

## Summer Study in France 2019

Carole Martin, Texas State University

**Courses Offered:** FR 1410 Beginning French I, FR 1420 Beginning French II, FR 2310 Intermediate French I, FR 2320 Intermediate French II, FR 3306 Masterpieces of French Literature (repeatable), FR 4370 French Civilization (repeatable), FR 4390 Studies in French (repeatable), HON 3395L Summer Study in France

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### **Program Outline:**

This study abroad program is composed of 2 parts, the first of which is mandatory and the other optional—

**Part A / a 3-week, 6/8-credit integrated program of French language and culture**, offered by the CIREFE, the International Center of French Studies for Foreign Students at the University of Rennes 2 in France (June 21-July 13). Depending on their level (assessed by a test taken online before the program starts), students focus on oral and written French, phonetics, and civilization. Advanced participants study standard grammatical use and oral proficiency, as well as culture as it is communicated through the French media, or French for the professions. Class size is limited to 15 students. Participation in the well-known festival of the “Tombées de la nuit” and excursions to the mythic Mont Saint-Michel and the coastal fortified city of Saint-Malo, among other fieldtrips, add an invaluable cultural dimension to the language acquisition curriculum.

**Part B / a 1-week, 3 credit Honors course in contemporary Nantes** (July 13-July 19). The birth place of Jules Verne and the location of his museum, Nantes will offer its surroundings to the course investigation of the Vernian World, Surrealism, and the ‘Journey to the Inner Self’. The epicenter of the Voyage à Nantes, a summer event that transforms the entire city into an art gallery, the place will provide participants with the resources needed to explore the relationships between Jules Verne’s creation of alternative worlds, Surrealist voyages as exemplified in the works of the movement’s artists—as well as those who currently exhibit in the city—and the notion of self-discovery that is so closely associated with traveling abroad. This 3-credit option can be added to the first part of Summer Study in France for a total of 9 to 11 credits.

Prepared through 3 orientation sessions in February, March and April, and 2 on-campus classes in June for both the FR 1410/20 offerings and the HON 3395L option, the CIREFE program in Rennes offers 19 hours of formal instruction per week supplemented by 11 hours of cultural activities for a total of 30 hours a week. It translates into a 7-credit curriculum and is sanctioned by a certificate handed at the conclusion of the program.

**Students who enroll in the program at the CIREFE only will receive 6-8 credits (FR 1410, FR 1420, FR 2310, FR 2320, to meet graduation requirements, and repeatable FR 3306, FR4370 or FR 4390 for advanced credits in French Culture and Language). Students who choose to add the Nantes option will receive 9-11 credits (6-8 credits in**

**French and 3 credits for HON 3395L, counting as another advanced French course or substituting for credits in Art History and International Studies).**

**Course Itinerary:**

<b>February 2019</b>	1st mandatory orientation meeting, Modern Languages, Texas State University
<b>March 2019</b>	2nd mandatory orientation meeting, Modern Languages, Texas State University
<b>April 2019</b>	3rd mandatory orientation meeting, Modern Languages, Texas State University
<b>June 3, 2019</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> mandatory on-campus class for FR 1410/20 and HON 3395L
<b>June 5, 2019</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> mandatory on-campus class for FR 1410/20 and HON 3395L
<b>June 21, 2019</b>	<b>Departure for France</b>
<b>June 22, 2019</b>	Arrival in Paris and transfer to Rennes by train Orientation session in Rennes
<b>June 23, 2019</b>	Free Day
<b>June 24-July 12 2019</b>	<b>Language and culture program, CIREFE, University of Rennes 2</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Basic courses</b> in Language Study, Aural Comprehension coupled with Oral Expression, Written Practice with emphasis on the indicative, object pronouns, interrogative and negative structures, Phonetics, Civilization, and Film</li><li>• <b>Advanced courses</b> in Language Study, Oral Comprehension and Expression for Oral Proficiency, Civilization, and Film</li><li>• <b>For advanced students, 9 hours of instruction in either Phonetics, French Language for Economics, or French Media</b> (students choose one option only)</li><li>• <b>To supplement Civilization classes, field trips provide 35 hours of contact</b> (transportation is provided by the CIREFE)<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Morning session: 9 am-12 pm</li><li>• Lunch on campus</li><li>• Afternoon session: 2 pm-5 pm</li></ul></li></ul>
<b>July 13, 2019</b>	<b>Departure from Rennes to Charles de Gaulle Airport</b>
<b>July 13-19, 2019</b>	<b>Voyage à Nantes for HON 3395L Option</b>
Saturday July 13 PM	Transfer to Nantes by train and arrival in lodging (AM) Orientation in Nantes and class on Jules Verne at the museum

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| Sunday July 14       | Bastille Day: Visit of l'Île des Machines and exploration along the Art Green Line in Nantes; on-site class on the Surrealist movement and its references to Verne                               |
| Monday July 15       | Visit of the village of Trentemoult; tour of the Memorial to the Abolition of Slavery and class on the anti/colonial voyage in Verne's and Surrealist works                                      |
| Tuesday July 16      | Cruise on the Loire; stop in the port of Saint-Nazaire and return to Nantes through the countryside; on-site class on the relationship between exploratory voyages and voyages of self-discovery |
| Wednesday July 17    | Bike ride through the region's wine country along the Chaussée des Moines; stop in the village of Vertou and visit of a chateau  |
| Thursday July 18     | Return to the Art Green Line in Nantes and on-site conclusion of the course  |
| <b>July 19, 2019</b> | <b>Departure from Nantes to Charles de Gaulle Airport by train</b>   |

**Honors required readings:**

Mary Ann CAWS, *Surrealist Painters and Poets: An Anthology*. Cambridge: MIT, 2002.  
 Jules VERNE, *Journey to the Center of the Earth*. New York: Dover Thrift Editions, 2005.

