Year-Long Studies in Paris

Cultural studies

international@iesa.edu
www.iesa.edu
Aims

Our year-long programmes are aimed at students who want to experience living in Paris and learning about French history, culture and the arts. Typically our students are humanities majors but our courses fulfil general requirements for non-humanity majors as well. Taught in English, the year’s studies offer an unparalleled experience to live and work in Paris. The program offers a variety of subjects to choose from that range from general introductory courses to more specialised, in-depth studies.

Based at the Institut d’Etudes Superieures des Arts in the heart of Paris, students are within easy access of all the major Parisian monuments and museums. During their stay in Paris, students are encouraged to explore all aspects of Parisian life, and the course program is structured to give students time to explore this most beautiful of cities. There is a one weekend study trip to a French region and a day excursion to a chateau outside Paris offered each semester, which allows students to experience French cultural heritage first hand. In addition there are a range of opportunities for extra-curricular activities outside the course timetable. Whether starting or needing to improve their French, everyone is given the opportunity to learn both in class and in their daily activities.
Course outline

The program begins with a month-long induction in the French language and an introduction to French politics and history, culture and daily life; French food, film and crafts. Following this first month, students continue with course options ranging from introductory course on French literature, history and art history to more specialised topics such as French cinema, the tradition of French landscape painting or modern history and politics. The options may vary in each semester with a core list, which are: French language, art and civilisation, history of the French theatre and the art of the Impressionists. Further more specialised subjects may be offered in addition to these core courses.

After completing the first semester at the end of December, students then begin the New Year with a two-month internship in Paris before resuming studies at the beginning of March. During the second semester, they add further specialist topics to their curriculum.

Summary timetable for the year

- September: Induction: French Art and Civilisation
- October- December: Semester one
- Mid January/ February: internship/project
- March-June: Semester two
- August: hand in dissertation

The Course Syllabus

French Language and Culture: (3 CREDITS)
French language is offered either at beginners level (101) or intermediate/advanced (201 and 301). The course concentrates on building basic skills in speaking, reading and writing. Taught by French, trained language instructors, the small classes and workshops encourage student participation. More advanced students will learn the vocabulary to help them apply their French act to the classes on French history and culture. Each week concentrates on key grammar exercises and useful communication skills.

French culture classes are taught in English alongside the French language courses, so as to immerse the student in French life and culture and acting as an introduction to the following more specialist options in the second half of the semester. Two sessions each week cover the structures of French society and its history- from how France came into being to the structures of French government and society; particular attention is given to the French educational system, French cuisine, wine and the luxury trades.
Options or electives

After the first introductory month, students take the electives they have previously selected from the choice offered each semester. Each course runs for 45 hours over the final 11 weeks of the semester. Some of the possible options include the following but not all will be taught each semester. Students may choose their electives over the year of study to individualise their studies and to build the program of their choice.

Core electives (offered every semester)

(102 or 202) FRENCH LANGUAGE (3 credits)
The course concentrates on building basic skills in speaking, reading and writing. Taught by native French speakers, the small classes act as a support to the French civilisation and art courses offered on the semester programme. Each week concentrates on key grammar exercises and appropriate communication skills. This course is offered both semesters.

201: FRENCH HISTORY AND CULTURE (3 credits)
Covering the development of French history from the Middle Ages to the twentieth century, the program’s focus is on the creation of the French state but also looks at foreign policy over the period to bring out the role of France in its European context. Starting with the creation of Paris as the capital of the new country, classes cover such topics as the development of the absolute monarchy under Louis XIV, the reasons for the French Revolution, the complex politics between republicans and monarchists during the 19th century and the impact of two world wars on France. Visits to important historical sites in Paris add to the experience and understanding of France’s rich history. Assignments take the form of final exam and two essays chosen on specific topics from a range of options.

201 THE HISTORY OF FRENCH THEATRE (3 credits)
From the Renaissance to the twentieth century, French theatre has been a dominating force in European culture and its great plays known and performed throughout the world. The course program introduces the theatre in France during the Renaissance, when plays were performed at courtly events. The program then sets the work of major figures, Molière, Racine from the early modern period and Sartre and Cocteau in the twentieth century in context, looking at performance practice and staging as well as the literature. The focus of assignments is the required reading for class discussion. Two short essays and an exam are also required.

