the level at which the student is placed. Below are the courses that students will take each week after completing the ILP.

A1 students take:

- 14.5 hours of language class (including one hour in the language lab),
- a 1.5-hour phonetics course,
- a 2-hour thematic workshop, and
- a seminar course "Themes in Contemporary France" (15 hours per semester)

A2 and B1 students take:

- 12.5 hours of language class (including one hour in the language lab),
- a 1.5-hour phonetics course,
- Two thematic 2-hour workshops at the A2 level, and
- a seminar course "Themes in Contemporary France" (15 hours per semester)

B1+ students take:

- 13 hours of language class (including one hour in the language lab),
- Two thematic 2-hour workshops at the A2 level, and
- a seminar course "Themes in Contemporary France" (15 hours per semester)

B2/B2+/C1 students take:

- 10 hours of language class (including one hour in the language lab),
- One thematic 2-hour workshop,
- Two thematic 3-hour workshops, and
- a seminar course "Themes in Contemporary France" (15 hours per semester)

### Required French Language Courses

After the ILP, students are placed into language groups based on their French proficiency levels. Students take one of the following language courses each semester depending on their French language proficiency: FLL 201A, FLL 201B, FLL 251A, FLL 251B, FLL 301A, FLL 301B, FLL 302A, FLL 302B, FLL 400A, FLL 400B, FLL 401A or FLL 401B. The letters A or B following each number indicate Semester 1 or 2 respectively. The numbers next to each course title in parentheses indicate the CSU unit value for the course. **All courses are subject to availability and may not be offered every semester or year. Unit values are subject to change.**

#### Niveau 1

##### FLL 201A/B Fundamentals of French A/B (10)

This course is designed for beginning students or students whose French proficiency is minimal. Students will be introduced to different aspects of spoken and written French, which they will be expected to understand and produce. Course content will cover grammar, vocabulary, and spelling and be complemented by laboratory work of one hour per week. FLL 201B is a continuation of FLL 201A. (A1 level)

**FLL 220A/B French Phonetics I (1) (*Jeux phonétiques*).** This course combines elements of phonetics that will improve students' pronunciation by using interactive exercises. Required for students taking FLL 201A/B.

**FLL 222A/B Practical Phonetics of French (1) (*Phonétique – diction*).** The course represents systematic exercises of pronunciation, rhythm, accent, and intonation in French. Required for students taking FLL 251A/B. (A2 level)

**FLL 251A/B Intermediate French A/B (8)**

This course is designed for intermediate students. Students will study different aspects of spoken and written French. Course content will cover grammar, vocabulary, and spelling and be complemented by laboratory work. FLL 251B is a continuation of FLL 251A. (A2 level)

**Niveau 2**

**FLL 301A/B Advanced French I A/B (8)**

Acquisition and application of the structures of written and spoken French. Special emphasis on vocabulary development and oral comprehension. FLL 301B is a continuation of FLL 301A. (B1 level)

**FLL 302A/B Advanced French II A/B (8)**

Acquisition and application of the structures of written and spoken French. Special emphasis on vocabulary development and oral comprehension. FLL 302B is a continuation of FLL 302A. (B1+ level)

**FLL 321A/B French Phonetics II A/B (*Phonétique - diction*) (1)**

Systematic exercises of pronunciation, rhythm, accent, and intonation in French. Students learn the French phonetics system, the International Phonetic Alphabet and phonetic transcription, vowel and consonant systems, liaisons, the silent "e", the relationship between spelling and pronunciation, and more. Students will also work on improving their oral skills. Required for students taking FLL 301 A/B. (B1 level)

**Niveau 3**

**FLL 400A/B Advanced French II A/B (6)**

Students study acquisition and application of the structures of written and spoken French at a more complex level. Special emphasis on vocabulary development and oral comprehension. FLL 400B is a continuation of FLL 400A. (B2, B2+ level) (Previously numbered FLL 351A/B.)

**FLL 401A/B Advanced French IIIA/B (6)**

The goal of *Niveau 3* language instruction is the mastery of an expanded vocabulary, along with varied, appropriately chosen, and accurate grammatical structures. The emphasis is placed on written expression, but a great deal of time is devoted to oral expression, especially to the discussion of selected texts. Sessions in the language laboratory are an integral part of the course. FLL 401B is a continuation of FLL 401A. (C1 level)

Note: There is no Phonetics requirement for students enrolled in the B2, B2+, or C1 French language levels.

