

# Aix, France - IP Bulletin 2010-11

## Introduction

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The IP Bulletin is the International Programs "catalog" and provides academic information about the program in Aix-en-Provence, France.

## General Information

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The program in Aix-en-Provence provides students from a wide range of preparation in French with the opportunity to maximize their knowledge of the language by participating in special instructional programs for non-native speakers. Students are required to have successfully completed a minimum of one term of university French prior to departure.

The organizational relationships of the higher education institutions in Aix-en-Provence are complex and require some explanation. *L'Académie d'Aix-Marseille* consists of three major university institutions, administratively as distinct and independent as the various campuses of the California State University. Aix-Marseille I (U-1), commonly known as the *Université de Provence*, includes the *Faculté des Lettres et Sciences Humaines* in Aix-en-Provence and the *Service Commun d'Enseignement du Français aux Étudiants Étranger*. Aix-Marseille II (U-2), commonly known as the *Université de la Méditerranée*, includes *Faculté de Sciences Economiques* as well as the schools of medicine, pharmacy, and most of the departments of natural science. Aix-Marseille III (U-3), recently renamed *Université Paul Cézanne*, includes, among other instructional and research programs, the *Faculté de Droit*, the *Institut d'Études Politiques*, a section of applied economics,

The International Programs is affiliated with the *Service Commun d'Enseignement du Français aux Étudiants Étranger* (SCEFEE), an academic division of the *Université de Provence*. Students begin their studies with a four-week Preparatory Language Program (PLP) conducted by the SCEFEE. During the academic year, students follow an appropriate course of study according to their competence in French language skills.

The SCEFEE offers three levels of instruction: *Niveau 1*, *Niveau 2*, and *Niveau 3*. Generally, students with one or two semester of university French study will tend to be placed in *Niveau 1* or 2, students with three to five semesters will probably be in *Niveau 2*. Students with six semesters or more may expect to be placed in *Niveau 3*. However, it should be understood that language proficiency, as measured by placement tests, not necessarily the amount of time spent in previous study, is the determining factor.

For additional information, go to: <http://sites.univ-provence.fr/~wscefee/English/Annual%20Courses.html>.

## Academic Calendar

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Students arrive in Aix around the middle of August to participate in an orientation and the Preparatory Language Program (PLP). The PLP runs from approximately the end of August to the end of September. The fall semester runs from early October to December. The spring semester begins in late January and runs to mid-May. These dates are subject to change.

## Academic Culture

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French students learn at a young age that the professor is there for them only during class time. Outside of that structure, professors do not interact with students and tend to be far less accessible than US faculty members. Not only are there no set office hours, most of the time they do not even have an office on campus. They occasionally cancel classes or change meeting times with no prior warning. Students are expected to take responsibility for pursuing their own learning during any breaks in regular class meetings. In general professors expect that students have learnt how to study with little direction in the high school years, so that when they ask their students to "read" Chapter X for the next meeting, they actually mean for the students to "master the content of Chapter X" for next time. This might involve doing related exercises independently and/or performing extra research if not familiar with a term or concept.

### "système D"

French students often rely on "système D," which stands for "Débrouillardise," a French national concept that basically means self-reliance and ways to intelligently beat the system when it does not work well for you. Building a network of friends that can help by sharing information with you or by looking out for you in your classes is a good idea and is a definite component of "système D".

## Assessment and Grading

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Normally the professor awards the student a certain number out of 20 (i.e, 12/20). This number is not a percentage like it might be in the US where 75% is considered a C grade but rather it is more of a qualitative evaluation. So multiplying the number awarded by 5 to find the US equivalent will not work at all. In the case given above, the 12/20 would become a 60% (a very poor grade) while it is in fact more than a passing grade. Content, level, reputation of the university and type of course can also play a factor in "translating" a French grade back to the US system.

## Academic Reporting

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In addition to units and grades, the OIP reports each course attempted to the student's campus by reporting the title of the course taken and the CSU home campus department in which the course is closely related. This method of reporting means that students will need to furnish course descriptions, syllabi, and other course materials to their advisors in order to apply for credit towards specific major, minor, or general education requirements. Students should expect to complete campus-based forms (petitions or course substitution requests) with the assistance of their advisor(s). If courses are not needed for specific degree requirements, then it is usually not necessary to complete any other forms.