301: PARIS IN THE AGE OF THE IMPRESSIONISTS (3 credits)
Of all artistic movements, the Impressionists provide one of the most fascinating and difficult to understand. How such revolutionary ideas came into being and how the artists saw themselves is one aspect of study. Equally important to understand are the social, economic and political conditions in which these artists worked. In studying the movement of the Impressionists in depth between c1870 to c1900, placed within the history of the city in which the art was created, students gain a broader understanding, not just of the works of art that were
created, but the context in which this happened. Assignments take the form of comparative visual exercises, tests and one long essay.

**Further options**

**201: FRENCH ART AND ARCHITECTURE (3 credits)**
The course gives a chronological narrative of French art from its great Gothic cathedrals to the artists of the twentieth century who made Paris their home. Attention is given to the visual understanding of the works through weekly visits to Paris museums and buildings. Through the study of specific artists, their sources and influences, French art is placed in its intellectual and social context, thus enabling the student to see art also as a reflection of the society that created it. Assignments take the form of comparative visual exercises, tests and two essays covering the two main periods under discussion: before and after 1800.

**201: THE TRADITION OF FRENCH LANDSCAPE PAINTING: From the Renaissance to the Impressionists (3 credits)**
This innovative course takes the subject of the development of landscape painting from its origins in Italy to its flowering and development in France. The genre of the landscape became an independent form at the beginning of the seventeenth century, but it drew on the *poesies* of Titian and Giorgione as well as the 16th century Flemish tradition of Patenir, Brueghel, Elsheimer and Bril. Through visits and lectures, students explore its development in 17th-century France to the great landscapes of the 19th century, such as Courbet, Corot or the Barizon school, finishing with the revolutionary works of the Impressionists.

**201: FRENCH LITERATURE (3 credits)**
French literature played an enormously important role in European culture. This course offers the opportunity to read some of these masterpieces in the context of their history and culture. Core lectures provide essential background to the development of the novel from Rousseau to Victor Hugo, ending with the great writers of the twentieth century. Each class consists of an hour-long lecture followed by a workshop on the key texts. Assigned reading forms an integral part of the course work and weekly workshops develop in-depth knowledge of the core texts. Assignments take the form of short literary critical exercises, one major essay and a final exam.

**201/301: THE HISTORY OF FRENCH CINEMA (3 credits)**
With names such as Cocteau, Renoir, French cinema has played an enormously important role in the cultural life, not just of France but of art cinema throughout the world. This course program takes the story of how cinema was created in the early twentieth-century to what it is today, placing the main trends in their artistic and cultural context. The course covers the work of key directors, analyses their styles and technical developments so that students gain a deep insight into movie making as well as artistic direction. Course work includes critical and comparative analyses in the form of worksheets and essays. There will be a final exam at the end of the semester.
301/2: THE FRENCH TOUCH: ART HERITAGE, CULTURE AND BRANDING (6 credits)
Run over both semesters, this strand offers the opportunity to explore the history of the luxury trades in France and their inter-relationship with the arts. Sessions in the first semester cover the art of the table, with a history of ceramics and glass; fashion and accessories, jewellery and watches. In the second semester, students study marketing tools, branding issues and the impact of the luxury trade on the contemporary art scene, and the important foundations and art sponsorship of the luxury industry. In addition to the core lectures, students at post BA level can take further seminars and deliver projects to give a greater in-depth understanding of the field. Assignments for all students include essays throughout the year.

301/2 DISSERTATION (3 credits)
Students who wish to add further credits to their year’s program may opt to write a dissertation of 10,000 words on one of the topics offered in the lecture program under the supervision of a tutor, who will be assigned to them in consultation with the program director, once they have chosen their field of interest. Working independently throughout the year, this option can provide students with the opportunity to develop more specialist skills, study a specific area – whether history, art history or cultural studies and carry out individual research. Credits are given at undergraduate level and in consultation with the student’s university.

Sample Timetable - Part one

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With final exams or presentations in the final 4th week

Part two

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With final exams or presentations in the final 12th week
Core Faculty

Classes are taught by specialists within the IESA teaching faculty and associated lecturers from the academic and commercial worlds. The Academic Director of the programme, Adriana Turpin, heads the MA courses run by IESA and validated by the University of Warwick.

