



FR 251 – FRENCH LANGUAGE & CULTURE: EMERGING INDEPENDENT ABROAD I
IES Abroad Paris

DESCRIPTION:

This course aims to review and deepen your knowledge of French (grammar, vocabulary, etc.) so that you can improve both written and oral communication. Because our course is only 5 weeks long, we will immerse ourselves in culture through our visits throughout the city and through your daily experiences. To save time, you will have homework in two exercise books (grammar and vocabulary) that you will purchase. The exercises will not be corrected in class because you will also purchase the answer books. In any case, we can always discuss any difficulties you may encounter in class. This autonomous work will allow us to concentrate on more creative, real-world activities. We will work on written and oral comprehension and expression using various documents such as news articles, advertisements or interviews. This will be organized according to predetermined themes (see tentative calendar). These themes will be linked to your life in Paris (being in a host family, at school, etc.), and will extend to general life in France. The themes will be elaborated upon in the beginning of the class (and particularly in the context of grammatical points studied during the summer session). You will be reading newspapers, magazines, online articles and other documents. You will have to write about your Parisian experiences in French once a week on the Moodle forum (prompts will be provided throughout the course). Try in any way possible to practice using the vocabulary and grammar that you learn through each article. I strongly suggest that you listen to the French radio (French music is also amazing!!!), to go see films, read newspapers and/or magazines. You can read them in the IES library and online. You can also borrow CDs of French music, DVDs and books.

Research has shown that studying abroad can improve language skills in all aspects, and more specifically in developing skills related to social interactions. Students who study abroad will be able to distinguish communication nuances by asking for something, excusing oneself or complimenting someone. In addition, they will be more capable of interpreting specific country-related situations of communication, which is very difficult to master in a second language class. (IES Abroad MAP for Language and Intercultural Communication, p. 6).

CREDITS: 6 credits

CONTACT HOURS: 90 hours

LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION: French

PREREQUISITES: completed level **FR 201 Novice Abroad III** of IES Abroad, determined by the placement test

STUDENT PROFILE:

Students in this class should have mastered the skills in the Novice Abroad level, as defined in the IES Abroad *MAP for Language and Intercultural Communication*, and they should be particularly capable of expressing themselves in diverse everyday subjects. Even if they have already learned certain skills at this level, they will nevertheless have to practice the language in context to better master these skills. They should be able to take courses in our partner universities that are provided for abroad students and/or that require passive linguistic participation (art studios, dance, etc.).

As they will have acquired more confidence and have become aware of their skills, they will try to communicate with others, which will paradoxically assume that they risk exposing themselves to misunderstandings or frustrations. They will nevertheless develop more cultural open-mindedness and skills to face situations where they must adapt to the local culture and learn to recognize their language autonomy. They will begin to appreciate the value of the language and their intercultural skills.

This course is built from skills seen at the level Novice Abroad. At the end of this course, the student will have started to develop a certain confidence in the domain of communication and culture necessary to communicate in moderately complex situations, including examples described in the *Learning outcomes* below.

ADDITIONAL COST: None

METHOD OF PRESENTATION:



This course is founded on the theories of the communicative approach where the students and professor will work in a collaborative manner, will conceptualize new structures and vocabulary, and will learn from each other (as much by student/professor interactions as by interactions between students). This necessitates work in the classroom as well as outside of class, especially through group projects.

REQUIRED WORK AND FORM OF ASSESSMENT:

- Participation and classroom behavior – 20%
 - Oral participation – 5%
 - Consistent attendance and punctuality – 5%
 - Work ethic – 5%
 - Homework – 5%
- Group project: Treasure Hunt – 20%
 - Treasure Hunt – 10%
 - Oral presentation – 10%
 - **Bonus:** helping other groups – 5%
- Moodle assignments – 20%
 - Homework to post (written or oral expression, quality of vocabulary used) – 10%
 - Online quiz – 5%
 - Words of the week – 5%
- 3 exams (one every two weeks) – 40%

Group Project

In groups of 2-3, you will work on a theme related to Paris (street art, a particular neighborhood, etc.) that will be based on your experience during your stay in Paris. You will create a treasure hunt where you will present your theme by proposing a route to follow in Paris. You will then do an oral presentation. During the semester, you will check in with me regularly on the status of your research and work. In addition, if you help other groups with their projects, you will benefit from extra points on your project (by adding comments to their forum, for example). **WARNING:** This is a presentation, not a reading, so you must speak during the presentation (not read).

