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|----|----|--------------------------------------|---|---|
| | | Contact Person Renée | Liscinsky | Phone 2325 |
| | | DepartmentFrench | | |
| I | Ι. | PROPOSAL TYPE (Check / | | |
| | | FR 463 COURSE St | udies Fr. Cultu | |
| | | X New Course* St | udies in French Cul | Suggested 20 charactar title ture and Civilization Course Number and Full Title |
| | | Course Revision | 8 | Course Number and Fuil Title |
| | | Liberal Studies Ap | oproval + | Course Number and Fuil Title |
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| | 7 | + Director of Liberal Studies (where | a applicable) Provost (v | where applicables |

I. Catalog Description

FR463

Studies in French Culture and Civilization

3 credits
3 lecture hours
(3c-01-3sh)

Prerequisite: FR353

Aspects of current French culture and civilization will be explored and assessed particularly in relation to French governmental and cultural institutions.

II. Course Objectives

- 1. Students will be able to synthesize the interaction of governmental agencies, traditional cultural institutions and contemporary French life.
- 2. Students will be able to isolate the variables used to discern cultural "texts" (artistic works, generally recognized behavior patterns, contemporary cultural issues, indications of a national identity or self-view, etc.) and identify their social, political, and/or psychological ramifications.
- 3. Students will read and react to relevant articles from scholarly and popular periodicals and monographs in part or in their entirety.
- 4. Students will compare/contrast French cultural "texts" with cognate texts in other cultures, especially those of North America.

III. Course Outline

[Sample topic: Auto- and Hetero-Stereotyping in Contemporary France]

- Weeks 1-3 The Issue of National Identity: Comparing definitions
 Readings from Tocqueville on traditional America;
 Readings from Lawrence Wylie and others on traditional France.
 Viewing of La Vie est un long fleuve tranquil.
- Weeks 4-5 Auto-stereotyping among the French: analysis of the cartoon series <u>Astérix</u>, the contemporary satirical cartoons of Claire Bretecher, various other cartoon images in the popular press (<u>Madame Figaro</u>, <u>Jours de France</u>, <u>Express</u>, etc.)
- Weeks 6-8 Auto-stereotyping of French women: the founding analyses of Simon de Beauvoir vs. the contemporary "post-modern" analysis of Luce Irigary.
 Films: Diane Kurys' <u>Diabolo Menthe</u> (Peppermint Soda) and <u>Coup de foudre</u>.
- Weeks 9-11 Hetero-stereotyping of immigrants and <u>beur</u> French nationals. French racial theory in Frantz Fanon and Albert Memmi vs. the ideology of the contemporary Front National Films: Coluche's <u>Touche pas à mon pote</u> and Tavernier's <u>Les Ripoux</u>.
- Weeks 12-14 French sub-national identities (e.g., the Bretons and the Occitans) vs. the supra-national social and cultural pressures of the European Union.

IV. Evaluations Methods

Students will demonstrate mastery of the course objectives through successful completion of the following course requirements:

- -- Completion of assigned readings in required and reserve texts.
- --Viewing of required films and reaction papers for each one in the target language.
- --Quizzes on the concepts and analysis of auto- and hetero-stereotyping regarding the relevant populations.

--An extended essay (8 to 12 pages) on a relevant comparative topic to be negotiated with the instructor in the target language.

10% Class participation 35% Five reaction papers 20% Two quizzes 35% Extended essay

Grading scale: A=90-100%; B=80-89%; C=70-79%; D=60-69%; F=59% and lower.

V. Required Textbook(s), Supplemental Books and Readings

Carroll, Raymonde. Evidences invisibles. Paris: Seuil, 1989.

Rosello, Mireille. Declining the Stereotype. Boston: New England University Press, 1997.

VI. Special Resource Requirements

Current video and library resources are sufficient.

VII. Bibliography

Andrew, Buckley. "France: Postwar French Cinema." in William Luhr, ed. World Cinema since 1945. NY: Ungar Pub., 1987.