Adriana Turpin, FSA, MA Courtauld and MA Oxford
With MAs from the University of Oxford and the Courtauld Institute of Art, London, Adriana Turpin was Senior Tutor, Sotheby's Institute of Art, London, before becoming Director of IESA UK and Academic Director of IESA's International, English programs. Adriana has written extensively on the history of collecting, with articles on Cosimo I de' Medici and his collections of New World art for Curiosity and Wonder, eds R.J. Evans and A. Marr; the furniture collections of William Beckford in An Eye for the Magnificent, ed. D. Ostergaard; ‘Furnishing the Merchant’s House’, in City Merchants and the Arts, ed. M. Galinou as well as many articles on late seventeenth-century furniture. She has taught at George Washington University, Washington, DC, the Bard Graduate Centre, New York, the Victoria and Albert Museum and Birkbeck and Royal Holloway Colleges, London.

Emmanuelle Amiot Saulnier, PhD Paris IV
Emmanuelle Saulnier has written and lectured extensively on late nineteenth-century painting, including the publication of her thesis on nineteenth-century religious art in France by the Musée d’Orsay (which won the Prix du Musée d’Orsay). She wrote the introduction and contributed essays on painting in France and Germany to the exhibition Néo-impressionnisme at the Musée d’Orsay, March 2005. In 2006 she wrote Les Salons de peinture au XXe siècle: Les Expositions officielles parisiennes au 19e siècle, for the Musée de Chi Mei, Taiwan. Lastly in 2009 was published her book on Renoir's drawings in pastels, crayons and red chalk.

Benedicte de Chalon, MA University of Warwick
Benedicte studied Art History at the Sorbonne before going on to complete an MA from the University of Warwick in the History and Business of Art and Collecting, a program offered in partnership with the Wallace Collection and IESA. With a special interest in the eighteenth century, Benedicte then completed a professional training with Nanterre in order to have a national diploma as a Paris guide. Benedicte now teaches at all levels on history and art history, as well as French culture and literature.

Christophe Brouard, Ph.D. in Art History, Ecole Pratique des Hautes Etudes, Paris & Università degli Studi di Udine
With a doctorate in Art History, Christoph Brouard teaches art from the Renaissance to the 19th century. His PhD was on Venetian landscape painting and he has written many articles on the relationship between landscape painting and contemporary ideas of Arcadia. He teaches for IESA and other Parisian schools on old master paintings and in particular, the history of landscape painting. Christophe is publishing a book on the origins of Venetian landscape painting with Brepols and has written many articles on Renaissance studies and the 16th-century landscape tradition, including most recently, Raphael in Padua and Domenico Campagnola’s “teste dipinte (…) et li quadri, ritratti da carte di Raphaello”, in Nicolas Bock & Chris Fischer (eds), Echoes in Art. Florence c. 1500 and Italian Painting,
Guidelines For Students Taking The Courses For Credit:

All courses are structured according to the US academic system. A course at a 201 level is equivalent to studies in the 2nd or 3rd year; a course at level 301 is intended for students in their third or fourth year of college. BA students should choose the number of courses they need to complete their college requirement and the appropriate level. These choices should be made in consultation with college advisors. Students should bring with them a written agreement from their University specifying the number of credits they have chosen and at what level they are taking the course.

The program begins with a one-month introductory course of 3 credits in French Language and Culture. From the second month to the end of the semester, students choose their courses from a list of options including French language and a wide range of Humanities subjects (6-9 credits). The choice of options will be confirmed before the course begins. A minimum of 6 students is required to open an option. On the application form, students should specify their first and second choices and list which alternative options would be accepted in case the options they have chosen are not opened.

For undergraduates taking the year as a further year of study (post BA), students will select a dissertation at the end of the year which provides a further three credits. This strand is supported by methodology sessions and individual tutorials.
Tuition Fees

All fees include welcome and farewell dinners, entries to museums or institutions and other visits that form part of the program. The program includes a weekend trip and a one-day visit on each semester in which the travel, overnight stay and dinner are included as part of the course fees. Accommodation can be included and is either at university halls of residence or in apartments in central Paris. The fees do not include transport within Paris.

Course program without accommodation: 9000 euros

Course program with accommodation:

University residence: single room (9 months)  euros

Sharing an apartment with 1 or 2 other students: 9900 euros