

Summer in Montpellier 2014 Course Offerings & Descriptions

All courses are worth a total of 4.5 credits

Students take a total of 3 courses on this program for 13.5 credits.

ANTH 499: French Culture and Civilization

France is a place and a nation, but it is also the center of many European mythologies. French civilization is known around the world for art, film and cuisine. France's once mighty empire carried its culture to the farthest corners of the planet, making "high culture" synonymous with "French culture" from Louisiana to Quebec and from West Africa to South-East Asia. Many historians argue that ideas such as human rights and the modern nation state originate in France. Perhaps we are all, at some level, participants in French culture.

This class will explore real country beyond these myths. Can we escape our own received ideas to understand the lives of French people? In this class we use some of France's own national obsessions and myths to see what they say about the real France. Of course, something like France will be all around us in Paris and Montpellier and we will strive to take full advantage of our location. Why, for instance, do the French persist in thinking of themselves as a nation of peasants? Why is immigration an object of fear and loathing for so many French people when France has long been a country formed by immigration? In a country obsessed with its past, how do French people come to terms with the self-inflicted wounds of the Second World War and decolonization? Can France remain a world power - in cultural, if not political and economic terms - in an era dominated by McDonald's, Coca-Cola and Mickey Mouse?

ANTH 499: Food and Culture

When it comes to food, it sometimes seems like we live in a world of endless plenty. In North America and Europe, at least, the supermarkets are nearly always full, displaying thousands of items, from fruits and vegetables, to carefully packaged meats, breads, dairy and an endless variety of snacks, meals, and beverages. As a result of globalization and modern transportation, we are no longer bound by seasons, so we can eat whatever we desire, whenever we desire it. Yet in the middle of this cornucopia, we worry. Americans (and Europeans too) are increasingly obese, bringing on a series of health consequences previously uncommon in human history. We are unsure of the sustainability of our food system and wonder if we can continue to produce and distribute food with little or no regard for seasons or regions. We worry about the consequences of sharp inequalities in food access within our own societies and between our societies and others.

This course will bring an anthropological perspective to the study of our contemporary food system. We will begin by asking why people eat what they eat. Not everyone agrees on what food is, so our first task will be to try and understand how people figure that out. We will examine how the definition of food, along with the ways in which it is produced and distributed, shapes and is shaped by society and culture. Food, we will see, plays a central role in the organization of kinship, relations between social classes, the practice of politics, and the shape of religious life. We will examine the relationship between changing systems of food production and distribution and the structure of societies. We will raise questions about how our food system participates in globalization, from questions of inequality, to cultural homogenization, potential loss, and creativity. We will use the resources available to us in Montpellier—farmers markets, wine makers, cheese producers, artisanal chocolate makers, Slow Food advocates, and local scholars—to explore what distinguishes French food thinking and practices from those in the United States.

FMST 265: French Culture in Film – required for all Drexel students

The Development of Western Cinema-A Historian's Perspective-French Culture in Film.

What is France? What is French Culture? How is French Culture represented in Film? These will be the central questions of this course. We will view and analyze French films centering on aspects of French Culture. The presentations will consist of classical and contemporary productions in order to discuss the changing nature of culture and social norms.

HIST 298: The French Revolution and Napoleon

La Révolution française en France! What a fantastic location in which to study and immerse ourselves in this pivotal period in European history. Beginning with an analysis of the state of European and French affairs in the early 18th century, we will progress to the outbreak of revolution in 1789 and the spread of the ideas of liberty, equality and fraternity. The Paris weekend will be a living reflection of the revolution and Napoleonic periods as we visit important sites and discuss their relevance. Montpellier will be our laboratory for the study of the revolution in the south of France and Napoleon's policies.

Pertinent field trips will be scheduled on site.

MUSIC 380: A Survey of Western French Culture through Music

The Development of Western Music – A survey of French Culture and Music. What are some of tools of music? How do musical forms such as Jazz, Classical Music, and 20th century music transcend cultures? We will learn basic music concepts that make up all forms of music. We will discuss music of French Classical composers, Jazz composers and current genres such as music of the 20th century. The presentations will consist of classical and contemporary music in order to discuss the changing nature of culture and social norms.

MUS 380: Field Research In The Arts

European travel provides the backdrop for various musical experiences, such as formal concerts, jazz concerts, outdoor festivals, and the troubadour experience of local musicians playing outdoors. We will discuss French music, French composers, jazz composers and the influence of Jazz as it relates to French music. We will also discuss the development of musical styles as it relates to European and American music. Pertinent Field trips will be scheduled on site. Montpellier will be the center for the study of all types of music. La Place de la Comedie consists of the 2 opera houses, the Berlioz opera house and la Place de la Comedie opera house where various musical events take place. Le Festival de la Radio is month long festival of orchestral and chamber concerts. La Place de la Comedie is also where many of the local musicians perform traditional French music as well as Hip-Hop and jazz music.

FREN 499: Tales from the South

Drunken monks, dancing popes (on the Pont d'Avignon of course!), a goat who speaks and yearns for freedom, a resentful mule who waits seven years to seek revenge, a man with a brain made of gold... These are some of the characters we will encounter in the famous collection of tales Les Lettres de Mon Moulin by Alphonse Daudet. We will also read excerpts from Marcel Pagnol's Jean de Florette, a gripping story of greed, deception and revenge in the hills north of Marseille. We will watch and discuss the movies Jean de Florette and Manon des Sources. There will be a mid-term and a final examination.

French Language Instruction

Students may choose to take a French Language course in Montpellier, which requires a placement test upon arrival. French language courses offered are as follows:

Basic French I

Basic French II

Intermediate French I

Intermediate French II

French Conversation (pre-requisite FREN 201)

Conversation, oral discussions, interpretations, and reports; practice of the spoken language. Conversation, interpretations and reports for practicing the spoken language. This course will give students of the language the opportunity to improve their oral proficiency in French.

FREN 3090 Advanced Practical French (pre-requisit FREN 202)

Intensive instruction in the French language taught in France or in a French-speaking country and open only to students in the UNO-Montpellier Summer School or similar programs. Particular emphasis is placed on oral proficiency, socio-linguistic competence, and cultural awareness. This course offers intensive instruction in the French language, through the use of Montpellier itself as the textbook. Students will read and discuss a pre-prepared packet of cultural readings and will complete a series of practical tasks in the city, (such as getting information at the tourist bureau, going to the grocery, buying public transportation tickets, and interviewing people). Students will also complete brief assignments during excursions outside the city. Particular emphasis will be placed on oral proficiency, socio-linguistic competence, and cultural awareness. The class will be conducted in French.