## Academic Program

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At the SCEFEE, all students are required to take:

- the equivalent of 15 CSU units each semester.
- French language each semester from the following list of courses (depending on placement): FLL 201; FLL 301A; FLL 301B; FLL 401A; FLL 401B.
- Elective(s) in order to bring the total number of units to 15 units each semester.

### Course Coding

200-299 Lower Division (SCEFEE *Niveau 1*)  
300-399 Upper Division (SCEFEE *Niveau 2*)  
400-499 Upper Division (SCEFEE *Niveau 3*)

ART Art History  
CIV Civilization  
FLL French Language and Literature  
HST History  
POL Political Science

**Important note:** Elective courses listed on the following pages may not be offered each year.

## The Preparatory Language Program

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On arrival in Aix, students take a placement test and are assigned to a course level appropriate to their mastery of the language. In the PLP there are three *niveaux*. General language skills are reviewed and developed during the morning sessions, the emphasis being placed on the functional, i.e. oral, use of these skills. Additional afternoon workshops are offered on culture, history, and politics.

**FLL 100 Elementary French (4)**  
For students in *Niveau 1*.

**FLL 200 Intermediate French (4)**  
For students in *Niveau 2*.

**FLL 300 Advanced French (4)**  
For students in *Niveau 3*.

## Academic Year Courses

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At the end of the PLP, students are given a grade which, with their professors' recommendation, determines the language level which students will follow during the academic year: *Niveau 1*, *Niveau 2*, and *Niveau 3*. *Niveau 1* students are required to take 15 units per semester of French language classes. *Niveau 2* students take 12 units per semester of French language classes. *Niveau 3* students take 9 units per week of French. In placing students into language classes, each *niveau* is further divided into a number of classes (*groupes*). Students may progress from one level to another after the first semester depending on performance.

The number next to each course title in parentheses indicates the unit value for the course.

**Note:** A large majority, but not necessarily all the courses listed below are offered every year.

## *Niveau 1*

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Conceived for students having minimal study of French (corresponding, as a general rule, to one semester of language study in California), the SCEFEE's *Niveau 1* program offers an opportunity to make rapid progress toward fluency in French and some options to explore aspects of the French cultural and literary traditions.

### **Required course:**

#### **FLL 201 Fundamentals of French (15)**

This course is designed for beginning students or students whose French proficiency is minimal. Students will be introduced to different aspects of spoken and written French, which they will be expected to understand and produce. Course content will cover grammar, vocabulary, and spelling and be complemented by intensive laboratory work.

### **Elective courses**

Optional for students enrolled in FLL 201.

#### **CIV 202 Introduction to French Culture (2)**

Students will be introduced to certain aspects of French culture such as the functioning of the 5<sup>th</sup> Republic, the role of women, immigration, the history of the French language, urbanization. Students will view

and read materials taken from newspapers, magazines, TV, radio, etc.

#### **FLL 203 Introduction to French Literature (2)**

Students will be exposed to representative samples of major French authors.

#### **FLL 205 French News (2)**

Immersion into the world of French News. Study of vocabulary and discussion of current cultural and political events. Students also practice writing own their commentaries based on the materials covered in class.

#### **FLL 206 Business French (2)**

Introduction to the world of business. Study of vocabulary and business culture.

## *Niveau 2*

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### **Required course:**

#### **FLL 301A Advanced French IA (12)**

Acquisition and application of the structures of written and spoken French. Special emphasis on vocabulary development and oral comprehension.

#### **FLL 301B Advanced French IB (12)**

Continuation of FLL 301A. See above.

### **Elective courses:**

A minimum of 3 units is required each semester to fulfill the CSU 15 unit requirement.

#### **CIV 385 The "Provence" (3)**

The study of the Provence region, its history, geography, traditions and literature. Students will also read selections and view films from authors and directors of this region.

#### **FLL 305 Role Play (3)**

Practice of spoken French in small groups (sketches, role play involving topics of daily life, etc.)

#### **FLL 310 Writing Workshop (3)**

Practice of written French emphasizing creativity, play on words, French sounds and the discovery of literary genres.

#### **FLL 315 From Spoken to Written French I (3)**

This seminar emphasizes the transposition of spoken to written French and vice versa. Students will learn how to use French language in various contexts. This seminar is a preparation for the DELF/DALF test at the end of the academic year and will include an in-depth analysis and practice of French grammar and syntax.