Participating in the Forum

You must write a sentence each week that uses a word of the day proposed at IES (see Moodle page). In addition, each of you will take turns presenting the main information (written and/or oral) related to our class visits. You will have to post all of the information on the dedicated forum (see Moodle page). You will also have to post a written and oral assignment in the section “Tests and Online Work” (see Moodle page).

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Students who are placed in this level should be capable of achieving the outcomes in the Novice Abroad level as defined by the IES Abroad *MAP for Language and Intercultural Communication*.

By the end of the course, students will be able to achieve some of the outcomes for the Emerging Independent Abroad level as defined by the *MAP for Language and Intercultural Communication*. The key learning outcomes from the MAP are summarized below:

I. Intercultural Communication

A. Students will be able to solve many daily unexpected situations and meet needs with limited help.

B. Increasingly, students will be able to make informed comparisons between the host culture and the students’ home cultures.



C. Students will be able to distinguish and begin to imitate verbal and non verbal communication that reflects politeness, formality, or informality.

D. Students will be able to recognize some patterns of intonation, their meaning, and cultural implications.

II. Listening

A. Students will be able to understand some interactions of growing complexity, especially if the speaker is used to interacting with non-native speakers (conversations, speeches, etc.), and increasingly comprehend other types of verbal production (media, music, etc.)

B. Students will be able to understand many direct requests, questions, and basic conversations on familiar and concrete topics.

III. Speaking

A. Increasingly, students will be able to talk about persons and things in their immediate environment, as well as their plans and their experiences, and they can provide a limited amount of supporting details.

B. Students will be able to address and attempt to resolve moderately complicated situations (unexpected questions, small group discussions, etc.) involving familiar subjects.

IV. Reading

A. Students will be able to read passages and short texts (advertisements, newspaper articles, recipes, etc.) and understand overall meaning.

B. Students will be able to support their understanding of texts through the use of context, dictionaries, or with the assistance of others at times.

V. Writing

A. Students will be able to communicate with some effectiveness through notes, emails, and simple online discussions and chats with sympathetic native speakers.

B. Students will be able to write short essays on concrete topics of reasonable levels of complexity with some reliance on the communicative patterns of their native language.

ATTENDANCE POLICY:

Attendance is mandatory for all class sessions, including visits. Absences and lateness will not only prevent you from mastering notions developed in class but will also lower your final grade. For each unjustified absence, your final grade will be lowered.

Example:

- Final grade: A-
- 1 absence = A-, 2 absences = B+, 3 absences = B, 4 absences = B- ...



Lateness of fifteen minutes or more counts as an absence. Being late less than fifteen minutes 3 times equates to one absence.

If a student misses at least 25% of a class, the student will receive an F in this class.

If a student is absent the day where an assignment or presentation is due, the student will receive an F for this assignment or presentation.

Depending on the circumstances (sickness with doctor's note, for example), certain absences can be excused. In this case, the student must contact Meghann and Seth as soon as possible.

The student must always inform the professor and Meghann of an absence. (mfedon@iesabroad.org).

CONTENT:

Week	Content	Assignments	MAP Resources
Week 1	1. Functional: politeness; describe an object, introduce someone and oneself, ask someone for information, ask for directions, give directions to someone, present a news article, tell about an event in the past, describe in the past tense 2. Grammatical: • Structure of the French sentence; • Present tense (review); • questions (review); 3. Vocabulary: food, stores 4. Culture: (first impressions of) what to do and what not to do in Paris; differences between French and Americans in their daily lives; French and American stereotypes; introduction to gastronomy, French history, idiomatic expressions, the baguette and croissant during visits	• Grammar exercises (verbs, nouns, adjectives) • Vocabulary exercises • Discover Paris and how it functions	• I.A, I.B, I.C, I.D • II.A, II.B • IV.A, IV.B

