

College of the Atlantic Immersion Program in French Language and Culture: Vichy, France

This will include weekly class sessions at COA in Winter of 2012 and an 8 week spring program, starting March 19th, 2012, in France. The overall goals of the program are to prepare students to work independently in French on texts in literature and philosophy, to do research and human ecology projects in a Francophone cross-cultural setting and to deal with the challenges of translation between texts in French and English. The program is open to students at all levels of French. Beginners will focus more on language and culture learning during their work on site in France, more advanced students (including, perhaps, those working on senior projects) will focus more on working with primary source texts in French literature and philosophy.

The program will be offered in Vichy, in collaboration with CAVILAM University, a premier, internationally recognized center for teaching and for pedagogical research on learning French as a second language.

For the first four weeks of the spring term, students will take classes in French at their appropriate level. These will include morning and afternoon sessions that will total 20 hours per week. They will also be able to pursue self-study at the University Multimedia Resource Center and learn to use the very effective online learning programs developed by CAVILAM. In weeks 5 through 8, students will continue to take classes in French in the morning and will take classes 4 days a week in the afternoon in French Literature, Philosophy and Culture.

Throughout the term, each student will live with a family in a homestay to provide an enriching immersion experience. They will also take part in a variety of cultural activities including films, sporting events, food tastings and field trips. At the end of the program, students will present, in French, an oral report offering reflections on what they learned in their final project as well as what they have learned about French culture and about their own learning styles and talents. They will also turn in their written paper on their individual project.



As prerequisites, students taking part will be required to take a Winter term course in French at the level appropriate to their skill and to participate in a weekly orientation and preparatory class session which will be held for students going on the program. (This will include some initial substantive study of French literature, philosophy and culture as well as information and exercises to help prepare students for the experience in the spring.)

Students will receive three COA credits for participation in the program. One credit will be for a class in French language taught by faculty at Cavilam. A second credit will be for a course taught by Gray Cox on “Doing Human Ecology in Cross-Cultural Contexts: France” which will include credit for the weekly orientation classes in the winter term, the homestay and cultural experiences and the reflection on them in debriefing sessions during the 8 weeks in France. Karen Waldron and Rose-Marie Chaves will assist in the teaching of this course in the winter term classes and Karen will also be assisting in the final four weeks of the program in France. The third credit will be for a course in “French Literature, Philosophy and Culture” team taught by Karen Waldron and Gray Cox.

The program will be directed by Gray Cox and Karen Waldron who will offer the orientation in the winter term, and accompany students for the program

Course Description

“Doing Human Ecology in Cross-cultural Contexts: France”
Tuesdays 6-8 in Turrets II
Gray Cox – Second Floor Davis, gray@coa.edu, #5712 or #60-1163

This will be one of three credits offered as part of the 2012 program in French Literature, Philosophy and Culture in Vichy, France. It will be closely integrated with the credit for the class on French Literature and Philosophy which will be team taught by Karen Waldron and Gray Cox. It will provide credit for learning in the winter classes on French history and culture and the orientation sessions preparatory for the program as well as, in the spring, the homestay in Vichy, the other cultural experiences that are a part of the program, journaling and debriefing and reflective activities, and the final oral presentation.

The goals of the course are to develop the student’s insights into French culture specifically and, just as importantly, into the process of learning a second language and entering into cross-cultural exchange and collaboration. Skills and insights from anthropology, history and conflict resolution will be cultivated. The course is designed to employ short readings from history, philosophy, literature and anthropology and group exercises and individual reflections on experiences in France to develop these skills.

The readings for this course will overlap with those for the French Literature and Philosophy class. They will be in a dual language format that will allow students at different levels in French to understand the core ideas of the texts and to wrestle at their own appropriate level with questions about expression of those ideas in French as well as their translation into English. This may include focusing on

fundamental questions about the relationships between the meaning of key terms or may deal with advanced issues concerning nuances of style and expression.

Evaluation will be based on student's ability to demonstrate skills and insights into French culture and history and cross-cultural collaboration and learning through short papers, journal writing, the final oral presentation, and the successful completion of homestay, and other cultural activities in the Winter and Spring terms. Permission of instructor is required. HS.

Winter Schedule – 6:00-8:00 pm in Library Seminar Room

1/4 Orientation activities and plans – packing, travel, FGCE, visas, etc.

Descartes' MEDITATIONS I AND II

<http://www.wright.edu/cola/descartes/>

1/10 Descartes' MEDITATIONS III AND IV -- and selections from Pascal on reason, passions, faith and gambling on the existence of God

DUE: Pick a passage from the MEDITATIONS I-IV and write a short, one paragraph response to it – it can be a critical analysis of the argument presented or it can be a response to the implications, meanings or associations it raises for you in relationship to the history of philosophy or literature – including, if you like a reference to a connection to a more recent philosopher or author.

1/17 Simone de Beauvoir, "Introduction" to LE DEUXIEME SEXE and Jean Paul Sartre, selections from EXISTENTIALISME EST UN HUMANISME

1/24 selections from Voltaire's CANDIDE, Essay on theories of translation by Lawrence Venutti

1/31 Jean Jacques Rousseau, selections from LE PREMIER DISCOURSE and LE CONTRAT SOCIAL and reading on the Rousseau and the French Revolution

2/3-2/5 Quebec Trip

2/7 No meeting

2/14 Comparative Ethnography – French and American Cultures – selections from Raymonde Carroll's EVIDENCE INVISIBLE

2/21 History and contemporary politics including INDIGNEZ-VOUS

2/28 History and Culture -- Understanding French Academic Culture with readings from MODERN FRENCH CULTURE and TWENTIETH CENTURY FRENCH PHILOSOPHY

3/6 Edgar Allan Poe, "The Purloined Letter" in original and in French translation by Charles Baudelaire

Course Description:

"French Literature and Philosophy"

Karen Waldron and Gray Cox – Spring 2012

This will be taught as part of a fully integrated trimester program at CAVILAM in Vichy, France, in the spring of 2012. It will include a weekly preparatory orientation and class session through the winter term, weekly debriefing sessions through the first four weeks of the spring term, and an intensive program of classes 4 afternoons a week for weeks 5-8 in the term taught in collaboration with CAVILAM professors in an "Atelier" format.

The aims of the course are to: 1. develop students' abilities to read, contextualize, analyze and critique key cultural texts in French; 2. develop their abilities to wrestle critically and fruitfully with the varying challenges and opportunities offered by working with texts in their original language as well as in translation; and 3. develop their abilities to learn how to learn and research in a cross-cultural context, pursuing independent projects in human studies in human ecology.

The course will examine classic and contemporary texts in French Literature, Philosophy and Anthropology and their relationships to current life and culture in France. Contemporary institutions, cultural practices and conflicts will be looked at in the context of classic texts and framing ideas in French intellectual and cultural history. For example, in current debates about feminism, post-modernism, immigration, "laïcité", ecology, and the Crisis, how are French takes on these issues informed by classic works by Descartes, Rousseau, Sartre, de Beauvoir, Lacan, Derrida, and Cixous? The national elections in May of 2012 will provide a setting for seeing these issues debated and applied in a practical and immediate context. An important element of the course will be the examination of challenges and opportunities presented in working with texts in two languages. The history of theories of translation and the difficulties peculiar to literature as distinct from philosophy will be of special interest.

This course is open to students at all levels of French. It can be taken only as part of the spring program in France. HS