

Syllabus – Common course module

Course title:

French Language and Culture

Credits:

3 ECTS credit

Teaching language:

French / English

Target students:

Undergraduate students from all study areas

Coordinating instructor:

Elisabeth Suzana (FLSH / Faculty of Letters and Social Sciences, *Université Catholique de Lille*)

COURSE PRESENTATION

Prerequisite:

This course module is designed as a common course for non-francophone students undertaking a Short Term Program at the *Université Catholique de Lille*, regardless of study area or chosen elective. There is no prerequisite.

Content:

This course module is intended to provide students with linguistic and cultural resources to enable them to make maximum use of their time and study in France. The module will introduce students to various aspects of French life and culture, issues of intercultural communication, and the fundamentals of the French language, including useful phrases for negotiating daily life in France.

The module is divided into three parts:

1. French language (20 hours, taught in French): an introduction to the French language, including basic grammar and vocabulary to allow students to express themselves through a short series of expressions or easy sentences (such as asking directions, ordering at a restaurant, physical description, and other familiar topics); to understand and use common expressions; and to better understand French culture. Specific elements to be covered will include:

- 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

2. Intercultural Communication (3 hours, taught in English): an introduction to the theories and practice of intercultural communication 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.” Topics to be covered will include:

- What is culture and where does it come from?
- How do we learn it and what happens to our sense of it when we travel?
- Stereotypes and generalizations: what is the difference?
- Avoiding judgment: why does it matter?
- How can we decode our experiences: non-verbal communication

3. Seminar on Gastronomy (3 hours, taught in English): This seminar introduces students to

- History of French gastronomy
- Food today, in relation to Sociology
- Eating habits in different regions, in relation to their agricultural production
- Typical French dishes

Practical part

- Visit of a sensory analysis laboratory to do a tasting
- Playful study of a savoury product and of a sweet product
- Visit of the student brewery with an explanation of the brewing process

Learning Outcomes:

By the end of the course, the students should:

- be familiar with important aspects of French culture and daily life, including social French, shopping, food & drink, arts, governance and commerce, and geography
- understand some fundamental theories of intercultural communication, and the impact of culture on the attitudes and behaviours of those around them, as well as on themselves
- understand and be able to use and generate a variety of common phrases and sentences in French, related to daily life in France

WORKLOAD

French contact hours = 60 minutes (in some countries/institutions, 1 contact hour = 45 minutes)

Form:	Number of hours	Comments
Face-to-face, in-class, on-site learning (taught in French)	20 hours	
Face-to-face, in-class, on-site learning (in English)	6	2 sessions of 3 hours (French Gastronomy; Intercultural Communication)

Visit of Lille	2 hours	Guided visit
Approximate personal work / homework	7 hours	
Student total workload	35 hours	

EDUCATIONAL METHODS

Lecture, interactive discussion, role play, experience sharing

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)

RESOURCES

A variety of readings and exercises will be supplied in class, drawn largely from the following:

- *Ici A1*, CLE International
- *Agenda A1*, Hachette
- *Totem A1*, Hachette
- *Alter ego A1*, Hachette
- *Intro Méthode de Français*, CLE International
- *Tendances A1*, CLE international
- *Cosmopolite A1*, Hachette

ASSESSMENT

Form	Number	Duration	Comments
Final exam (50%)	1	3 hours	Oral examination covering all aspects of course
Student participation (50%)			Attendance, participation, and contribution to group discussion

This syllabus is based on information available at the time of publication (November 2018). Changes may occur. For updated information about course content, please contact us: lsp@univ-catholille.fr