

Academic Bulletin for Aix-en-Provence, France 2018-19 and 2019-20

Introduction

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

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 [here](#) and click on the year that pertains to your year abroad. For general information about the Aix-en-Provence Program, refer to the CSU IP website under “[Programs](#)”.

The Academic Program

CSU IP is affiliated with the *Service Universitaire de Français Langue Etrangère (SUFLE)*, a department at Aix-Marseille Université specializing in French as a foreign language. *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.

- **Summer:** Three-week Preparatory Language Program (PLP) conducted by SUFLE (4 units).
- **Semester 1:** French language courses plus elective courses to total at least 15 units.
- **Semester 2:** French language courses, elective courses plus FLL 395 (Issues in Contemporary France), a post-semester course required for all students, to total at least 15 units.

Prior to arrival students take a written placement test online. Students take an oral placement test at the SUFLE center after arrival. Based on these two tests students are placed in a three-week summer course. The grade received along with their professor’s recommendation, determines the language objective (*objectif*) that students will follow during the first semester of the academic year. 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, B1+ (“*Niveau 2*” in this bulletin) are low to mid intermediate and students in Objectives B2, B2+, 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 a number of groups (*groupes*). Students are expected to make progress from one objective to the next after the first semester.

SUFLE 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 SUFLE bulletin (*plaque*). 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 or pay for this certificate. A *DU* is offered each semester to students who complete the requirements.

For additional information on SUFLE, go to: <http://sufle.univ-amu.fr/>.

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”.

Grading

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

SUFLE 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. 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. So 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.

Course Levels and Codes

SUFLE 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
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CSU IP Course Abbreviations by Study Area

ART Art History

FLL French Culture, History, Language, Literature

Required Courses

Summer Preparatory Language Program (PLP)

FLL 100 Elementary French (4)

For students in A1, or A2

FLL 200 Intermediate French (4)

For students in B1, B1+

FLL 300 Advanced French (4)

For students in B2, B2+, or C1

Course Description: General language skills (oral comprehension and expression, as well as written comprehension and expression) are reviewed and developed during the morning sessions. Additional afternoon workshops are offered on culture, history, and politics.

All students must be enrolled in a minimum of 20 class hours per semester (equal to 15 semester units). The class hours will be distributed differently according to the level in which the student is placed.

A1 students take 14.5 hours of language class (including one hour in the language lab), a 1.5-hour phonetics and diction course, and 2 two-hour elective workshops.

A2/B1 students take 12.5 hours of language class (including one hour in the language lab), a 1.5-hour phonetics and diction course, and 3 two-hour elective workshops.

B1+ students take 11.5 hours of language class (including one hour in the language lab), a 1.5-hour phonetics and diction course, and 2 two-hour elective workshops and one three-hour seminar-style course.

B2/B2+/C1 students take 10 hours of language class (including one hour in the language lab), and 2 two-hour elective workshops and 2 three-hour seminar-style courses.

As part of Semester 2, all students (regardless of level) enroll in FLL 395 (Issues in Contemporary France), an intensive one week course held after language courses have ended.

Academic Year Courses

After the summer PLP, 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 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 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 220 A/B French Phonetics I (1). This course combines elements of phonetics that will improve students' pronunciation by using interactive exercises. Required for students taking FLL 201A/B. (A1 level)

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

FLL 251 A/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 301 A/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 302 A/B Advanced French II A/B (7)

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 321 A/B French Phonetics II A/B (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 and FLL 302 A/B. (B1, 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 B2, B2+, or C1 French language levels.

Required course for all students in Semester 2:

FLL 395 Issues in Contemporary France (1)

Study of current issues in France today, with focus on the European context, political and social issues, culture, media and technology. This is a required course for all students and counts toward the 15-unit course-load requirement in Semester 2. This is an intensive one week course held after Semester 2 language courses have ended. Letter grade only.

Elective Courses

Below is a listing of elective courses offered by *SUFLE* 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 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. Courses are subject to availability and may not be offered every year. Unit values are subject to change.

Niveau 1 Courses

FLL 290 Special Topics

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

A1

FLL 290A Poetry, Humor and French "Chansons" (*Poésie, rires et chansons*) (2)

Primarily designed to develop student's communicative proficiency in French through poetry and music, this course focuses on an important element of France's rich cultural heritage, *la chanson française*.

Prominent poets of France featured in French popular music are also introduced.

FLL 290B Reading and Writing for Everyday Use 1 (*Lire et écrire au quotidien 1*) (2)

Students write simple and useful texts about everyday life, and explore the relationship between speaking and writing forms to obtain textual coherence. This course aims to improve the student's ability to read and write in French about everyday situations (e.g., describing people and places, deciphering restaurant menus, sharing information on sports and cultural activities).

FLL 290C Role Play, Dialogs and Conversation 1 (*Jeux de rôle, dialogues et conversation 1*) (2)

This course focuses on various aspects and difficulties that come with speaking and understanding French in real-life situations through the use of dialogues, role plays and other communicative activities. Students will strengthen their mastery of French and acquire the confidence they need for everyday communication.

