

IP Academic Bulletin for Aix-en-Provence, France: 2015-16

Introduction

The IP Academic Bulletin (also known as “IP Bulletin” or “Bulletin”) is the International Programs (IP) “catalog” and provides academic information about the program in Aix-en-Provence (also referred to as Aix), France.

The Bulletin must read in conjunction with the two publications listed below.

- [Academic Planning, Crediting and Reporting](#). This publication 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.
- [Academic Policies](#). This publication contains academic policies which will be applied to all IP participants. Topics include but are not limited to CSU Registration, Enrollment Requirements, Attendance, Examinations, Assignment of Grades, Grading Symbols, Credit/No Credit Option and Course Withdrawals.

To access the above publications, refer to the IP website under “Study Abroad”, and “Academic Program Information” or click on either of the document names above which are linked to our website.

To access general information about your program and study center, refer to the IP website under “[Programs](#)” and click on the specific program to which you have been accepted.

The Academic Program

The International Programs is affiliated with the *Service Universitaire du Français Langue Etrangère (SUFLE)* which is part of *Aix Marseille Université* which has campuses in Aix-en-Provence and Marseille, creating the largest university in France with close to 70,000 students.

Students begin their studies with a three-week Preparatory Language Program (PLP) conducted by the SUFLE and complete their year with an intensive course entitled “Writing and Multimedia Project: My Year in Provence”. During the academic year, students follow an appropriate course of study according to their competence in the French language.

SUFLE uses the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR) to determine the level of study for foreign language students. Students in Objectives A0, A1 or A2 (“Niveau 1” in this bulletin) are considered beginners with typically one or two semesters of university French study. U.S. students in Objectives B1, B1+ or B2 (“Niveau 2” in this bulletin) are low to high intermediate with three to five semesters of university French study. Students in Objectives C1 or C2 (“Niveau 3” in this bulletin) are advanced with six semesters or more. However, it should be understood that language proficiency, as measured by placement tests, not necessarily the amount of time spent in previous study, is the determining factor.

At the SUFLE, all students are required to take:

- the equivalent of 15 CSU units each semester.
- French language each semester from the following list of courses (depending on placement): FLL 201A; FLL 201B; FLL 301A; FLL 301B; FLL 401A; FLL 401B.
- FLL 371 (Writing and Multimedia Project: My Year in Provence) at the end of the year.
- Elective(s) in order to bring the total number of units to 15 units each semester.

For additional information on SUFLE, go to: <http://sites.univ-provence.fr/scefee/annuel.html>.

Academic Culture

French students learn at a young age that the professor is there for them only during class time. Outside of that structure, professors do not interact with students and tend to be far less accessible than US faculty members. Not only are there no set office hours, most of the time they do not even 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 any breaks in regular class meetings. In general professors expect that students have learnt 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.

“Système D”

French students often rely on “système D,” which stands for “Débrouillardise,” a French national concept that basically means self-reliance and ways to intelligently beat the system when it does not work well for you. Building a network of friends that can help by sharing information with you or by looking out for you in your classes is a good idea and is a definite component of “système D”.

Assessment and Grading

Normally the professor awards the student a certain number out of 20 (i.e., 12/20). This number is not a percentage like it might be in the US where 75% is considered a C grade but rather it is more of a qualitative evaluation. So multiplying the number awarded by 5 to find the US equivalent will not work at all. In the case given above, the 12/20 would become a 60% (a very poor grade) while it is in fact more than a passing grade. Content, level, reputation of the university and type of course can also play a factor in “translating” a French grade back to the US system.

Class attendance is mandatory, and absences are considered in determining grades. The attendance policy is very strict and only a limited number of absences is permitted. Absences in excess of the number of unjustified absences allowed 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.

Note that FLL 371 (Writing and Multimedia Project: My Year in Provence) is a required course. Students who do not attend class or fail to complete course requirements will receive a grade of WU which is equivalent to an F for GPA calculations purposes.

Summer and Academic Year Courses

Below is a listing of courses which have been offered by *SUFLE*. Academic year courses are subject to change and may not be offered every year. The year is divided into three terms: Summer, Fall and Spring. 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. CSU units are listed in parenthesis after the course title and are subject to change.

