

Aix-en-Provence, France - IP Bulletin 2013-14

Introduction

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

General Information

The program in Aix-en-Provence provides students at all levels with the opportunity to maximize their knowledge of the language by participating in special instructional programs for non-native speakers. Students are required to have successfully completed a minimum of one term of university French prior to departure.

As of 2012, the three campuses that used to comprise the *Académie d'Aix-Marseille* (*Université de Provence*, *Université de la Méditerranée*, and *Université Paul Cézanne*) have been joined into a single entity now called *Aix Marseille Université*, creating the largest university in France with close to 70,000 students. *Aix Marseille Université* has campuses in Aix-en-Provence and Marseille. The campuses in Aix include the *Faculté des Lettres et Sciences Humaines* which houses the *Service Commun d'Enseignement du Français aux Étudiants Étrangers* (SCEFEE) where CSU students will be taking classes.

The International Programs is affiliated with the *Service Commun d'Enseignement du Français aux Étudiants Étrangers* (SCEFEE). Students begin their studies with a three-week Preparatory Language Program (PLP) conducted by the SCEFEE 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.

The SCEFEE offers three levels of instruction: *Niveau 1*, *Niveau 2*, and *Niveau 3*. Generally, students with one or two semesters of university French study will be placed in *Niveau 1* or *2*, and students with three to five semesters will be in *Niveau 2*. Students with six semesters or more may expect to be placed in *Niveau 3*. 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.

While it is not necessary to be a French major or minor to study in France, students may want to consider adding a minor or second major to their academic program. Students are advised to check with the French language advisors at their home campus for course crediting information.

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

Academic Calendar

Students arrive in Aix around the middle of August to participate in an orientation and the Preparatory Language Program (PLP). The PLP runs from approximately the end of August to mid September. The fall semester runs from mid September to mid December. The spring semester begins in mid January and runs to late April or early May. These periods are subject to change.

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.

Academic Reporting

In addition to units and grades, the OIP reports each course attempted to the student’s campus by reporting the title of the course taken and the CSU home campus department in which the course is closely related. This method of reporting means that students will need to furnish course descriptions, syllabi, and other course materials to their advisors in order to apply for credit towards specific major, minor, or general education requirements. Students should expect to complete campus-based forms (petitions or course substitution requests) with the assistance of their advisor(s). If courses are not needed for specific degree requirements, then it is usually not necessary to complete any other forms.

Academic Program

At the SCEFEE, 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.

Course Coding

200-299 Lower Division (SCEFEE *Niveau 1*)
 300-399 Upper Division (SCEFEE *Niveau 2*)
 400-499 Upper Division (SCEFEE *Niveau 3*)

ART	Art History	HUM	Humanities
CIV	Civilization	POL	Political Science
FLL	French Language and Literature	SSC	Social Sciences
HST	History		

The 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 *Niveau 1*.

FLL 200 Intermediate French (4)
For students in *Niveau 2*.

FLL 300 Advanced French (4)
For students in *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 level which students will follow during the first semester of the academic year: *Niveau 1*, *Niveau 2*, *Niveau 3*. In placing students into their language classes, each *niveau* is further divided into a number of classes (*groupes*). Students make progress from one level or group to another after the first semester.

SCEFEE 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 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 semester of language study in California), the SCEFEE's *Niveau 1* program 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 a minimum of 6 units in the first semester and 3 units in the second semester to meet the CSU 15-unit requirement. Note that students placed in Niveau I 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 (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 (3)

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

Niveau 2

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 placed in Niveau 2 are required to take a minimum of 6 units in the first semester and 3 units in the second 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.

CIV 330 Introduction to French Culture I (1)

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 (1)

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). A broad overview of Provence from Provençal folklore to twenty-first century life.

CIV 388 French News (1)

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 305 Role Play (1)

Practice of spoken French in small groups (sketches, role play involving topics of daily life, etc.)

FLL 310 Writing Workshop I (1)

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 (3)

More than a theater course, this class 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)

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 Introduction to French Phonetics (3)

The course represents systematic exercises of pronunciation, rhythm, accent and intonation in French. Students will 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.

FLL 322 Practical Phonetics of French (1)

The course represents systematic exercises of pronunciation, rhythm, accent and intonation in French. One hour of lab practice per week.

FLL 332 French Culture and the French "Chanson" (1)

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

FLL 350 Francophone Cinema (3)

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

FLL 360 Business French (1)

Familiarizes students with current, daily economic vocabulary and procedures, including banking, real estate, stock market, French market analysis, work regulations, and company culture. Issues of globalization are also addressed.

FLL 365 World French (3)

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 varied 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.

Niveau 3

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)

Continuation of FLL 401A.

Elective courses:

Students placed in Niveau 3 are required to take a minimum of 9 units in the first semester and 6 units in the second 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 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 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). A broad overview of Provence from Provençal folklore to twenty-first 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 415 From Spoken to Written French II (1)

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 422 Theoretical Phonetics of French (1)

Students will 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.

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 conflicts in the early 21st century.

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.