



## Australia / Flanders / France

**Credits:** 8 ECTS credits

**Instructional hours:** 55+ hours

**Teaching language:** English

**Organising instructor:** Garrett Epp, PhD, *Université Catholique de Lille* (Professor Emeritus, University of Alberta)

**Academic calendar:** January 2020

**Prerequisite:** This program is designed mainly for undergraduate students and is open to students from all study areas. Students should be capable of understanding and speaking academic level English. No prerequisite in French is needed.

### PROGRAM PRESENTATION

This program will offer two separate but related courses for a total of 8 ECTS credits. The first is a beginner-level French language course (18 hours), including an Intercultural Communication module (3 hours), lectures and site visits concerning regional art and architecture, and more. The other course will serve as an interdisciplinary introduction to some of the Lille region's rich history and culture, with a specific, intensive focus on Australia and its role in this region during World War One (40+ hours, half of which are spent in a regular classroom), along with related guided visits and other activities.

The “survival French” course should provide students with a variety of essential language skills and knowledge of French culture, for which the module in Intercultural Communication will provide important context. The “Australia / Flanders” course will introduce students to various aspects of cultural study, including art and film analysis, textual criticism, history and historiography, and more.

The ancient capital of Flanders, Lille is now the capital of France's northerly *Hauts-de-France* region, but retains close associations with the region as a whole. A century ago, in World War One, “Flanders” served to designate virtually the entire cross-border region of the Western Front through Belgium and France. Australia left its mark – and its fallen – in “Flanders fields.”

## “Survival French” – Language and Culture (15+ hours, 2 ECTS credits):

### Course objectives

#### Module 1: French language and culture (15+ hours, beginner level)

To provide students with materials and the resources necessary for them to express themselves through a short series of expressions or easy sentences (such as pertain to daily life, asking directions, ordering at a restaurant, physical description, and other familiar topics); to understand and use common expressions; and to better understand French culture.

- Lexical fields: greetings, numbers, colours, nationalities, days/months/date, physical description, jobs, clothes, common transports, food, everyday activities, feelings, class vocabulary.
- Grammar: conjugation of *have*, *be*, *go*, and first group verbs in the indicative present tense, gender, possessive adjectives, partitive, and negation.
- French culture: introduction to French and regional art, film, architecture, cuisine, and more

#### Module 2: Intercultural Communication (3 hours)

To aid students in understanding and effectively living and learning in different and diverse environments, lending them practical tools for effective intercultural interactions. Through focus on some of the fundamental cross-cultural differences in communication, ways of working and interacting, students will learn how to recognize the influence of “cultural software” on attitudes, behaviours, and communication styles, and to discover their own “cultural blueprints.”

### Methods

- Self-study, dictation, grammatical exercises with multiple examples and both written and oral practice, covering the 5 linguistic skills (listening, speaking, reading, writing and oral interaction).
- Interactive discussion, debates, role play, group work, sharing of experience.
- Lecture, film viewing, field trips

### Materials

To be supplied in class.

### Assessment

Form	Number	Duration	Comments
Final exam (60%)	1	1 hour	
Student participation (20%)			
Attendance (20%)			

## “Australia / Flanders” (40+ hours, 6 ECTS credits):

### Course objectives

By the end of the course, students should:

Acquire knowledge of history, art, film, and cultural studies, with a focus on Australian participation in World War One, in the context of regional French and Flemish culture and history.

### Content

Anzac Day was established to commemorate the 1915 landing of New Zealand and Australian troops at Gallipoli, and their subsequent losses, yet what is still remembered as “the worst day in Australian history” would come a year later at Fromelles, just west of Lille. This region was also the site of notable Australian victories, such as at Hill 60, just across the Belgian border near Ypres, where in 1917 Queensland miners played a crucial role in setting off a massive series of explosions heard across England. Soon afterward, Australian Frank Hurley rose to fame as an official war photographer, his images forever defining “the Great War” – and this region – for many around the world.

Yet the Australian successes have never been as successfully commemorated as the disasters such as Gallipoli, and Hurley’s stunning photographic montages were condemned at the time as “fake.” What are the issues involved in communicating such events and their importance? To answer this question, and more, we will analyse both Hurley’s photographic work and two modern Australian films, *Beneath Hill 60*, (2010) and *An Accidental Soldier* (2013), in relation to their historical and cultural contexts. We will also visit the Fromelles museum and nearby Australian monuments, including the famous Cobbers memorial. We will also cross the border into Belgium to visit two cities associated with the cloth and wool trade:

Bruges, the most perfectly preserved of medieval cities in the region, and Ypres, rebuilt after near total destruction during the war. In Ypres we will attend the Last Post ceremony performed at the Menin Gate Memorial every evening since the 1920s.

**Methods:** Visual presentation, lecture, discussion, field trips, journal writing

**Materials**

To be supplied/shown in class:

*Poizieres* (documentary film, 2000)

*Beneath Hill 60* (feature film, 2010)

*An Accidental Soldier* (TV film, 2013)

*A Basic Glossary of Film Terms*

*A WWI Timeline*

various film clips / photography / texts

**Assessment**

Form	Number	Duration	Comments
Continuous assessment (40%)			Journal entries concerning site visits and works studied
Final exam (40%)	1	90 minutes	A general quiz on all subjects tackled in class
Other (student participation...) (20%)			