CSU IP Aix-en-Provence Course Coding

- 200-299 Lower Division (SUFLE A0, A1 or A2, *Niveau 1*)
- 300-399 Upper Division (SUFLE B1, B1+, or B2, *Niveau 2*)
- 400-499 Upper Division (SUFLE C1, or C2, *Niveau 3*)

- ART Art History
- CIV Civilization
- FLL French Language and Literature
- HST History
- POL Political Science
- SCC Social Sciences

Summer (Preparatory Language Program)

On arrival in Aix, students take a placement test and are assigned to a course level appropriate to their mastery of the language. In the PLP there are three *niveaux*. General language skills are reviewed and developed during the morning sessions, the emphasis being placed on the functional, i.e. oral, use of these skills. Additional afternoon workshops are offered on culture, history, and politics.

FLL 100 Elementary French (4)
For students in A0, A1, or A2;
Niveau 1

FLL 200 Intermediate French (4)
For students in B1, B1+ or B2;
Niveau 2

FLL 300 Advanced French (4)
For students in C1 or C2; *Niveau 3*.

Academic Year Courses

At the end of the PLP, students receive a grade which, along with their professor's recommendation, determines the language objective (*objectif*) which students will follow during the first semester of the academic year: A0, A1, A2, B1, B1+, B2, C1 or C2. In placing students into their language classes, each objective is further divided into a number of groups (*groupes*). Students are expected to make progress from one objective to the next after the first semester.

SUFLE offers a wide variety of courses that include the required intensive language courses, elective 3-unit topic courses which meet 4 hours a week and shorter 1-2 unit workshops (*ateliers*) which meet 90 and 120 minutes a week. Students will typically take a combination of 3-unit courses and workshops for their electives.

The number next to each course title in parentheses indicates the estimated unit value for the course. Note that unit values for various courses will vary depending on lecture hours and course work requirements each semester, and unit values reported may vary from those listed in this document.

Important Note: Courses listed below may not be offered every year and are subject to change.

Niveau 1

Conceived for students having minimal study of French (corresponding, as a general rule, to one or two semesters of language study in California), *Niveau 1* offers an opportunity to make rapid progress toward fluency in French and some options to explore aspects of French cultural traditions.

Required courses:

FLL 201A Fundamentals of French A (9)

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 intensive laboratory work.

FLL 201B Fundamentals of French B (9)

Continuation of FLL 201A. See above.

Elective courses:

Students placed in Niveau 1 are required to take enough elective units each semester to meet the CSU 15-unit requirement. Note that students in Niveau 1 are required to take FLL 371: Writing and Multimedia Project: My Year in Provence following the second semester. See course description under *Niveau 2*. This course will count toward their second semester 15-unit course-load requirement.

FLL 207 French Conversation (2-3)

The objective of this course is to place students in situations of daily French conversation. It will provide students the opportunity to practice their spoken French through oral exercises that will permit students to acquire confidence and ease in their speaking. Required for students taking FLL 201A.

FLL 220 French Phonetics I (2-3)

This course combines elements of phonetics that will improve students' pronunciation by using interactive exercises. Required for students taking FLL 201A.

FLL 290 Special Topics

Topics cover a variety of subjects including but not limited to language, French culture and civilization. Most courses are two units each and are subject to change. Topics can change every year. The following topics may be offered:

- Provençal Writers (2)

This workshop examines classic texts of Provençal writers, with particular emphasis on developing reading strategies for students at the low intermediate level.

- Aspects of French Civilization (2)

This course will improve French language skills by linking language and its socio-cultural context, particularly in reference to history, geography, economics, literature, the arts, and social/cultural anthropology.

- French Communication and the Interaction of Words and Images (2)

The purpose of this workshop is to explore the interplay of language and images in everyday life and the arts to produce meaning and a message. A broad range of media are examined, including comic books, paintings, advertising, and election posters.

- Dialogues of French Cinema (2)

The main objective of this course is to present to the students key excerpts from great French cinema as a basis for improving comprehension and pronunciation in French.

- Creative Writing (2)

This course is aimed at students who wish to improve their written French through stimulating their imagination by reading, studying texts as well as narratives, letters, plays, and poetry.

- Provençal Culture (2)

The course objective is to understand the fundamental aspects of Provençal culture and its diversity. The origins of Provençal culture, along with its geography and language, will be examined through the texts, poems, songs, etc. of noteworthy writers and artists.

Niveau 2

Conceived for students having more advanced proficiency in French (corresponding, as a general rule, to three to five semesters of language study in California), *Niveau 2* offers an opportunity improve fluency in French and explore aspects of French cultural traditions. All *Niveau 2* courses are upper division.

