



Directed Studies/Research

Course Details

Course Designator & Number: MONT 3993

Number of Credits: 3

Language of Instruction: French

Contact Hours: 24-30 hours

Instructor: xxx

Course Description

This directed studies provides students with the opportunity to investigate a cultural or societal topic related to French society, history, education or culture under the supervision of a designated program faculty member. Students design the topic, readings, and methodology at the start of the semester with the faculty member and meet weekly with the faculty member to discuss topic development, additional readings (as needed), additional resources and considerations, and course paper progress.

Course Objectives

Students will develop a deeper and more nuanced understanding of a discrete aspect of French society, history, education or culture through individualized faculty guidance and independent reading, research, and reflection.

Methodology

Students meet 1.5–2 hours weekly with the designated course instructor to discuss the student's progress and to identify next steps in their topic development. These individualized meetings are paired with four shorter written student submissions to the course instructor on findings, academic insights, and course paper topics in process. Additional in person meetings are arranged, as needed. Each student presents final findings to the course instructor and other directed studies students (if applicable) in the penultimate week of the semester and incorporates changes for the final 10–15 page paper due at the end of the term.

Students independent readings, research and written assignments must constitute 100 hours of effort over the course of the semester.

Student and faculty supervisor must complete the Directed Studies Student/Faculty Contract Form and submit this to the Learning Abroad Center resident director by the end of the first week of the academic program term, or as instructed.

Course instructor varies depending on student's specific topic to be pursued. The faculty member will be one of the faculty members at the partner institution Paul Valery University or the University of Montpellier. All faculty have advanced degrees, are vetted by the program resident director, and also are faculty at one of the universities in Montpellier.

Required Reading / Materials

Readings are tailored to the specific interests of the students and the expectations of the faculty supervisor. Students are expected to read 3–5 articles, a longer book, or an appropriate equivalent in quality for other media (film, poetry, documentary, interviews with experts in the field, etc.) each week.

Grading

Grading Rubric

Letter Grade	Score or Percentage	Description
A	93–100	Achievement that is outstanding relative to the level necessary to meet course requirements.
A-	90–92	Achievement that is significantly above the level necessary to meet course requirements.
B+	87–89	
B	83–86	
B-	80–82	Achievement that meets the course requirements in every respect.
C+	77–79	
C	73–76	

Letter Grade	Score or Percentage	Description
C-	70–72	Achievement that is worthy of credit even though it fails to fully meet the course requirements.
D+	67–69	
D	60–66	
F	0–59	Represents failure (or no credit) and signifies that the work was either (1) completed but at a level of achievement that is not worthy of credit or (2) was not completed and there was no agreement between the instructor and the student that the student would be awarded an I.

Summary of How Grades Are Weighted

Assignments	Percentage of Grade
Four shorter written submissions (3–5 pages)	30%
Final course paper (10–15 pages)	45%
Oral presentation	10%
Quality of discussion at weekly meetings	10%
Quality of course paper outline	5%
Overall grade	100%

Course Content

Unit 1

INTRODUCTORY MEETING

- Establish topic focus, grading expectations, readings, weekly meeting schedule, week 2 assignments/readings, complete LAC Directed Studies Student/Faculty Contract

Unit 2

CONTINUED CONSULTATION AND PROGRESS REPORT

- Weekly meeting to discuss assignment, readings, topic focus

Unit 3

CONTINUED CONSULTATION AND PROGRESS REPORT

- Weekly meeting to discuss assignment, readings, topic focus
- Feedback on first written assignment

Unit 4

CONTINUED CONSULTATION AND PROGRESS REPORT

- Weekly meeting to discuss assignment, readings, topic focus

Unit 5

CONTINUED CONSULTATION AND PROGRESS REPORT

- Weekly meeting to discuss assignment, readings, topic focus
- Feedback on second written assignment

Unit 6

CONTINUED CONSULTATION AND PROGRESS REPORT

- Weekly meeting to discuss assignment, readings, topic focus

Unit 7

CONTINUED CONSULTATION AND PROGRESS REPORT

- Weekly meeting to discuss assignment, readings, topic focus
- Course paper outline due

Unit 8

CONTINUED CONSULTATION AND PROGRESS REPORT

- Weekly meeting to discuss assignment, readings, topic focus

Unit 9

CONTINUED CONSULTATION AND PROGRESS REPORT

- Weekly meeting to discuss assignment, readings, topic focus
- Feedback on third written assignment

Unit 10

CONTINUED CONSULTATION AND PROGRESS REPORT

- Weekly meeting to discuss assignment, readings, topic focus

Unit 11

CONTINUED CONSULTATION AND PROGRESS REPORT

- Weekly meeting to discuss assignment, readings, topic focus
- Feedback on fourth written assignment

Unit 12

CONTINUED CONSULTATION AND PROGRESS REPORT

- Weekly meeting to discuss assignment, readings, topic focus

Unit 13

CONTINUED CONSULTATION AND PROGRESS REPORT

- Weekly meeting to discuss assignment, readings, topic focus
- Feedback on fifth written assignment

Unit 14

CONTINUED CONSULTATION AND PROGRESS REPORT

- Weekly meeting to discuss assignment, readings, topic focus

Unit 15

CONCLUDING MEETING

- Summative meeting
- Course paper due

Policies

Attendance Policy

Students are expected to be on time and attend all classes while abroad. Many instructors assess both attendance and participation when assigning a final course grade. Attendance alone does not guarantee a positive participation grade; the student should be prepared for class and engage in class discussion. See the on-site syllabus for specific class requirements.

University of Minnesota Policies & Procedures

Academic integrity is essential to a positive teaching and learning environment. All students enrolled in University courses are expected to complete coursework responsibilities with fairness and honesty. Failure to do so by seeking unfair advantage over others or misrepresenting someone else's work as your own can result in disciplinary action. The University Student Conduct Code defines scholastic dishonesty as follows:

Scholastic Dishonesty

Scholastic dishonesty means plagiarizing; cheating on assignments or examinations; engaging in unauthorized collaboration on academic work; taking, acquiring, or using test materials without faculty permission; submitting false or incomplete records of academic achievement; acting alone or in cooperation with another to falsify records or to obtain dishonestly grades, honors, awards, or professional endorsement; altering forging, or misusing a University academic record; or fabricating or falsifying data, research procedures, or data analysis.

Within this course, a student responsible for scholastic dishonesty can be assigned a penalty up to and including an "F" or "N" for the course. If you have any questions regarding the expectations for a specific assignment or exam, ask.

Student Conduct

The University of Minnesota has specific policies concerning student conduct. This information can be found [on the Learning Abroad Center website](#).