Archer, Clive. The European Community: Structure and Process. NY: St. Martin's Press, 1992.

Ardaugh, John. Cultural Atlas of France. NY: Facts on File, 1992.

Augé, Marc. L'Anthropologue dans le métro. Paris: Hachette, 1986.

Austin, Guy. Contemporary French Cinema: An Introduction. Manchester, UK: Manchester UP, 1996.

Bernstein, Richard. Fragile Glory: A Portrait of France and the French. NY: Knopf, 1990.

Buss, Robin. The French through their Films. NY: Ungar, 1988.

Caroll, Raymonde. Evidences Invisibles. Paris: Seuil, 1987.

Caroll, Raymonde. Unpublished keynote workshop. Colloquium on <u>La Pédagogie de l'interculturel</u>: University of Maryland, May 1997.

Church, Clive H. <u>European Union and European Community</u>: <u>Handbook and Commentary</u>. London: Havester Wheatsheaf, 1994.

Clark, Margaret. "Historical Emotionology" in Andrew Barnes and Peter Stearns, Social History and Issues in Human Consciousness. New York UP, 1989. 262-270.

- Cuisiner, J. & M. Ethnologie de la France. Paris: PUF, 1986.
- Darnton, Robert. "The History of Mentalities" in <u>The Kiss of Lamourette: Reflections on Cultural History</u>. NY: Norton, 1990.
- Donnat, Olivier. Les Pratiques culturelles des Français. Paris: La Découverte, 1990.
- Dreyfus, François-Georges, ed. France and EC Membership. NY: St. Martin's Press, 1993.
- Erens, Patricia. <u>Issues in Feminist Film Criticism</u>. Bloomington, IN: Indiana UP, 1993.
- Facets Multimedia. Facets Video Catalog. (1517 W. Fullerton, Chicago, IL 60614)
- Gaspard, Françoise. <u>A Small City in France: A Socialist Mayor Confronts Neofascism</u>. Cambridge, MA: Harvard UP, 1995.
- Harre, Rom. The Social Construction of Emotions. NY: Blackwell, 1986.
- Hall, E.T. <u>Understanding Cultural Difference</u>. Yarmouth, ME: Intercultural Press, 1990.
- Haskell, Molly. From Reverences to Rape: the Treatment of Women in the Movies. NY: Holt, Rinehart, 1973.
- Haywood, Susan. French National Cinema. NY: Routledge, 1993.
- Hazareesingh, Sudhir. Political Traditions in Modern France. NY: Oxford UP, 1994.
- Hoffman, Stanley. The European Sisyphus: Essays on Europe. Boulder, CO: Westview Press, 1995.
- Kelly, Michael & Rosemary Bock, eds. <u>France</u>: <u>Nations et regions</u>. Southhampton: Southhampton UP, 1993.
- Laudet, Claire & Richard Cox. Le Peuple de France aujourd'hui. Manchester, UK: Manchester UP, 1995.
- Lester, Paul Martin. <u>Images that Injure: Pictorial Stereotypes in the Media</u>. Westport, CN: Praeger, 1996.
- Luce, Louise F., ed. The French-Speaking World: An Anthology of Cross-Cultural Perspectives. Lincolnwood, IL: National Textbook Co., 1991.
- MacDonald, Sharon, ed. <u>Inside European Identities: Ethnography in Western Europe</u>. Providence, RI: Berg Publishers Ltd., 1993.
- Marcus, Jonathan. The National Front and French Politics: The Resistible Rise of Jean-Marie Le Pen. NYU Press, 1995.
- Moi, Toril. French Feminist Thought. Cambridge: Blackwell, 1987.

Peabody, Dean. <u>National Characteristics</u>. European Monographs in Social Psychology. Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 1985.

Penley, Constance. Feminism & Film Theory. NY: Routledge, 1989.

Perotti, Antonio. "The Council of Europe's Guidelines 1972-92" in Claire Fauchon & M. Vargaftig, European Television: Immigrant and Ethnic Minorities. London: John Libbey & Co., 1995.

