Syllabus – Elective Course

Course title:

The Environment of Northern France

Credits:

6 ECTS credits

Teaching language:

English

Target students:

College students who would like to know more about this world in which we live, gain understanding of how the natural environment can shape society, and explore unique aspects of Lille and the Northern France region.

All majors welcome.

Teacher in charge of the course:

KT Moran, P.G.

KT Moran is a licensed Professional Geologist with over 20 years' experience in the Environmental Field. She has been a groundwater expert for the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, an exploration Geologist for an oil company, a Principal Project Manager and Senior Hydrogeologist for Civil Engineering firms. Her projects include environmental management of sites such as wastewater treatment plants, industrial facility waste, military unexploded ordnance, and coastal sedimentary systems. As an educator, she directs Study Abroad and Global Studies programs with foci on environmental and geoscience experiential learning. She manages a US National Science Foundation Grant that takes students to the Florida Keys to snorkel the reefs and support their restoration. Her attention in Lille is toward eco-societal dynamics and GeoHeritage sites. With the conversational and hands-on learning style of this professor, learning outside and playing outside happen together!

COURSE PRESENTATION

Prerequisite:

To take this course, the students should have a good university level and should normally have completed at least one semester at university. They must have some ability to work as a group, work outside, 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.

Learning Outcomes:

At the completion of this course, students should be able to demonstrate knowledge of general environmental science concepts and be able to:

- Understand basic ecological concepts as they relate to environmental science topics.
- Apply the scientific method and interdisciplinary approaches to define and analyze natural conditions and situations from local and global perspectives.
- Engage in problem solving to explore solutions to sustainability issues.
- Critically evaluate scientific issues as a basis for informed decision-making.
- Discuss the diverse and complex relationships between humans and the environment.

Content:

Let's get outside and explore the Hauts-de-France region - known for its art, culture, industry, and architecture! This environmental science course looks beyond the walls of museums and classrooms to understand how landscapes and natural materials forged the unique features of this remarkable region. Witness the interplay between the physical environment and society to discover:

How:	and	Why:
- architecture is defined by local geology		- canals controlled the city grid
- the shape of the land inspired trade routes		- local geography was weaponized
- wastelands became biodiversity sites		- mining helped textile production

Location topics include: The Citadel fortress, the stylish Vieux-Lille, Roubaix trade routes, canals of Notre-Dame de la Treille, the Pas-de-Calais mining basin, ancient Roman quarries, and the Opal Coast Geoheritage site. Classic environmental concepts of terrain and ecodynamics are taught through some lectures, several hands-on exercises, and even more field trips.

The future of both our society and Earth's systems will depend in large part on how humans interact with the environment.

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	Class sessions, labs, field trips, assignments.
Approximate personal work/homework	15 hours	Preparation, travel, study.
Student total workload	**54 hours**	

EDUCATIONAL METHODS

Lecture, discussion, presentations, laboratory activities, field trips, sharing of experiences, group work, guided visits, self-directed research, and on-site education. Hybrid course modality.

RESOURCES

All course materials will be supplied in class. References may be made to the following resources:

- Online Textbook (no cost to student).
- PowerPoint and Video materials.
- Independent Research as assigned.
- Professor Lectures.

ASSESSMENT

Form	Number and amount	Minimum points possible	20 Point Equivalent
Session Assignments	13, 12 retained at 80 points each	960	19.2
Field Notebook	1 at 40 points	40	0.8
	Total Course Points	**1000**	**20**

The course grade is based on total POINTS accrued. No averages, percentages, or curves of any kind are used to calculate the grade.

This syllabus is based on information available at the time of publication (November 2026). Changes may occur. For updated information about course content, please contact us: *lilleprograms@univ-catholille.fr*