Week	Content	Assignments	MAP Resources
Week 2	1. Functional: approve and disapprove of someone, speak of a past event 2. Grammatical: verbs followed by prepositions or not, adjectives • spatial prepositions; • past tense • agreement with past participle (I) • Expressing a wish or obligation – the subjunctive 3. Vocabulary: health, news headlines, expressions of time, differences between verbs (savoir / connaître, revenir / retourner / rentrer), units of measure of quantity 4. Culture: French and American health systems 5. Phonetics: accents	• Grammar and vocabulary exercises • Presentation of a visit (see Moodle) • Oral expression (see Moodle) • Research, questionnaire, and interview with your host family and friends (see Moodle)	• I.D • II.B • III.A • IV.B

Week	Content	Assignments	MAP Resources
Week 3	1. Functional: to approve and disapprove of someone, to congratulate someone, to explain a medical problem; describe a pain or symptom; describe objects, compare, describe a landscape, complain, speak about pros and cons of life in the city and country 2. Grammatical: • Imperfect tense • Past tense / imperfect • Expressions of time (il y a, depuis) • Expression of opinion, certitude, doubt... verbs that indicate the subjunctive and indicative 3. Vocabulary: health, shape of objects, color 4. Culture: education of French parents, French generations, 30-somethings, urban and rural life, immigration in France	• Grammar and vocabulary exercises • Research and discussion on the American and French education system • Presentation of a visit (see Moodle) • Exam 1	• II.A • III.B • IV.B

Week	Content	Assignments	MAP Resources
Week 4	1. Functional: to claim; speak of future events, organize an event, express a hypothesis; speak about an event in the past 2. Grammatical: - Past tense / imperfect / past perfect - Future tense & near future - Pronouns COD and COI (le, la, les, lui, leur) 3. Vocabulary: the shape of objects, color, daily activities (se tenir prêt, s'habiller, faire le ménage ...), revenir, retourner, rentrer 4. Culture: the French and money 5. Phonetics: tenses of the past and present	- Grammar and vocabulary exercises - Questionnaire and interview with your host family and friends (see Moodle) - Presentation of a visit (see Moodle) - Writing assignment (see Moodle)	- II.A - III.B - IV.A
Week 5	1. Functional: to advise; to present ideas; to speak about events in the past, to understand an audio document 2. Grammatical: - Agreement of past participle (II) - Linking words - Relative pronouns 3. Vocabulary: travel and tourism (bagage, billets) 4. Culture: French inventions	- Grammar and vocabulary exercises - Presentation of a visit (see Moodle) Exam 2	- II.B - III.B

Week	Content	Assignments	MAP Resources
Week 6	1. Functional: tell about a past event, repeat a conversation to someone 2. Grammatical: - Pronous en & y, tout - Agreement of past participle (II) - Expression of hypothesis – the conditional 3. Vocabulary: expressions of time 4. Culture: cinematographic genres	- Write a film critique - Presentation of a visit (see Moodle) - Questionnaire and interview with your host family and friends	- IV.B - V.A
Week 7	1. Functional: ask politely, express a hypothesis (II), write a text message, differentiate written and spoken French 2. Grammatical: - Indirect speech in the present tense - Agreement of the past participle III 3. Vocabulary: animals 4. Culture: French symbols (I)	- Grammar and vocabulary exercises - Presentation of a visit (see Moodle) Final exam (grammar, vocabulary, oral comprehension, and written expression)	- I.B - II.A - IV.A

COURSE-RELATED TRIPS:

- Montparnasse and surrounding neighborhoods
- Montparnasse cemetery
- College de Bernardins: Notre Dame de Paris
- Parisian metro stations
- Marais
- Marché boulevard Edgar Quinet
- Canal de l'Ourcq to Canal Saint Martin
- Parisian covered passageways
- Champs Elysées to Opéra
- Gare d'Austerlitz to Mouffetard
- Les Halles and surrounding neighborhood
- Panthéon to Saint Michel
- Parc des Buttes Chaumont
- The Louvre to Saint Michel
- La butte aux cailles



REQUIRED READINGS:

- **Edito niveau B1 méthode de français**, Marion Dufour, Julie Mainguet..., Edition Didier (ISBN : 978-2-278-08773-0)

RECOMMENDED READINGS:

- Dictionnaire du français Le Robert & CLE International, sous la direction de Josette Rey-Debove, 1999
- Bescherelle, la conjugaison pour tous, Hatier (ISBN : 978-2218922626)
- La presse gratuite : À nous Paris, 20 Minutes, Métro Paris, Direct matin...