

UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY  
SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

**Course:** FRN 3001A (French culture and civilisation)  
**Lecturer:** Dr. Harrison Mulwa

**Credit:** 3

### 1. Course Description

This course is a survey of the geography, history, architecture, art, fine arts, science, culture and customs of France. It also explores the historical, social, political and economic trends in the country. The course is conducted in French. It may be taken as part of the *Windows to the World* Program.

*Prerequisite: The course is open to students who have satisfactorily completed French 3000.*

*Credit: 3 units*

### 2. Link to University Mission outcomes and to General education PLO's

- a) Higher order thinking.
- b) Literacy: competence in oral and written expression
- c) Global understanding and multicultural perspectives: Demonstrate awareness and appreciation of diversity and development of a world view in a global perspective.

### 3. Course Learning Outcomes

At the end of the course, students will be able to:

- a) Describe and explain the climate, physical and human geography of France
- b) Identify and explain the importance of monuments to France's national identity and social consciousness

- c) Identify and describe the major literary movements in France
- d) Categorize the different forms of French music and their origin
- e) Describe major characteristics of the French family and culture
- f) Articulate the historical influence and contemporary characteristics of the modern French political landscape
- g) Identify personalities, ideologies and political parties of French politics
- h) Describe important historical events and personalities
- i) Explain the cause of the French Revolution and analyze its national and global impact
- j) Describe and explain reasons for France's colonial expansion.
- k) Identify and describe the major economic sectors in France
- l) Identify and describe contemporary French family and national values.
- m) Conduct research on specific topics in French
- n) Use IT to make presentations in French

4.

### Course Content

#### Week I

##### ➤ Learning Outcomes

At the end of this section, students will be able to:

- Describe and explain the physical and climatic diversity of France
- Describe and explain the population characteristics of France
- ✓ French climate
- ✓ Physical
- ✓ Human geography

Assignment

#### Week II

##### ➤ Learning Outcomes

At the end of this section, students will be able to:

- Describe important historical events and personalities
- Explain the cause of the French Revolution and analyze its national and global impact
- ✓ Major historical events and personalities
- ✓ The French Revolution /impact

## Assignment

### Week III

#### ➤ Learning Outcomes

At the end of this section, students will be able to:

- Describe and explain reasons for France's colonial expansion.
- ✓ France's colonial expansion

## Assignment

### Week IV

#### ➤ Learning Outcomes

At the end of this section, students will be able to:

- Identify and describe the major literary movements in France
- Describe important historical events and personalities
- ✓ Survey of major literary movements in France

## Assignment

### Quiz # 1

### Week V

#### ➤ Learning Outcomes

At the end of this section, students will be able to:

- Identify personalities, ideologies and political parties
- Articulate the historical influence and contemporary characteristics of the modern French political landscape
- ✓ Modern French political landscape

## Assignment

### Week VI

#### ➤ Learning Outcomes

At the end of this section, students will be able to:

- Identify and describe the major economic sectors in France
- ✓ Major sectors in the French economy

## Assignment

### Week VII

#### ➤ Learning Outcomes

At the end of this section, students will be able to:

- Use IT to make a thematic presentation in French

### Week VII

#### ➤ Learning Outcomes

At the end of this section, students will be able to:

- Identify and explain the importance of monuments to France's national identity and social consciousness
- ✓ French architectural monuments and styles.

Assignment

Quiz #2

### Week VIII Mid-Semester exams

- Revision

### Week IX

#### ➤ Learning Outcomes

At the end of this section, students will be able to:

- Categorize the different genres of French music and their origin
- To sing one French song of student choice

Assignment

### Week X

#### ➤ Learning Outcomes

At the end of this section, students will be able to:

- Identify the characteristics of the French family and culture

Assignment

### Week XI

#### ➤ Learning Outcomes

At the end of this section, students will be able to:

- Identify and describe contemporary French family and national values.
- ✓ French values

Assignment

Quiz # 3

### Week XI

➤ **Learning Outcomes**

At the end of this section, students will be able to:

- Identify, describe and explain major issues in France today
- ✓ Current Affairs

Assignment

### Week XII:

➤ **Learning Outcomes**

At the end of this section, students will be able to:

- Present expanded research on any one of the topics covered in class or from any topic of your choice about France.

Assignment

### Week XIII:

Revision for final exams

➤ Week XIV

Final examination

## **5. Teaching Methodology**

- Individual presentation
- Lecture/Handouts
- Wed based research and Debate
- DVD's of music / narrations
- Research paper
- Cultural interactions at Alliance Francaise

## **6. Grading**

90 – 100 A    87 – 89 A-    84 – 86 B+    80 – 83 B    77 – 79 B-

74 – 76 C+    70 – 73 C    67 – 69 C-    64 – 66 D+    62 – 63 D  
60 – 61 D-    0 – 59 F

**7. MARKS DISTRIBUTION FOR STUDENTS NOT IN THE WINDOWS TO THE WORLD PROGRAM**

Attendance and participation	10%
Assignment	10%
Quizzes	10%
Research	15%
Oral presentation	10%
Mid-semester exam	20%
Final exam	25%

**8. Course Text**

Steele, Ross, *Civilisation Progressive du Français, Niveau intermédiaire* (CLE),

**9. Other useful sources**

- Internet databases
- French readers
- French television
- French DVDs in the language lab
- Alliance Française de Nairobi