Porter, Melinda Camber. Through Parisian Eyes: Reflections on Contemporary French Arts and Culture. NY: Oxford UP, 1986.

Riffaut, Helene, ed. Les Valeurs des Français. Paris: PUF, 1994.

Rosello, Mireille. Declining the Stereotype. Boston: New England University Press, 1997.

----. <u>Infiltrating Culture: Power & Identity in Contemporary Women's Writing</u>. Manchester, UK: Manchester UP, 1996.

Rouyer, Philippe. Initiation au cinéma. Paris: Médiathèque, n.d.

Seelye, Ned H. Experiential Activities for Intercultural Learning. Yarmouth, ME: Intercultural Press, 1996.

Small, Albert, ed. French à la Cartoon. Lincolnwood, IL: Passport Books, 1989.

Solomon, Robert C. The Passions. Garden City, NY: Doubleday, 1976.

Sterns, Peter. American Cool. New York: New York UP, 1994.

Tiersky, Ronald. France and the New Europe: Changing Yet Steadfast. Belmont: Wadsworth Publ, 1994.

Winchester, Hilary P. M. Contemporary France. NY: J. Wiley & Son, 1993.

Wylie, Lawrence. Les Français. Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice-Hall, 1970.

Zeldin, Theodore. France 1948-1946: vol. II Intellect, Taste, and Anxiety. Oxford UP, 1977.

Zeldin, Theodore. The French. Harvill Press, 1983/1995.

Course Analysis Questionnaire

Details of the Course

- A1. This course is an elective for French majors. It is open to students who have completed FR353, Intermediate French Composition, or who have been placed at this level by the French faculty upon assessment of past language experience and placement test results.
- A2. Yes. See accompanying description of French major curriculum revision and relevant course deletions.
- A3. No
- A4. No
- A5. No variable credit. N/A
- A6. Yes. This configuration of courses was developed from a study of five institutions known for their active, progressive French programs and comparable to IUP in size. Thus these courses or others like them are offered by:

Millersville University of Pennsylvania, University of Delaware, Ohio University, Miami of Ohio, SUNY at Albany

A7. Yes. These revised courses reflect content and skills commonly recommended or required by professional and accrediting institutions like The American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Language, The Modern Language Association, Middle States, and NCATE. This new curriculum will allow incorporation of this material into a program typically completed in six or seven semesters, so as to encourage study and internship programs in Nancy, France.

Interdisciplinary Implications

- B1. One instructor.
- B2. These are courses in the French language, culture and literature. There is not a conflict.
- B3. Yes.

Implementation

- C1. Faculty is adequate. These revisions were made with current faculty in mind.
- C2. None.
- C3. No grant funding is needed.
- C4. On a three-year cycle or as needed.
- C5. One.
- C6. 20 25.
- C7. Yes. The Modern Language Association recommends class maximums of 25 students.

Miscellaneous

Department of Anthropology Indiana University of Pennsylvaria Keith Hall Indiana, Pennsylvania 15705-1087

(412) 357-2730 (412) 357-4842 (FAX)

<u>uni</u>

October 7, 1994

Robert Whitmer, Chair Dept. of French IUP

Dear Bob.

I understand from earlier communication that in a recent review of your curriculum, your faculty decided that they would like to make an Anthropology class required (rather than recommended) as one of the Liberal Studies social science courses for your students. The faculty in Anthropology would welcome this change in your curriculum, and we hope that your students will find a course in Contemporary Anthropology or Cultural Anthropology stimulating and useful.

One option that we might consider would be steering your students into one particular section of our course, so that there would be a concentration of students with an interest in French. If we had enough lead time, we could arrange for particular reading assignments that would be most appropriate for them, e.g. ethnographies of cultures in Franco-phone West Africa or the Caribbean, or ethnographic reading on rural French culture. A votre plaisir.

Let me know if you would like to discuss these options, or if we can be of further assistance in facilitating your curriculum revision.