Required courses:

FLL 301A Advanced French IA (9)

Acquisition and application of the structures of written and spoken French. Special emphasis on vocabulary development and oral comprehension.

FLL 301B Advanced French IB (9)

Continuation of FLL 301A. See above.

FLL 371 Writing and Multimedia Project: My Year in Provence (3)

Intensive compulsory course following the second semester. Students contribute to a group blog on significant cultural, historical, and linguistic aspects of Provence. In addition, students write individual entries that reflect upon and describe their experiences living in Provence. This course will count toward the 15-unit course-load requirement in Semester 2.

Elective courses:

Students in Niveau 2 are required to take enough elective units each semester to meet the CSU 15-unit requirement.

ART 360 Perspectives on Art: Art through Current Events (3)

This course will explore the different forms of artistic creation in practice today (painting, photography, cinema, dance, sculpture, comic books, etc.). It will especially focus on art in recent exhibitions and other public venues. The works of art will be analyzed using a specialized vocabulary. Students will be required to visit local art exhibits. Not offered every year.

ART 390 Special Topics - Art History: Art and Advertising (2)

This course revisits the history of art through an understanding of how advertising inspires art and how artists are drawn in by advertising. Through the study of advertising medium that pertains to art, students will master advertising terminology (target, logo, product, brand, etc.). They will learn to describe images, define their nature, their composition, justify the choice of the chosen artwork, and justify the advertising message.

ART 390 Special Topics Art History - Western Sculpture (3)

What are the messages conveyed by the representation of the human body in sculpture? The answer differs depending upon the historical period. After an introduction describing historical points of reference, the main art trends and specificities of sculpture, we will discuss some of the most famous artworks of the past centuries in chronological order.

CIV 330 Introduction to French Culture I (2)

Students will explore contemporary French culture and society through the analysis of various documents (newspaper articles, TV programs, etc.). In the first semester, the course addresses the position of women in France; political life of the fifth republic; and the unique issues facing cities and suburbs.

CIV 331 Introduction to French Culture II (2)

Students will explore contemporary French culture and society through the analysis of various documents (newspaper articles, TV programs, etc.). In the second semester, the course addresses the issues of immigration; a short history of the French language; and, the French press, television, and radio.

CIV 385 Provence (1-3)

The past and present of Provence, including geography, history, culture, civilization, and regional literature (e.g. Mistral, Daudet, Pagnol). Overview of Provence from Provençal folklore to 21st century life.

CIV 388 French News (2)

Immersion into the world of French News. Study of vocabulary and discussion of current cultural and political events. Students learn to write commentaries based on the materials covered in class. Not offered every year.

FLL 310 Writing Workshop I (2)

Practice of written French emphasizing creativity, word play, French sounds and the discovery of literary genres. For Niveau 2 students only.

FLL 313 Public Speaking in French (2)

More than a theater course, this class (*prise de parole*) will help students polish their French and allow them to improve their public speaking in French (for exams, oral presentations, conferences, job interviews, and more).

FLL 315 From Spoken to Written French I (1-2)

This seminar emphasizes the transposition of spoken to written French and vice versa. Students will learn how to use French in various contexts. This seminar is a preparation for the DELF/DALF test at the end of the academic year and will include an in-depth analysis and practice of French grammar and syntax. Not offered every year.

FLL 321 French Phonetics II (2)

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 301A.

FLL 322 Practical Phonetics of French (1-2)

The course represents systematic exercises of pronunciation, rhythm, accent and intonation in French. Recommended for students taking FLL 301B.

FLL 332 French Culture and the French "Chanson" (2)

A historical, cultural, and social analysis of the French "chanson" and the works of author-composers of the 19th and 20th centuries.

FLL 360 Business French (2)

A survey course in Business French which includes introduction to the terminology related to business and industry, negotiation strategies and situations, an

introduction to business and commerce in France, and globalization of French companies.

FLL 365 World French (2)

This workshop explores the diversity of the French language outside of France. Through exposure to written and sound documents, students examine the characteristics of how French is spoken in over 50 different countries, as well as the wider notion of "francophonie". In addition to class discussions, students will attend four lectures on aspects of world French by different experts. Not offered every year.

FLL 370 Language, Culture and Multimedia (2-3)

Students are provided individual training in oral and written comprehension as well as writing, using a wide range of linguistic and cultural websites. Students contribute an article in French on a cultural aspect of their country of origin for the blog "Invitation to travel".

