

GTL 2000 - Metz – Gateway to France and Europe

Instructors: Dr. Vicki Birchfield & Sonia Serafin - Georgia Tech Lorraine

Credit hours: 1

Course prerequisites: None

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course takes advantage of the city of Metz and the Grand Est Region as well as the students' independent travels to explore selected periods of French history ranging from the Roman Empire to the First and Second World Wars up to its role in contemporary Europe. The historical overview is coupled with an introduction to key aspects of French culture, politics and society. Additionally, the course exposes students to examples of classical, modern and contemporary arts and architecture to provide students with a broad frame of intellectual and comparative reference to better understand French and European cultural heritage.

Through a mix of site visits, lectures, readings and discussions students will gain an understanding of the significance of the region and the centrality of France and French-German relations to the construction of the post-war European project. The primary goal of the course is to situate the socio-cultural and political contexts within which students are living and learning and to enhance their **intercultural learning experience** as they travel throughout France and across Europe.

COURSE GOALS AND LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Understand basic concepts of intercultural sensitivity and mindful learning
- Situate Metz, France and the Grand Est region in broad historical and geopolitical contexts
- Identify different architectural styles and their corresponding historical periods
- Distinguish specific trends and developments in artistic expression and art movements
- Understand and analyze socio-cultural and political developments in France and contemporary Europe

COURSE ASSESSMENT

Attendance: 30%

Quiz: 20 %

Final Papers or Projects: 50 %

***Grading Scale:** Grades will be assigned as a letter grade according to the following scale:

A 90-100%

B 80-89%

C 70-79%

D 60-69%

F 0-59%

Attendance is mandatory and roll will be taken. As this is primarily a site visit based course and only one credit hour, there are relatively few class meetings held on campus at the beginning and the end of the semester. Punctuality, active participation and attentiveness during the site visits are necessary to attain a good grade for the attendance portion of the final grade. The quiz will be administered on-line and will follow the background lectures and the tour of Metz and must be completed before the end of Week 4. Final projects will be done in groups of 4 to 6 students utilizing a variety of storytelling tools such as text, photography,

video, audio/podcasts, public speaking, maps, graphic illustrations, and/or social media. The final project must be more than a mere recollection of visits and travels and is intended to encourage creativity, teamwork and mindful learning and thus show an in-depth reflection of the students' experience, understanding and interpretation of the culture (s) they lived in and engaged with throughout the semester.

READINGS: There is no required textbook for this course. Some suggested background texts are included on the syllabus. Mandatory readings (articles, excerpts from books, official documents) and short films will be posted on Canvas.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY Georgia Tech aims to cultivate a community based on trust, academic integrity, and honor. Students are expected to act according to the highest ethical standards. Please study and follow the academic honor code of Georgia Tech:

<http://www.honor.gatech.edu/content/2/the-honor-code>.

ACCOMODATIONS FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

If you are a student with learning needs that require special accommodation, contact the Office of Disability Services (often referred to as ADAPTS) at (404) 894-2563 or <http://disabilityservices.gatech.edu/>, to make an appointment to discuss your special needs and to obtain an accommodations letter. Please e-mail instructors and/or set up an appointment to discuss your learning needs.

SCHEDULE of CLASSES: Subject to changes due to COVID regulations in France and the U.S.

Week 1 : Dr. Vicki Birchfield and Sonia Serafin.

Class 1 : 6-7.30 pm *All students.* Date and place to be confirmed

Introduction of course; discussion of intercultural sensitivity and mindful learning concepts.

Class 2 : 6-7.30 pm *All students.* Date and place to be confirmed

Understanding Contemporary Europe: Dr. Vicki Birchfield

Class 3 : 6-7.30pm *All students.* Date and place to be confirmed

Approach to French Culture. Sonia Serafin.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE of SITE VISITS ORGANIZED by GTL Faculty: Dates to be determined

This could change due to pandemic regulations. Confirmation, registration procedures and details of travels will be given during class 1. If site visits cannot take place we will have some classes online instead.

Roman Empire students:

(All students welcome)

Visit of Metz and visit Cour d'or Museum

Film 'Engineering Rome'.

Trier city, amphitheater, Roman baths + aqueduct Metz

Alsace- Lorraine-Three wars students:

Verdun Battle fields or Struthof concentration camp

Gravelotte Franco-Prussian War museum + Hackenberg Fort WW2 + American

WW2 Cemetery

France and the European Union students:

Strasbourg city tour, visit of the European Parliament

Scy-Chazelles, Robert Schuman Home & Museum

Schengen, Luxembourg museum & history of Schengen accord for a borderless 'Europe'; tour of

Luxembourg city

ALL STUDENTS MUST CHOOSE AFTER FIRST CLASS BETWEEN:

Alternative 1: guided visits organized by GTLfaculty; select ONE proposition among the three week-ends travel below.

Alternative 2: independent themes; see following page for a list of examples. Other themes to be approved by professors.