Best wishes,

Miriam Chaiken

Chair

(412) 357-2400



September 24, 1997

Dr. Renee Liscinsky, Chairperson Department of French 454 Sutton Hall IUP

Dear Dr. Liscinsky:

The Department of Professional Studies in Education supports discontinuing the French for Elementary Education concentration offered by your department. We recommend that this program no longer be included in future undergraduate catalogs. Few, if any, students have chosen this option. A minor in French for elementary education majors is under discussion. This option would better serve students.

Sincerely yours,

Gail J. Gerlach, Ed.D.

Assistant Chairperson

cc: Dr. Edwina Vold, Chairperson

Gail J. Gerlach

Mary Sadler email: msadler

Date:

February 18, 1999

To:

Dr. Lauren Hurt French Department

From:

Mary Sadler, Director Liberal Studies May Sadler

Subject:

Liberal Studies - Program Revision

On February 11, 1999 the Liberal Studies Committee approved your request to add AN 110 or AN 211 as suggested Social Science courses for the Bachelor of Science in Education – K-12 French Education.

Our approval of this change was reported to the University-wide Undergraduate Curriculum Committee on February 16, 1999.

CC: Dr. Brenda Carter, Dean

Dr. Renee Liscinsky, Chairperson

6 February 1996

SUBJECT:

FR 461 Studies in Literature proposal

TO:

College of Humanities & Social Sciences:

Curriculum Committee

UWUCC

FROM:

Don McClure, Chair English Department

The English Department finds no conflict or overlap with the proposed FR 461 course in French literature because its focus will be literature in French. While many English literature courses study works in translation, some of them originally written in French, we do not include works that have not been translated into English.

cc: Foster Jones, French Department Curriculum Committee

Memo to: Dr. Foster T. Jones

French Department

From:

Annie-Laurie Wheat, Chair

Department of Theater

Subject:

Course Proposal for FR 461

Date:

February 7, 1996

After having looked over the course proposal for FR 461 Le Theatre Modern I see no conflict with any course in the Department of Theater.

However, I was curious in knowing about the choice of plays because most of the plays being studied are from the first half of this century. I would be interested in knowing about play development in the last 40 years for a course in "modern theater" or is there nothing of note written more recently?

Will the students have any materials presented to them about play analysis? In the course objectives #1 says that student will learn about the basic historical periods of the century, however, I do not see that information listed in the body of the syllabus beyond the material for the 19th century. Course objectives #4, #5 and #6 are not really course objectives in terms of the UWUCC guidelines.

I also wondered about the plays listed in the body of the syllabus and not in the Required Text section? How will students know what to purchase?

I guess I also looked at this with the eye of a member of the UWUCC, I hope the comments have been helpful. They would have been asked sooner or later.

FLOW CHART: B. A. in French

| EN101 HI195 AH/MH/TH FR202 | Semester 1 College Writing History: The Modern Era Fine Arts course College French II LS elective Total: | 4 3 3 3 3 16 | MA HP/FN143 FR321 FR353 EN/FL121 | Semester 2 Mathematics course Health and Wellness Intermediate Conversation Intermediate Fr. Comp. Humanities: Literature Total: | 3 3 3 3 3 15 |
|-------------------------------------|---|-----------------------------|--|---|------------------------------------|
| EN202 FR351 FR254 FR361 | Semester 3 Research Writing French Grammar Lab Science Civ. of Modern France Intro to French Literature Total: | 3 3 4 3 3 16 | FR451 PH/RS FR365 | Semester 4 Social Science course Advanced French Grammar Lab Science Philos/Rel Studies course French Lit: Medieval-17th Total: | 3 3 4 3 3 16 |
| FR4 | Semester 5 Social Science course LS elective LS elective Free elective Controlled French elective Total: | 3 3 3 3 3 15 | LS499 FR363 FR366 | Semester 6 Senior Synthesis French Civilization French Lit: 18th-20th Social Science course Free elective Total: | 3 3 3 3 3 15 |
| (Optional Stu | Semester 7 dy Abroad) French Electives Total: | 15 15 | (Minimum S | Semester 8 (in Nancy, France) tudy Abroad) French Electives Total: | 16 16 |

Total for all 8 semesters:

124

This eight-semester sequence leads to a B.A. degree in French while allowing for a year or a semester in France. Students must be sure to take a course which fulfills the Non-Western requirement as well as two writing-intensive courses.