FLL 375 Francophone Literature (2)

Introduction to Francophone writers from North and West Africa and the Caribbean. Not offered every year.

FLL 390 Special Topics

Topics cover a variety of subjects including but not limited to language, French culture and civilization. Most courses are two or three units each and are subject to change. Topics can change every year. The following topics may be offered:

- Introduction to the Works of French Theater (2)

This course examines the works of French playwrights such as Beckett, Ionesco and Camus where students will read and study the plays in class, with the possibility of seeing the plays performed in Aix or Marseille.

- Classic and Contemporary French Theater (3)

This atelier is for students who already possess a level of comprehension of written French that will allow them to work with a major French theatrical piece. The presentation at the Théâtre du Gymnase in Marseille of Molière's *L'école des femmes* will permit the students to see a performance of a play that they will have already studied in class. By studying this great classic comedy, the students will familiarize themselves with the principles of dramatic art and with the different types of comedy and its expression.

- Characters in Francophone Cinema (2)

Understanding and analysis of character development of original versions of Francophone films as a means of understanding Francophone society and culture.

- French Cinema and Society (3)

Discussion of French film as an esthetic statement as well as social story telling. Students will acquire the tools necessary to develop an analytical understanding of French film, its history, and the variation in esthetic expression (e.g., symbolization of the imaginary world, writing processes, dialogues, the role of music, etc.).

- French Cinema: the "Nouvelle Vague" (2)

The goal of this course is to acquaint students of the French language with viewing and watching the original versions of French films from a variety of directors during the 1950s and 1960s (the "Nouvelle Vague").

- French Literature of the 19th and 20th Centuries (2)

A survey course of the main French writers of the 19th and 20th centuries, including an examination of the

influence of these works on other artists (e.g., theatrical plays, movie adaptations, and song).

- Panorama of French Literature and Arts (2)

In this course, students are invited to discover not only the great works of French literature, but also the relationship between French literature and other contemporary arts, e.g. painting, sculpture and music.

- Provence in the French Literature (2)

This course examines the depiction of Marseille and Provence in the literature from travel writers in the 19th century (e.g., *La Mer* by Guy de Maupassant) to more contemporary works of the detective novelist Jean-Claude Izzo. Extracts from *Désert* by J.M Le Clézio which takes place in Marseille will enable us to develop questions about integration, immigration and urban violence through the perspective of Lalla, a young immigrant from Morocco.

- French News Workshop (2)

Learning French through the production of a student publication consisting of short articles written on sociocultural features of France. Students will not only be writers but will also serve on an editorial board that is in charge of the composition of the newspaper and of the selection of the articles.

- Discovery of the French Press (2)

This workshop has several objectives: to introduce the French press, its history, and the operation of the press and media, while ensuring a better command of the language from the student(s).

- French Vocabulary in Science and Technology (2)

Discover and acquire French terminology specific to science and technology through the examination of articles from the specialized press, and through the viewing of scientific and technical videos.

- Mythology in Literature - Mythical Heroes (3)

Course covers the transformations of the great Greco-Roman myths in French literature of the 20th century.

- French through the Analysis of Images (2).

The continued study how language and its images are associated with day-to-day life and the arts in order to formulate sense and transmit a message. Discussion of media such as cartoons, collages, advertising print, electoral posters and paintings which represent the world and sometimes, represent themselves.

- Aspects of French Culture (2)

Located between the north and the south of Europe, France has a long and ancient history that has been enriched by various influences to give it a complex and diverse cultural appearance. The goal of this class is to discover some of the main aspects of French civilization and the life in the France of today.

- Francophone Culture and History (3)

Exploration of the geographical extent and heterogeneity of French speakers, from Asia to the Americas expressed in different media including literature and film.

- Regional France (2)

Exploration of regions of France from an administrative, political, geographical, historical, and cultural perspective. Various themes such as gastronomy, art, economic activities, etc. will be examined for a wide

selection of regions, including Ile de France, Normandy, Alsace, the Aquitaine, and others.

Niveau 3

Conceived for students having advanced proficiency in French (corresponding, as a general rule, to six semesters or more of language study in California), *Niveau 3* offers an opportunity master fluency in French and explore aspects of French cultural traditions. All *Niveau 3* courses are upper division.

Required courses:

FLL 401A Advanced French IIA (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 Advanced French IIB (6) - raise units to 9?

Continuation of FLL 401A.

Elective courses:

Students in *Niveau 3* are required to take enough elective units each semester to meet the CSU 15-unit requirement. *Niveau 3* students may enroll in *Niveau 2* electives except where noted.

