



KIIS Paris I Program, Summer 2026

FREN 105: Introduction to French Culture

Instructors: Drs. François Leroy & Sylvia Henneberg

Email: leroy@nku.edu; s.henneberg@moreheadstate.edu

Instructor's office hours: On-site and by appointment

Syllabus subject to change

1. Course Description:

French 105 is a basic survey of French culture and society from the French Revolution to the present, with emphasis on values, behavioral characteristics, social and political structures, and achievements of the French-speaking people. The course highlights selected edifices, artists, writers, and movements in an attempt to provide an introduction into the character, society, and history of France in general and Paris in particular. Mandatory excursions complementing class lectures, film screenings, and discussions are scheduled at least once a week. The goal of this course is to guide uninitiated students as they orient themselves in the city's culture and society. French 105 is therefore recommended for students who are interested in France from the point of view of cultural, historical, literary, language, and social studies but who have not benefited from far-reaching instruction and experience in these areas. The course will be taught in English. Students need not have a working knowledge of French and will be introduced to a certain amount of essential vocabulary.

2. Overall KIIS Program Student Learning Outcomes:

KIIS Study Abroad Mission Statement:

KIIS provides high-quality education abroad programs for students from all diverse backgrounds that promote deep international learning, are integrated into the curriculum, and encourage critical and creative thinking. Our goal is to help students understand the wider world and develop personal and professional skills for lifelong enrichment. We strive to go beyond generalizations and cultural stereotypes to help foster a nuanced appreciation of the world in which we live.

Students participating on KIIS study abroad programs aim to:

- 1) Understand contemporary issues of their host country/countries (i.e. France).
- 2) Develop skills to interact comfortably in a global setting.
- 3) Understand other cultures.

Prior to your KIIS study abroad program, and again at the conclusion of your program, KIIS will ask each student to a) answer a few multiple-choice questions, and b) write a short reflective essay (two paragraphs in length) related to the elements detailed above. There is no right or wrong answer, and your responses will not affect your grade in any way. The purpose of the exercise is to help KIIS measure the effectiveness of its study abroad programs.

3. Course Objectives and Specific Learning Outcomes:

Gain an introductory understanding of French cultural history, art, literature and politics including:

- An informed understanding of the ways in which social and political movements have shaped the country's artistic and cultural landscape
- A historical perspective for understanding connections of past and present

Gain intellectual and practical skills, including:

- An understanding of a foreign society and human behavior
- An awareness of the role of artistic expressions in the development of cultural identity

4. Major Topics covered in the Course:

- The French Revolution
- Reconstruction of Paris under Napoleon III
- Parisian Architecture & Cityscape
- Major French & Expatriate Artists

5. Fulfillment of General Education Requirement:

This course will be designed to complete a general education international perspective, pending institutional approval.

6. Required Readings and Materials:

Eatwell, Piu Marie. *They Eat Horses, Don't They? The Truth about the French* (2013). ISBN: [1781854440](#) or [1250053053](#). (This book can be shared; not everyone needs a copy. Check it out, but do not purchase until after our orientation meeting in April.)

7. Graded Assignments:

- 40% - 2 presentations on selections from the textbook (20 points each)
- 40% - 4 site visit reflections (10 pts each)
- 10% - Active participation during class sessions
- 10% - Active participation during excursions

90 – 100	A
80 – 89	B
70 – 79	C
60 – 69	D
Below 60	E (F)

This course will be graded on this basis, without regard to other scales (i.e., plus-and-minus) which may apply at your college or university. Note KIS/WKU does not award +/- grades, only full letter grades.)

8. Generative AI Policy:

Generative AI is permitted/encouraged in some ways, with proper attribution, but prohibited in other ways: Students are allowed, encouraged, and even required to use Generative AI in some ways but are prohibited from using it in other ways. Keep in mind that any content

produced by generative AI can “hallucinate” (produce false information), so students are responsible for ensuring the accuracy of any AI-generated content. Examples of citing AI are available at: <https://libguides.wku.edu/stylewrite/ai>.

Students are permitted and encouraged to use generative AI in the following ways:

- Brainstorming: You may use generative AI to stimulate creativity, generate ideas, or brainstorm topics for papers, presentations, and discussions. The generated content must serve as a steppingstone, not a final product.
- Citation Assistance: AI tools can be used to manage, format, and organize citations and references, promoting adherence to academic writing standards and specific style guides required for individual assignments.
- Grammar and Style Checking: AI-powered writing enhancement tools may be used to help with spelling, grammar, syntax, and stylistic errors.
- Concept Understanding: Generative AI can be used to explain or simulate concepts taught in class, aiding in a deeper understanding.
- Research Assistance: AI can be used to conduct initial research, compile data, and summarize articles, books, or papers. It should not replace traditional research methods but rather enhance them.

Students may not use generative AI in coursework in the following ways:

- Plagiarism: Using AI-generated content as your original work without attribution. This includes essays, papers, presentations, and exam answers.
- Data Manipulation: Using AI tools to alter data or create misleading information.
- Misrepresentation of Skills: Using generative AI to complete tasks that are meant to assess your knowledge and skills.
- Confidentiality Breach: Using AI tools that might violate KISS/university policies or laws related to data privacy and confidentiality.

Metacognitive Reflection: In addition to a proper citation, the student should include the following statement with any assignment where generative AI is used for assistance.