**Required Seminar**

**FLL 375 Seminar: Themes in Contemporary France (1)**

In addition to the French language courses, all students will take a required 1-unit seminar taught by a visiting instructor titled "Themes in Contemporary France." Students will take the course for each semester that they are enrolled in the program, as its content and the instructor will change each semester. Sample topics include French colonial history, the French response to climate change, and minority religions in France. Course materials and assignments will vary by instructor and topic, but students should expect approximately 2 hours per week of independent work (reading, film screening, writing assignments, group projects, service learning, etc.) outside of class.

## Elective Courses

Below is a listing of elective courses that have been offered by SUL in the past, called *Ateliers thématiques* (thematic workshops) on their website. Elective courses supplement the required French language courses to total a minimum of 15 units each semester. Additional courses may be offered during any particular year, and some previously announced courses may be deleted. For this reason, it is important for students to have some flexibility in their academic planning. Elective course offerings vary depending on SUL professors' availability and overall scheduling. Not all of these courses will be offered during the 2023-2024 academic year.

Elective courses are "Special Topics" courses which are organized by language level. Course titles listed below are in English and French followed by numbers in parentheses that indicate the CSU unit value for the course. All courses are taught in French. The list below may not represent a current or comprehensive list of courses that will be offered in 2023-24. Courses are subject to availability and may not be offered every semester/year. Unit values are subject to change.

### Niveau 1 Courses: A1

#### FLL 290 Thematic Workshop (2 units)

Topics cover a variety of subjects including language, literature, French culture, civilization, and history. The following topics may be offered:

**Reinforcing the Written Word 1** (*Renforcement de l'écrit 1*) (2). Writing simple texts by applying elementary grammatical rules and syntax.

**Role Play, Dialogs and Conversation 1** (*Jeux de rôle, dialogues et conversation 1*) (2). Speaking and understanding French in real-life situations through the use of dialogues, role play, and other communicative activities

### Niveau 1 Courses: A2

#### FLL 291 Thematic Workshop (2 units)

Topics cover a variety of subjects including language, French culture, and civilization. The following topics may be offered:

**Comics 2** (*Bande Dessinée 2*) (2). Reading and analysis of texts from classic comics. Through the study of comics, students discover a different approach to language and develop skills in written comprehension, written production, and oral production within an interactive and playful workshop that promotes the appropriation of French culture. Many cultural elements are included indirectly.

**Creative Writing 1** (*Ecriture créative 1*) (2). Writing, correcting, rewriting, and analyzing extracts of French literature.

**Oral Expression** (*Expression orale*) (2). Learning how to orally propose and defend a point of view on a wide range of topics.

**Phoni-graphics** (*Phonie-graphie*) (2). Developing students' writing and pronunciation skills, through a focus on the different spellings of various French sounds. Students will expand their spelling, grammar, and vocabulary skills.

**Reinforcing the Written Word 2** (*Renforcement de l'écrit. 2*) (2). Working on written expression aiming to improve basic elements necessary for writing.

**Role Play 2** (*Jeux de rôle 2*) (2). Speaking and understanding French in real-life situations through the use of dialogues, role play, and other communicative activities.

**Poetry French "Chansons" 1** (*Poésie et chansons 1*) (2). Reading and performing extracts from poetry and French « chansons. ».

### Niveau 2 Courses: B1

#### FLL 390 Thematic Workshop (2 units)

Topics cover a variety of subjects including language, literature, French culture, and civilization. The following topics may be offered:

**Cinematic Dialogs** (*Dialogues du cinéma*) (2). Oral practice using extracts of dialogues from French films.

**Francophone Media 1** (*Medias francophone 1*) (2). Discovery of Francophone media: press, radio, and television.

**French Society: Contemporary Debates 1** (*Société française : Débats contemporains 1*) (2). This course aims to discover contemporary France. The main themes are women in France, city and suburbs, immigration, and integration.

**Phoni-graphics** (*Phonie-graphie*) (2). Developing students' writing and pronunciation skills, through a focus on the different spellings of various French sounds. Students will expand their spelling, grammar, and vocabulary skills.

**Reinforcing the Spoken Word** (*Renforcement de l'oral*) (2). Working on spoken expression aiming to improve basic elements necessary for speaking.

**Reinforcing the Written Word 3** (*Renforcement de l'écrit 3*) (2). Working on written expression aiming to improve basic elements necessary for writing.

**Spoken French 1** (*Le français parlé 1*) (2). Spoken French and familiar French expressions: the study of the different ways that the language can be used and practical vocabulary belonging to familiar expressions.