ART 460 Perspectives on Art: Art through Current Events (3)

This course explores different forms of artistic creation in practice today (painting, photography, cinema, dance, sculpture, comic books, etc.). It will especially focus on art in recent exhibitions and other public venues. The works of art will be analyzed using a specialized vocabulary. Students will visit local art exhibits.

CIV 485 Provence (3)

The past and present of Provence, including geography, history, culture, civilization, and regional literature (e.g. Mistral, Daudet, Pagnol). Overview of Provence from Provençal folklore to 21st century life.

FLL 411 Writing Workshop II (1)

Practice of written French emphasizing creativity, word play, French sounds and the discovery of literary genres. Attention will be given to stylistics and grammar. For *Niveau 3* students only.

FLL 412 Stylistics (2)

The mode of discourse of a literary text is identifiable not only by its structure, but also by its writing style and thematic configuration. Vocabulary, figures of speech, and syntax are studied. Generic forms of texts of the 20th century are examined. Writing exercises based on the models studied will be assigned.

FLL 414 Composition and Argumentation in French (2)

This course has a double objective: the writing and the comprehension of French documents. The different phases of the course are devoted to the following: developing an outline, composing the introduction and the conclusion, developing a thesis, formulating the claim, developing an argument, using examples, reformulating ideas, and using logical reasoning.

FLL 415 From Spoken to Written French II (1)

This seminar emphasizes the transposition of spoken to written French and vice versa. Students learn how to use French in various contexts. This seminar is a preparation for the DELF/DALF test at the end of the academic year and includes an in-depth analysis and practice of French grammar and syntax. Not offered every year.

FLL 416 Global Simulation (1-3)

This workshop allows us to recapitulate and put to the test the linguistic acquisitions and the practice of oral and written communication in terms of real and day-to-day situations while increasing familiarity with French culture in imaginative and creative situations.

FLL 422 Theoretical Phonetics of French (1-3)

Continued study of 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 pronunciation. Additional topics, such as the specifics of spontaneous spoken language in comparison to written language, will be covered.

FLL 440 Perspectives on Literature (3)

This course offers a panorama of the principal French writers in different genres and currents from the 16th to 21st centuries. Students study excerpts from the works, the biographies of chosen authors, and further focus our study by reading and writing in "the manner of" (given writers). Consisting of 4 class hours per week, this workshop is for students who wish to familiarize themselves with French literature as well as those who wish to develop their written comprehension and oral expression. Assignments consist of readings, weekly analyses of excerpts, reports on the writers, written exercises "in the style of," and literary word games.

FLL 441 Introduction to the Modern Novel (1)

Stylistic analysis of excerpts from original contemporary works (20th and 21st centuries) by French authors. The goal of the literary analysis will be to introduce students to different French authors so that they may read their complete works.

FLL 442 The Discovery of Poetry (1)

This course initiates students into the writing of poetry through the imitation of models, word play, and the manipulation of language.

FLL 450 Francophone Cinema (3)

Students will view, study, and analyze the works of major French and francophone filmmakers.

FLL 472 Culture and Society through the Analysis of Images (1)

The study of images as systems of representation and reflection of social, cultural, and political values, especially those of contemporary France.

FLL 475 Francophone Literature (2)

Introduction to Francophone writers from North and West Africa and the Caribbean. Not offered every year.

POL 450 International Current Events and Approaches to Conflict (1)

Terrorism, nuclear arms proliferation, Arab revolutions, the rise of extremism from Afghanistan to Korea as well as Iraq, Iran, and the West, this class will analyze international current events focusing on the origins and consequences of these significant 21st century conflicts .

POL 480 France/USA/Europe: Realities, Stereotypes, Similarities and Differences (3)

Principally organized around the teaching of political, economic, social and cultural developments in France today. Students become more familiar with French realities and the complexity of French-American

relations by identifying stereotypes and realities. Students also study comparisons between the U.S. and Europe and their approach to a wide variety of issues such as the promotion of peace, the abolition of the death penalty, the fight against global warming which have become the symbols of the complexity of a transatlantic dialogue.

FLL 490 Special Topics: Business French: Economics, Workforce, and Globalization (2)

Overview of the French economy, including definition, analysis, microeconomics, macroeconomics, and competition. Discussion of historical trends and current state of the French workforce and employment in France. Analysis of the economic, cultural and political scope of globalization and the rise of interdependency.