

Syllabus – Elective Course

Course title:

Thinking-With the World: Making, Experience and Contemporary French Thought

Credits:

6 ECTS credits

Teaching language:

English

Target students:

Students in Communication, Humanities, Social Sciences, Arts.

Teacher in charge of the course:

Lily Lloyd Burkhalter (Clarife – Centre de Langues et Interculturel, *Université Catholique de Lille*)

COURSE PRESENTATION

Prerequisite:

Students undertaking this course should have successfully completed at least one semester at university or have equivalent experience. They must have some ability to work as a group and be able to communicate easily in English at a standard university level. In other respects, the course is intended to serve a mix of profiles and learning backgrounds for a more diverse international learning experience.

Content:

This course invites students to engage deeply with a contemporary current of French and European thinkers who challenge traditional notions of objectivity, detachment, and the separation between humans and the world around them. We will also explore how artists engage with these questions through their work and consider how art can open up new understandings of what it means to think, feel, and be in relation. Special attention will be paid to material practices and artistic approaches that question, expand or subvert the definition of art itself.

Using select museums of the Lille Metropol as its experiential foundation, this course is organized in four modules:

- Art Brut, Outsider Art, or “What Exactly *Is* Art?” (*LaM*)
- Spatial Relations & Local Histories: The Artist and His/Her Environment (*La Piscine de Roubaix*)
- Material Practices & Blurred Lines: Art? Craft? Technology? (*La Manufacture*)
- The Self & Slow Looking (*Palais des Beaux-Arts*)

In the first session of each module, students will gain familiarity with French and European art theory and expression. The second session, to be held in a local museum, will invite students to deeply engage with these ideas through experiential exercises using the museum collections. Returning to the classroom in the third session, students will expand their work through peer learning, evaluating how their own backgrounds might inform their ways of looking at and thinking about art. Student experiments and inquiries will culminate in group curatorial projects that situate art production in specific cultural contexts.



Learning Outcomes:

At the end of the course, students will gain:

- A deeper appreciation of how French art and theory converge to offer new ways of knowing and relating to the world.
- Experience with experimental forms of inquiry through artistic and material-based exploration
- The ability to situate cultural productions—comparing other practices and evaluating how cultural context shapes art theory and expression.

WORKLOAD

French contact hours = 60 minutes (in some countries/institutions, 1 contact hour = 45-50 minutes)

Form	Number of hours	Comments
Face-to-face, in-class, on-site learning	39 hours	13 sessions of 3 hours.
Approximate personal work/homework	15 hours	
Student total workload	54 hours	

EDUCATIONAL METHODS

Lecture, collaborative team work, field research and project work, case studies, and presentations.

RESOURCES

All course materials will be supplied in class. Students will need their computer for the course.

ASSESSMENT

Form	Number	Hours	Comments
Continuous assessment (50%)	1		Individual portfolio—mini projects in 4 modules (5pt each)
Final exam (50%)	1		Group assessment—Imaginary Museum

This syllabus is based on information available at the time of publication (January 2026). Changes may occur.

For updated information about course content, please contact us: lilleprograms@univ-catholille.fr