FLL 290D Theater and Tales (*Théâtre et conte*) (2)

Reading and performing scenes from French plays and a variety of tales.

A2

ART 291 Special Topics

ART 291A Arts (*Arts*) (2)

In this course, students are invited to discover works of French artists in different mediums. Topics will vary.

FLL 291 Special Topics

FLL 291A Creative Writing 1 (*Écriture créative 1*) (2)

This course aims to discover different literary genres through imitation, invention, correction, and rewriting.

FLL 291B English to French Translation 1 (*Thème français 1*) (2)

A comparative study of the characteristics of French and English expression and how they pertain to the problems of translation.

FLL 291C French Culture – Cinematic Dialogs (*Culture française – Dialogues du cinéma*) (2)

Oral practice of cinematic dialogues, with a view to comprehension, pronunciation, vocabulary building, and cultural enrichment.

FLL 291D Panorama of French Literature 1 (*Panorama de la littérature française 1*) (2)

In this course, students are invited to discover works of French literature. Topics will vary.

FLL 291E Reading and Writing for Everyday Use 2 (*Lire et écrire au quotidien 2*) (2)

Students write simple and useful texts about everyday life (e.g., describing people and places, deciphering restaurant menus, sharing information on sports and cultural activities), and explore the relationship between speaking and writing forms to obtain textual consistency.

FLL 291F Role Play, Dialogs and Conversation 2 (*Jeux de rôle, dialogues et conversation 2*) (2)

This course focuses on various aspects and difficulties that come with speaking and understanding French in real-life situations through the use of dialogues, role plays and other communicative activities based on current social issues. Students will strengthen their mastery of French and acquire the confidence they need for everyday communication.

FLL 291G Theatre, Tales and French Songs (*Théâtre, contes et chansons*) (2)

Reading tales, performing plays, and singing French songs, so as to practice French texts orally.

FLL 291H Visual Analysis and Commentary 1 (*Analyse et commentaire de support visuel 1*) (2)

Oral commentary and descriptions of photos, paintings, graphic novels, and cartoons.

FLL 291 I French Culture (*Culture française*) (2)

Oral practice of theatrical texts and cinematic dialogues, with a view to comprehension, pronunciation, vocabulary building, and cultural enrichment.

Niveau 2 Courses

B1

ART 390 Special Topics

ART 390A Panorama of French Arts 1 (*Panorama des arts français 1*) (2)

A study of art history, contemporary arts, art and advertising, fashion in art, etc. Topics will vary.

FLL 390 Special Topics

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

FLL 390A Creative Writing 2 (*Écriture créative 2*) (2)

This course aims to discover different literary genres through imitation, invention, correction, and rewriting. Texts include narratives, letters, plays, and poetry.

FLL 390B Discovery of the French Press (*Panorama et pratique de la presse*) (2)

This course investigates the history and evolution of the press, the production of newspapers, and the work of journalists.

FLL 390C English to French Translation 2 (*Thème français 2*) (2)

A comparative study of the characteristics of French and English expression and how they pertain to the problems of translation.

FLL 390D French Cinema 1 (*Cinéma francophone 1*) (2)

The goal of this course is to acquaint students with cinema from French-speaking countries.

FLL 390E French Culture and History 1 (*Culture et histoire française 1*) (2):

Exploration of regions of France from administrative, political, geographical, historical, and cultural perspectives. Themes include art, gastronomy, economic activities, from a variety of regions, including Ile-de-France, Normandy, Alsace, the Aquitaine, and others.

FLL 390F French Theatre and Cinema (*Théâtre et cinéma français*) (2)

Oral practice of theatrical texts and cinematic dialogues, with a view to comprehension, pronunciation, vocabulary building, and cultural enrichment.

FLL 390G Panorama of French Literature 2 (*Panorama de la littérature française 2*) (2)

In this course, students discover works of French literature from a particular region of France, e.g., the texts by Provençal writers. Topics will vary.

FLL 390H Specialized French Vocabulary 1 (*Français sur objectifs spécifiques 1*) (2)

Specialized French terms and expressions focusing on law, economics, medicine, sports, tourism, business, natural and technical sciences. Topics will vary.

FLL 390J Spoken French (*Le français parlé*) (2)

In this course students study familiar French expressions, everyday terms, and slang, as well as the differences between oral and written forms of the French language.

FLL 390K Visual Analysis and Commentary 2 (*Analyse et commentaire de support visuel 2*) (2)

Oral commentary and descriptions of photos, paintings, graphic novels, and cartoons.

FLL 390L Writing Techniques 1 (*Technique de l'écrit 1*) (2) **Students** learn techniques to write summaries when reading, writing, and analyzing diverse texts.

B1+

FLL 391 Special Topics

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

FLL 391A English to French Translation 3 (*Thème français 3*) (2)

A comparative study of the characteristics of French and English expression and how they pertain to the problems of translation.

FLL 391B Oral Communication 1 (*Pratique de la communication orale 1*) (2)

Aspects of the French language useful for job interviews, oral presentations, oral reports, etc.