ALTERNATIVE 1: **Students register after first class for ONE of the following:**

1. **ROMAN EMPIRE:**

40 students max. Sonia Serafin

Site visits: City of Trier – Germany (2 hour guided visit), Museum Cour d'Or (1 hour guided visit), Approach to archeology: European archeological Park of Bliesbrück (1 hour guided visit), Aqueducts of Metz (free visit).

Ancient Rome: Rise and Fall of an Empire: BBC Books – Sir Simon Baker – (2007)

ISBN -13: 978-1846072840 or

S.P.Q.R.: A history of Ancient Rome: Liveright – Mary Beard (2016)

ISBN – 13: 978-1631492228

2. **FRANCE and the EUROPEAN UNION :**

40 students max. Dr. Vicki Birchfield

Site Visits: Home, and museum of one of the EU's Founding Fathers and former French Foreign Minister, Centre Européen Robert Schuman, the Maison Schuman (Scy Chazelle). Schengen Museum in Luxembourg and the EU Parliament (Strasbourg)

For Europe by Robert Schuman <http://www.robert-schuman.eu/en/bookshop/0074-for-europe-first-edition>

EU Guide for Americans

<http://www.euintheus.org/resources-learning/eu-guide-for-americans/>

3. **ALSACE – LORRAINE –THREE WARS:**

40 students max. Sonia Serafin

Site visits: 1870-1871: Franco-Prussian War Museum (1 hour guided visit), 1914-1918: Battle of Verdun site (1 hour guided visit), 1939-1945: Maginot Line, Fort Hackenberg (2 hour guided visit), St Avold American WWII cemetery (1 hour guided visit)

Reluctant Union, Alsace – Lorraine and Imperial Germany, 1871-1918: Pennsylvania State University Pr. – Dan P. Silverman (1972)

ISBN 13: 978-0271011110 *The Duel* by John Lukacs. Yale University Press (1990/2001)

De Gaulle and WWII, *BBC World History*

http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/historic_figures/gaulle_charles_de.shtml

Franco-Prussian War: <https://www.kcl.ac.uk/the-franco-prussian-war-150-years-on>

French history podcast, in English : <https://www.thefrenchhistorypodcast.com>

ALTERNATIVE 2: **Independent themes:** Students (in groups of 4 to 6) develop their own 'study and research project'. The project is built in parallel with the students' own travel plans subject to the professor's approval. They have three follow-up meetings to elaborate and check progress. Each project must develop one or more aspect of history, arts, technology, industry, economy or politics. Below we list some general ideas but students may also propose their own ideas subject to the approval of the instructors.

Deadline for submitting groups and themes: TBD

Examples of possible independent themes : Art, history, culture, languages...

1. VISUAL ARTS in EUROPE :

- **Art Nouveau** : Barcelona, Nancy, Tiffany, Italy, Suisse, Budapest, furniture, paintings, jewels, Unesco World Heritage, Majorelle, Gaudi, Lalique, Daum, Gallé...
Art Nouveau: Ullman Publishing – Gabrielle Fahr-Becker (1998)
ISBN 13 - 978 3848008346
https://www.taschen.com/pages/en/catalogue/architecture/all/00273/facts.art_nouvea_u.htm
- **Museums**: Louvre, Orsay, Fondation Vuitton in Paris, Musée de la Cour d'Or in Metz, Pompidou Centre in Metz and Paris, Uffizi and Accademia Galleries in Florence, Tate Britain and Tate Modern in London, Guggenheim museum in Bilbao, Prado in Madrid ...
Tate Modern: Building a Museum for the 21st Century. Tate Publishing (2016). Chris Dercon and Nicholas Serota. ISBN 13 – 978 1849764018
- **Chagall**: Stained glass windows in cathedrals – Metz and Reims, Palais Garnier – Paris, Fraumünster Abbey in Zürich...
Marc Chagall and his times, Stanford University Press (2003). ISBN 13- 978 0804742146
- **Impressionism**: Claude Monet and Giverny, William Turner and London, Edouard Manet, Berthe Morisot, Claude Debussy, Amsterdam, Paris
Marketing modernism in fin-de-siècle Europe. Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press. Jensen, Robert (1994). ISBN 13 - 978 0691029269
Impressionism: Origin, Practice, Perception. Thames and Hudson (World of Art); Belinda Thomson. (2000) ISBN 13 - 978 0500203354

2. ARCHITECTURE and URBANISM :

- **Architecture of cathedrals, basilicas and abbey churches**: Brunelleschi's dome in Florence, Metz Saint Stephen cathedral, St Nicolas de Port Basilica, Prague cathedral, Westminster Abbey, Sagrada Familia, St Peter's Basilica, Paris Notre Dame, Venice San Marco basilica ...
The cathedral: the social and architectural dynamics of construction. Alain Erlande-Brandenburg - Cambridge University Press (2009). ISBN 13- 978 0521110372
- **Three cities**: Metz- Nancy-Strasbourg or Paris-Berlin- Rome or Luxembourg – Brussels - Strasbourg (EU sites) or Prague-Barcelona-Florence.
Boundaries of the City. Alan Waterhouse – University of Toronto Press (2015). ISBN 13 – 978 1442655041

Week 9 +10: Evaluation and showing of group projects, presentations, digital stories. Exact dates TBD