



## SELF PROGRAM 2025/2026

### Introduction to French Culture & Civilization

Alma-Pierre BONNET

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### Course information

**Number of credits :** 2 credits

**Contact hours :** 10 hours

**Hours taught per week :** 1 hour

**Teaching period :** Fall & Spring Semester 2025-2026

### Course description :

#### FALL SEMESTER

1. French regions 1
2. French regions 2
3. French art de vivre (gastronomy and diplomacy + everyday meal)
4. French art de vivre (luxury; culture; national celebrations)
5. **EXAM 1**

6. Political system
7. Cinquième république
8. Educational system
9. French economy & society
10. **EXAM 2**

### **SPRING SEMESTER**

1. Founding myths and key historical figures 1 (Vercingetorix and Astérix).
2. Founding myths and key historical figures 2 (religion and Joan of Arc).
3. Founding myths and key historical figures 3 (Napoléon).
4. Founding myths and key historical figures 4 (De Gaulle and Macron).
5. **EXAM 1**
6. France and the world 1 (general approach + foreign policy)
7. France and the world 2 (hard power)
8. France and the world 3 (diplomacy)
9. France and the world 4 (cultural and sport diplomacy)
10. **EXAM 2**

### **Prerequisites :**

None

### **Course objectives:**

The aim is to provide a panorama of French culture both in its more formal and its more popular aspects. A special effort will be made to link the course content to the students' presence in Lyon/Rhône-Alpes region, thus providing an "applied culture" dimension to the course. To summarize, the goal is to instruct the students in French culture so as to make the stay as enriching and pleasant as possible. The class is a lecture class with frequent use of images and brief video excerpts.

### **Assessment:**

Midterm: 1 hour in-class multiple choice exam, about 30 questions

Final : 1 hour in-class multiple choice exam, about 30 questions

## Attendance:

In order to participate, students must be present. Nevertheless, a maximum of 2 (two) unexcused absences will be allowed; otherwise no mark will be given. An unexcused absence at a test (final test or continuous assessment) means no credits for the course.

## Bibliography:

There is no mandatory reading for this class.

John Ardaigh, Cultural Atlas of France, Facts on File, 1991

Patrick Boucheron, France in the World: A New Global History, Other Press, 2019

Roger Price, A Concise History of France, Cambridge UP, 2014

Graham Robb, The Discovery of France, Picador, 2008

Nick Yapp, Xenophobe Guide to the French, Oval Books, 2008

Theodore Zeldin, The French, Vintage, 1997