#### **FLL 320 French Phonetics I (3)**

Systematic exploration and practice of contemporary French pronunciation, rhythm and intonation.

#### **FLL 330 Introduction to French Culture (3)**

Students will explore contemporary French culture and society through the analysis of various documents (newspaper articles, TV programs, etc.).

#### **FLL 331 French Culture and Multimedia (3)**

Online-based exploration of French culture through a variety of comprehension, reading and writing exercises. Personalized practice of French based on selective internet activities. Students will contribute to the blog "Invitation aux voyages".

#### **FLL 332 French Culture and the French "Chanson" (3)**

A historical, cultural and social analysis of the French "chanson" and the works by author-composers of the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century.

#### **FLL 340 Introduction to French Literature (3)**

This course will acquaint students with literature and culture, as well as improve their reading skills. Through the study of representative texts from different centuries, students will develop an understanding of the evolution of literary genres and movements.

#### **FLL 350 French Cinema (3)**

Students will view, study, and analyze the work of major French film makers.

#### **FLL 360 Business French (3)**

Familiarizes students with current, daily economic context, vocabulary and procedures, including banking, real estate, stock market, French market analysis, work regulations, company culture, and issues of globalization.

#### **HST 360 French History through Literature (3)**

The study the major historical events and intellectual developments in France using various textual sources.

## **Niveau 3**

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### **Required course:**

#### **FLL 401A Advanced French IIA (9)**

The goal of *Niveau 3* language instruction is the mastery of an expanded vocabulary, along with varied, appropriately chosen and accurate grammatical structures. The emphasis is placed on written expression, but a great deal of time is devoted to oral expression, especially to the discussion of selected texts. Sessions in the language laboratory are an integral part of the course.

#### **FLL 401B Advanced French IIB (9)**

Continuation of FLL 401A. See above.

### **Elective courses:**

A minimum of 6 units is required each semester to meet the CSU 15 unit requirement.

#### **ART 475 Introduction to French Art (3)**

Students will be introduced to French Art in general and the Impressionist movement in particular.

#### **ART 480 History of French Art from 1850 to 1914 (3)**

Students will be exposed to and study the works of the major French artists of this time period with a particular emphasis on the Impressionist movement. Through the study of art, students will discover various aspects of the social, political and economic reality of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century.

#### **CIV 480 French Civilization (3)**

Historical, political and social aspects of French civilization

#### **FLL 410 Advanced French Conversation (3)**

Students will practice their speaking and comprehension skills in small groups and as individual speakers.

#### **FLL 415 From Spoken to Written French II (3)**

This seminar emphasizes the transposition of spoken to written French and vice versa. Students will learn how to use French language in various contexts. This seminar is a preparation for the DELF/DALF test at the end of the academic year and will include an in-depth analysis and practice of French grammar and syntax.

#### **FLL 420 French Phonetics II (3)**

Systematic exploration, analysis and practice of contemporary French pronunciation, rhythm, accentuation, and intonation.

#### **FLL 425 Advanced French Grammar (3)**

Study of modern French syntax and morphology

#### **FLL 426 Advanced French Syntax and Composition I (3)**

Stylistic analysis of texts by several French authors of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Through the study of vocabulary, grammar, syntax and rhetorical figures of these authors, students will develop and practice their own writing skills in French.

#### **FLL 427 Advanced French Syntax and Composition II (3)**

Only for students who have successfully passed SCE 426. Continuation of the work done in SCE 426 with a particular emphasis on the usage of words in contexts and the etymology of words.

#### **FLL 428 French Spelling (3)**

Study of French grammatical and lexical spelling rules. Practice of dictation. This seminar is reserved for students who need extra help in this area.

#### **FLL 430 Francophone Literature I: Maghreb and Africa (3)**

Overview of Francophone literature from the North to the South of Africa.

#### **FLL 431 Francophone Literature II: West Indies (3)**

Overview of Francophone literature from the French speaking islands in the Caribbean.

#### **FLL 435 Immigrant Literature and Film (3)**

Students will analyze the literature and films of immigrants: autobiography, novel, short story, film.

#### **FLL 440 French Literature (3)**

French literature survey course. Century or content to be determined.

#### **FLL 443 The French Novella (3)**

Through the study of several contemporary novellas, students will develop an appreciation and understanding of this genre. Prerequisite: Students must have successfully passed the "Advanced French Syntax and Composition" course in the previous semester.