FLL 391C Philosophy 1 (*Atelier de philosophie 1*) (2)

Students learn how to conceptualize, problematize, and argue when dealing with philosophical questions; they engage in intercultural exchange, and pose questions collectively about individual representations.

FLL 391D Specialized French Vocabulary 2 (*Français sur objectifs spécifiques 2*) (2)

Specialized French terms and expressions focusing on law, economics, medicine, sports, tourism, business, natural and technical sciences. **Topics will vary.**

FLL 391E Writing Techniques 2 (*Technique de l'écrit 2*) (2) **Students** learn techniques to read and synthesize texts, write summaries, and analyze diverse texts.

ART 393 Special Topics (3) (Seminar style)

ART 393A Panorama of French Arts 2 (*Panorama des arts français 2*) (3)

Study of art in its diverse forms and historical periods. Exploration of different artistic movements including music, fine arts, and popular art forms. Topics will vary.

FLL 393 Special Topics (Seminar style)

FLL 393A French Cinema 2 (*Cinéma francophone 2*) (3)

The goal of this course is to acquaint students with cinema from French-speaking countries.

FLL 393B French Culture and History 2 (*Culture et histoire française 2 / Dates clés, grands personnages de l'histoire de France*) (3)

Focusing on important events of French history, key dates of historical figures and principal evolutions.

FLL 393C History of the French Language (*Histoire de la langue française*) (3)

This course explores the history of the diversity of French language speakers, and the variation in linguistic standards in different geographic locations, as well as the use of different lexicons over time.

FLL 393D Panorama of French Literature 3 (*Panorama de la littérature française 3*) (3)

Critical examination of selected works in French or Francophone literature focusing on a particular theme or literary movement. Topics will vary.

Niveau 3 Courses

B2, B2+ / C1

FLL 490 Special Topics

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

FLL 490A Diction and Prosody (*Diction et prosodie*) (2)

Continued study of the French phonetics system, the relationship between spelling and pronunciation, and improving pronunciation. Additional topics, include grammatical systematization.

FLL 490B Oral Communication 2 (*Pratique de la communication orale 2*) (2)

Aspects of the French language useful for job interviews, oral presentations, oral reports, etc.

FLL 490C Philosophy 2 (*Atelier de philosophie 2*) (2)

Students learn how to conceptualize, problematize, and argue when dealing with philosophical questions; they engage in intercultural exchange, and pose questions collectively about individual representations.

FLL 490D Simultaneous English to French Translation
(Traduction simultanée anglais-français) (2)

This course focuses on the study of translation errors when translating directly, using familiar oral expressions, and learning to self-correct.

FLL 490E Specialized French Terms for University Presentations
(Français sur objectifs universitaires) (2)

This course emphasizes reading and writing techniques and linguistic processes when studying in France, and prepares students to make presentations, take notes, draft summaries, commentaries, and present written work.

FLL 490F Specialized French Vocabulary 3
(Français sur objectifs spécifiques 3) (2)

Specialized French terms and expressions used in natural and technical sciences, law, economy, medicine, sports, tourism, and business.

ART 493 Special Topics (Seminar style)

ART 493A Panorama of French Arts 3
(Panorama des arts français 3) (3)

Study of art in its diverse forms and historical periods. Exploration of different artistic movements including music, fine arts, and popular art forms. Topics will vary.

FLL 493 Special Topics (Seminar style)

FLL 493A French Cinema 3
(Cinéma francophone 3) (3)

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

FLL 493B French Culture and History 3
(Culture et histoire française 3) (3)

Focusing on the impact of important historical events and figures on French literature and the arts, this course explores complex interrelations between demographic change, political revolution, and French cultural identity.

FLL 493C Languages and Territories of the Francophone World
(Langues, territoires, francophonie) (3)

This workshop explores the diversity of the French language outside of France. Reference is made to historical, geographical, linguistic, and cultural aspects of the Francophone world.

FLL 493D Panorama of French Literature 4A
(Panorama de la littérature française 4) (3)

Critical examination of selected works in French or Francophone literature focusing on a particular theme or literary movement. Topics will vary..

FLL 493E Press and Multimedia
(Presse et multimédia) (3)

This workshop has several objectives: the study of current international events and approaches to conflict, the French press, its history, and the operation of the press and media. Class work includes creating a media

workshop, web radio in association with the Radio Campus lab, documentaries focusing on linguistic work on French-speaking themes, writing articles, and listening to press documents.

FLL 493F Writing Workshop
(Atelier d'écriture) (3)

Creative writing workshop; stylistics, writing techniques, feedback, vocabulary, and syntax are addressed. Diverse texts and short stories are studied. Writing skills are strengthened by following models and writing about one's direct experiences.

FLL 493G Writing Workshop in a Multimedia Lab
(Atelier d'écriture en salle multimédia) (3)

By studying different cultural locations, students work to improve their own linguistic skills by publishing an article in a French blog. This workshop is conducted in a multimedia lab using various media formats within an educational framework.

FLL 493H Panorama of French Literature 4B

(Panorama de la littérature française 4: Littérature et Société) (3)

Critical examination of selected works in French or Francophone literature focusing on a particular theme or literary movement. Topics will vary.