FLOW CHART: B. A. in French for International Trade

| EN101 MA PC101 FR202 HP/FN143 | Semester 1 College Writing Mathematics course General Psychology College French II Health and Wellness Total: | 4 3 3 3 3 16 | Semester 2 BE/IM/CO101 Computer Literacy 3 PS101 World Politics 3 EC121 Princ. of Economics I 3 FR353 Intermediate Fr. Comp. 3 HI195 History: The Modern Era 3 Total: 15 |
|---|--|--|---|
| EN202 EC122 AG201 FR351 MG310 BL235 AD321 EN/FL121 FR361 FR254 | Research Writing Lab Science Princ. of Economics II Accounting I French Grammar Total: Semester 5 Princ. of Management Business Law Bus. Communication Humanities: Literature Intro. to French Literature Civ. of Modern France Total: | 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 18 | PH/RS Philos/Rel Studies course 3 Lab Science 4 AG202 Accounting II 3 FR321 Intermediate Conversation 3 FR451 Advanced Grammar 3 Total: 16 Semester 6 FR354 Business French 3 MK320 Principles of Marketing FR363 French Civilization 3 FR363 French Civilization 3 MA214 Probability and Statistics FR365 or 366 French Lit survey 3 Total: 15 |
| FI310 LS499 AH/MH/TH MG350 | Semester 7 Free Elective Finance I Senior Synthesis Fine Arts course International Business Total: | 3 3 3 3 3 | Semester 8 (in Nancy, France) Business / French Electives 7-12 Internship 6-12 Total: 13-18 |

Total for all 8 semesters:

124

This eight-semester sequence leads to a B.A. degree in French for International Trade while allowing for a semester in France at the *Institut Commercial de Nancy*. The World Politics course in Semester 2 fulfills the Non-Western requirement. Students must be sure to take two writing-intensive courses.

FLOW CHART: B. S. in French Education (K-12)

| FR202 HI195 HP143 EN101 AH/MH/TH | Fine Arts course | 3 3 3 4 3 16 | FR321 MA PC101 AN FR353 | Semester 2 Intermediate Conversation Mathematics course General Psychology Anthropology course Intermediate Fr. Comp. Total: | 3 3 3 3 15 |
|--|---|-----------------------------|---|---|------------------------|
| FR351 FR361 EP202 FE202 ED242 | Semester 3 French Grammar Intro to French Literature Lab Science Educational Psychology American Education Pre-student Teaching I Total: 1 | 3 4 3 3 1 | PH/RS FR363 FR451 FR365 or 366 | Semester 4 Philos/Rel Studies course French Civilization Lab Science Advanced French Grammar French Lit survey Total: | 3 4 3 3 16 |
| FR422 EN/FL121 CM301 EN202 EP377 | Semester 5 LS Elective French Phonetics Humanities: Literature Technology for Learning Research Writing Ed Tests and Measurement Total: | 3 3 3 3 3 18 | French Electives Free Electives LS Elective | | |
| LS499 ED453 ED442 ED342 EX301 | Semester 7 Senior Synthesis Social Science course Teaching of For. Langs. School Law Pre-student Teaching II Ed of Students with Disab. LS Elective Total: | 3 3 1 1 2 3 | ED441 Studen | Semester 8 at Teaching Total: | 12 12 |

Total for all 8 semesters:

124

This eight-semester sequence leads to a B.S. degree in French Education while allowing for a semester in France in the junior year (spring semester). The Anthropology course in Semester 2 fulfills the Non-Western requirement. Students must be sure to take two writing-intensive courses.