“I used generative AI [INSERT NAME OF PLATFORM] for assistance in the following ways on this assignment: [INSERT WAYS USED, such as brainstorming, citation assistance, grammar and style checking, concept understanding, and research assistance, etc.]”

9. Attendance Policy:

KISS program participants are expected to be punctual to and in attendance at all classes, presentations, meetings and required excursions, and to remain with the program for the full academic period. Unexcused absences from classes and/or mandatory meetings will result in a lowering of the student's final grade, as will excessive tardiness. Multiple unexcused absences could result in expulsion from the program. Any absence from an academic class session must be excused for medical reasons.

10. Disability Accommodation:

KISS will make every reasonable effort to provide accommodations for program participants with special needs or disabilities, but we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so. Be aware that many foreign countries do not have comprehensive legislation comparable to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). As a result, businesses and other establishments

operating in foreign countries may not be able to provide accommodations.

If you have a disability accommodation need, we recommend you contact your KIIS Campus Representative, <https://www.kiis.org/about-kiis/contact-us/campus-representatives/> early in your program selection process so that s/he has time to discuss any specific needs, including which KIIS programs may be best suited. You also are welcome to contact KIIS Assistant Director, Maria Canning, maria.canning@wku.edu, to discuss your disability accommodation needs (e.g. housing, transportation, excursions, class schedule, etc.).

Immediately after acceptance, notify KIIS Admissions and Enrollment Specialist, Haley McTaggart, haley.mctaggart@wku.edu, if you have a special need or disability that might require any form of accommodation abroad. Failure to notify KIIS may prevent you from participating on your KIIS program.

If you require any accommodations abroad, you must provide KIIS Admissions and Enrollment Specialist, Haley McTaggart, an accommodation letter from your home campus' disability accommodation office that lists the accommodations you are eligible to receive. Please do not request accommodations directly from your KIIS Program Director or other KIIS Faculty; the KIIS Office will notify your KIIS Program Director and/or Faculty after we have received your above accommodation letter.

In some cases, you may need to make arrangements for a caregiver to join you on your KIIS program, should your physician, campus disability accommodation office, or KIIS make such a recommendation or require it.

11. Title IX / Discrimination & Harassment:

Recent attention to gender discrimination and sexual harassment at colleges and universities reminds us of the importance of adhering to standards of ethical and professional behavior. KIIS Study Abroad is committed to supporting and encouraging safe and equitable educational environments for our students, faculty, and program directors. Students, faculty, and program directors are required to be civil and treat each other with dignity and respect. As such, harassment and/or discrimination of any kind will not be permitted or tolerated.

Sexual misconduct (sexual harassment, sexual assault, and sexual/dating/domestic violence) and sex discrimination are violations of KIIS policies. If you experience an incident of sex/gender-based discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct, you are encouraged to report it to a) KIIS Assistant Director, Maria Canning (+1-859-200-1000) or KIIS Executive Director, John Dizgun (+1-270-227-2288), b) WKU's Title IX Coordinator, Ena Demir (270-745-6867 / ena.demir@wku.edu) or WKU's Title IX Investigator, Michael Crowe (270-745-5429 / michael.crowe@wku.edu). Please note that while you may report an incident of sex/gender based discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct to a KIIS program director and/or faculty member, KIIS program directors and faculty are considered "Responsible Employees" of Western Kentucky University and MUST report what you share to WKU's Title IX Coordinator or Title IX Investigator.

If you would like to speak with someone who may be able to afford you confidentiality, you may contact WKU's Counseling and Testing Center, <https://www.wku.edu/heretohelp/> at 270-745-3159.

For more information on KIIS Title IX, see <https://www.kiis.org/students/health-safety/title-ix-clery/>; additional Title IX resources can be found here <https://www.wku.edu/titleix/titleixbrochure2020.pdf>.

Everyone should be able to participate on a KIIS program, attend a KIIS event, or work in a KIIS environment (e.g. KIIS office) without fear of sexual harassment or discrimination of any kind. Be respectful of each other.

12. Tentative Class Schedule:

Sat, 5/30: Group arrival; optional neighborhood walking tour (brief)
Sun, 5/31: Group city walking tour (all day)
M, 6/1: Class (2hrs): French Revolution (Lead: Dr. Leroy)
Tue, 6/2: Class Excursion (4hrs): French Revolution
W, 6/3: Class (2 hrs): Paris architecture & cityscape (Lead: Dr. Leroy)
Th, 6/4: Class Excursion (4 hrs): Opéra Garnier & other architectural highlights
F, 6/5: Group Excursion (all day) to Auvers-sur-Oise
Sat, 6/6: Class (2 hrs): Place-as-Text activities, part 1 (Lead: Dr. Henneberg)

Sun, 6/7-Tues, 6/9: FREE DAYS

W, 6/10: Class (2 hrs): Place-as-Text debriefing; Artists & Expatriates in Paris (Lead: Dr. Henneberg)
Th, 6/11: Class Excursion (4 hrs): Montmartre
F, 6/12: Class (2 hrs): Place-as-Text activities, part 2 (Lead: Dr. Henneberg)
Sat, 6/13: Class (2 hrs): Reconstruction of Paris under Napoleon III (Lead: Dr. Leroy)
Sat, 6/13: Class Excursion (4 hrs): Reconstruction of Paris under Napoleon III
Sun, 6/14: Group river boat cruise (evening)