**Honors capstone project:**

Students receive a comprehensive grade for their participation in the seminar that amounts to 40% of the final grade. Their capstone project represents the other 60%. Students will be asked to take notes on all the lectures, visits, and events attended. This portfolio will feed into their capstone project, for which they will choose a specific medium of cultural production (essay, cut-up poetry, short story, art or photography) to convey their reactions to one exhibit/space discovered while in France and to analyze in detail how it created a specific dialogue with the course required readings, class discussions, and their understanding of the French cultural legacy. The piece will consist of a minimum of 12 double-spaced pages, presented in the form of an essay, a series of cut-ups, a short story, or a sequence of captioned art and/or photography montage. The absence of scholarly references will be grounds for the instructor's rejection of the project. The due date is July 26, 2019, either postmarked or e-mailed.

**Approximate Cost (subject to revision): <\$4,000 for 6-credit program; >\$5,000 for 9-credit program with Honors option**

**Outcomes:**

The general pedagogical assumptions underlying the program objectives are

- (1) that language acquisition requires full immersion in the life of a country where this language is spoken,
- (2) that learning about people, region, or culture is more full and permanent when it results from a personal travel/study experience in a particular country or region than when it results from an isolated classroom experience which describes vicariously the same people, region, or culture,
- (3) that learning is likely to be more intense and personal because of direct contact between students and faculty member(s) and the travel/study experience, and finally,
- (4) that immersion in a foreign culture, even though ephemeral, can immeasurably enhance a student's insight and understanding of a foreign culture and course materials related to the culture.

**Grades:**

Courses, assignments, and examinations are administered by the International Center of French Studies for Foreign Students at the University of Rennes 2 in France (CIREFE), with the exception of the Honors seminar taught by Martin. On-campus pre-departure orientations and class meetings for FR 1410/20 and HON 3395L are mandatory, and attendance will be recorded. All due pre-departure material is to be received by June 5, 2019, date of the last meeting with Martin at Texas State.

Grading is administered by the CIREFE and translated into grades for Texas State University by Dr. Carole Martin. Students are graded first on the level at which they work at the CIREFE (A1 & 2, B1 & 2, C1), relatively to the Texas State course into which they have enrolled (1410 corresponding to A1, 1420 to A1+/A2, 2310 to A2/A2+, 2320 to A2+/B1, Advanced Junior to B1/B1+, and Advanced Senior to B2/C1). Students also receive a comprehensive grade for their performance in class, and this grade assigned over 20 points at the University of Rennes 2 is then translated into the American GPA system according to the following breakdown: 0-9=F, 10-11=D, 12-13=C, 14-16=B, 17-20=A. HON 3395L students are graded independently by Martin.

**Attendance:**

This course has a strict attendance policy that is comparable to those used at Texas State University. Unexcused absences over two full days will result in ONE GPA point removed from your overall grade. This means an "A" student with three unexcused absences will automatically receive a "B" for the course. If you are late, it is up to you to make sure that you have not been counted absent. Only documented absences are excused. There is no make-up process for missing a final examination, unless extenuating circumstances are present. All field trips, as listed in the course outline, are mandatory and fall under the same absence policies as classes. Attendance at the festival of the Tombées de la Nuit in Rennes and at the film screening is also required. Other proposed activities are strongly recommended but remain voluntary.

**Academic Integrity:**

To support the goal of maintaining a climate of academic integrity, Texas State University has adopted the [Texas State University Honor Code](http://www.txstate.edu/honorcodecouncil/Academic-Integrity.html) (<http://www.txstate.edu/honorcodecouncil/Academic-Integrity.html>). The Honor Code applies to all academic activities and academic work, whether these take place on-campus, off-campus, or online.

Texas State expects students to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is beyond reproach. Students found in violation of the Honor Code are subject to disciplinary action. In addition to this general policy, students participating in Summer Study in France have to sign the corresponding Behavior Contract and hand their pledge back to the Academic Program Director prior to departure.

**Accommodations:**

Texas State University is committed to make every effort to provide reasonable and appropriate accommodations to students with disabilities and to facilitate the process for seeking special accommodations.

France in general and the region of Brittany, where the University of Rennes 2 is located, are considered safe destinations by the U.S. Department of State, although “increased caution is to be exercised due to terrorism.” There is an American Presence Post in Rennes, with available U.S. Embassy Consular Service. Students can find updated travel advisories at <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/international-travel/International-Travel-Country-Information-Pages/France.html#/>, as well as through their ISOS insurance. Like all other Texas State study abroad programs, Summer Study in France has an emergency action plan approved by the Study Abroad Office.

**Credits:**

Dr. Carole Martin is a tenured Professor in the French section of the Modern Language Department at Texas State University. She is the recipient of a National Award from the American Society of 18<sup>th</sup> Century Studies for a previous study abroad course taught for Texas State University. She also taught at the Université Rennes 2 and has traveled extensively in Brittany.

**Caveat:**

It is understood that the description is subject to change due to a variety of circumstances beyond the control of the faculty member, including, but not limited to, currency fluctuations, civil turmoil, war, weather, earthquakes, natural and human-made disasters, terrorism, government rules and regulations, sickness, death, indigenous customs, etc. The faculty member also reserves the right to alter the travel study program, in conjunction with the Study Abroad Office in any way when she deems it in the interest of the program and safety of the participants.