**Niveau 2 Courses: B1+**

**FLL 391 Thematic Workshop (2 units)**  
Topics cover a variety of subjects including language, French culture, and civilization. The following topics may be offered:

**Philosophic and Intercultural Practice** (*Pratique philosophique et interculturelle*) (2). Exploring democratic philosophy in an intercultural and multilingual context.

**Public Speaking 2** (*Expression orale 2*) (2). Learning how to orally present and defend a point of view on a wide range of themes and topics.

**Reinforcing French Grammar 2** (*Renforcement grammatical 2*) (2). Review and deepen the main concepts required for B1+.

**FLL 393 Thematic Workshop (3 units)**

**Arts 1** (*Arts 1*) (3). Improve your language skills by using media related to artistic fields. Deepen your knowledge about artists and

works. Develop intercultural competence by creating links and exchanges between works of French heritage and works from other countries. Write/present a work, express its tastes, emotions, express its point of view, its agreement and disagreement, defend an idea, a personal opinion, write an article, a descriptive text, an informative text, an argumentative text, read, and understand texts on the theme of the arts and answer questions.

**Francophone Writers in Literature 3** (*Littérature - Ecrivains francophones 3*) (3). Discovery of texts by major French-speaking writers.

**French-Language Cinéma 2** (*Cinéma Francophone 2*) (+Ciné club 2 hours per week) (3). The goal of this course is to acquaint students with cinema from French-speaking countries using different themes. Topics may vary.

**Niveau 3 Courses: B2, B2+ / C1**

**FLL 490 Thematic Workshop (2 units each)**  
Topics cover a variety of subjects including language, French culture, and civilization. The following topics may be offered:

**Oral Communication 3** (*Expression Orale 3*) (2). Knowing how to present and defend a point of view orally on very diverse topics and subjects; how to argue a topic with a good amount of spontaneity and ease; and how to present and defend your opinions orally. These are the main linguistic and cultural objectives of this oral-speaking workshop (advanced level), which aims to prepare students for the oral tests of the DU, as well as those for other university diplomas.

**Sports in French** (*Le sport en français*) (2). Discovery and acquisition of specific vocabulary for sport.

**Theatrical and Cinematic Dialogs** (*Dialogues théâtre cinéma*) (2). Oral practice using extracts of dialogues from French plays and films.

**Vocabulary for Sciences and Technical Studies 2** (*Vocabulaire des sciences et techniques 2*) (2). Discovery and acquisition of specific vocabulary for sciences and technical studies

through specialized press articles, scientific and technical videos.

**FLL 493 Thematic Workshop (3 units each)**

Topics cover a variety of subjects including language, French culture, and civilization. The following topics may be offered.

**Arts 2 (Arts 2) (3).** Improve language skills using media related to artistic fields. Strengthen the knowledge of artists and their works. Develop intercultural competence by creating links and exchanges between works of French heritage and works of other countries. Describe/present a work, express tastes, emotions, express views, agree and disagree, defend an idea, personal opinion, write an article, a descriptive text, an informative text, an argumentative text, read and understand texts on the theme of the arts, and answer questions.

**French Society: Contemporary Debates 3**

*(Société française : Débats contemporains 3)*

**(3).** Improving comprehension and oral presentation by actively involving students in different topics (refining the knowledge already acquired in groups on essays and role-play) by comparing different cultures.

**International Current Events (Actualités**

*internationales)* **(3).** Analysis of international events and more particularly the origins and consequences of the major conflicts at the beginning of the third millennium.

**Journeys of Writers and Painters (Ecrivains et peintres voyageurs) (3).** This workshop allows

students to follow French writers or painter-writers, in Europe and the world, who (since Montaigne) have chosen to discover other countries than their own. The workshop will also provide pictorial works inspired by these trips.

**Literature and Politics (Littérature et politique)**

**(3).** Relationships between literature and politics in the etymological sense of the latter: participation in the life of the city. It touches on both the political role played by some writers, and their view of the political situation of their time, from the sixteenth century to the present day.

**Oral Communication through French**

**“Chanson” (Communication orale - Chanson française) (2).** Developing the practice of

conversation through thematic and alternate approaches to French song: from the 30's to the present day, engaged songs with a social message, and the works of poets adapted to song. Course includes presentations, discussions, and debates.

**Theatre, Literature, and Society (Théâtre,**

*littérature et société)* **(3).** We will explore the diversity of French social topics by exploring the works of great French playwrights. Topics will vary.

**Writing Workshop (Ecriture créative et**

*stylistique)* **(3).** Creative writing according to the teacher's instructions. Searching for a personal scriptural aesthetic. Observing literary models (generic, thematic, semantic, and rhetorical interrogation emphasizing written works).