- 270. Main Currents of French Literature I. Prerequisite: 103 or equivalent. Representative works and literary movements from the origins through the eighteenth century. Conducted entirely in French.
- 271. Main Currents in French Literature II. Prerequisite: 103 or equivalent. Continuation of FREN 270. Representative works and literary movements of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

Fr 325C. French Literature I

A basic course for the study of French literature. Introduction to the methodology of explication de texte, as well as to the theoretical concepts of the three major genres: theatre, poetry, novel. Prerequisite: Fr 308D, or permission of instructor. Credit 3 units.

Fr 326C. French Literature II

The important literary schools and movements constitutive of French literary history. May be taken before or after Fr 325C. Prerequisite: Fr 308D. Credit 3 units.

CLA LF 306 Advanced Oral Expression Prereq: CLA LF 304 or equivalent. Advanced training in rapid and idiomatic French speech. Discussions of selected topics; individual oral reports. Lexicology and semantics as applied to oral French. Lab required. 4 cr, either sem.

51 ADVANCED ORAL EXPRESSION

Intensive training in oral expression and corrective phonetics. Study of special grammatical patterns enhances communication skills. Small conversation groups with Francophone assistants. Prerequisite, French 41, placement test or permission of instructor. Every semester. (4 credits)

CLA LF 503 The Structure of French: Phonology Prereq: one language course beyond CLA LF 304.

Linguistic study of the sound system and word formation in French and Québécois. Discussion of the . organization of linguistic information, language variation and change, and Haitian Creole. Neidle. 4 cr, 1st sem.

Fr 493. Selected French Writers

Study of one or more authors such as Jean-Paul Sartre and Alain Robbe-Grillet, with emphasis on their fiction and theories of literature. Attention also given to film and autobiography. For graduate students and advanced undergraduates. Prerequisite: permission of the Department. Credit 3 units.

273. Topics in Applied French Continued study of the French language designed to take advantage of issues of current interest in French society or culture (e.g., electoral seasons, important historical commemorations, current social or cultural controversies). Ample opportunity for written work and discussion of the topic chosen. Offered only at the Dickinson Study Center in Toulouse. One-half course credit.

08-323 French Phonetics HU LA

Intensive practical phonetics for American speakers of French. Emphasis on correct pronunciation, orthography, and recognition of dialect. Prerequisites: 08-301 prior or concurrent (or equivalent permission of instructor). 3 credits. (Z)

Fr 405. Special Topics in French Language and Literature

Undergraduate seminar. Topics vary. May be repeated for credit. Prerequisites: Fr 307D-308D; 325C, 326C. Credit 3 units.

Conducted entirely in French, this course continues the development of the skills of listening, speaking, reading, and writing, with increasing emphasis on the practice of reading and writing. It includes introduction to the cultural background of France and the Francophone world. Prerequisite, French 11 or placement test or permission of instructor. Every semester. (4 credits)

Fr 307D. Grammar and Composition
Rimarily practice in writing French with a view to
rimisition of new skills and review of grammatical
points studied in previous courses. Analysis of texts in
French: some conversation. Essential for further study of
French language and literature; must be taken before or
frenching with Fr 325C, 326C. Prerequisite: Fr 201D,
a placement by examination. Credit 3 units.

†CLA LF 350 Introduction to Analysis of French
Texts Prereq: CLA LF 212 or CEEB score of 540.
Development of techniques for reading and interpreting French literary texts. Special attention to the study of lyric poetry, drama, and short narrative.

Goldsmith, Julien. 4 cr., either sem.

231. Written Expression A writing-intensive course directed towards improvement of stylistic skills. Some review of grammar insofar as it is a tool to achieve course goals. Writing assignments to include compositions, journals, prose style analyses, pastiches, and translations. Prerequisite: 116 or the equivalent.

French Society and Culture from the Middle Ages to the Present V45.0163 LEP Area 6. Students planning to major in French studies are strongty advised to take this course concurrently with V45.0101 or V45.0105. 4 points. A retrospective and introspective view of French civilization from early periods to World War II through the interrelation and interaction of fine arts, music, philosophy, literature, and history. Study of major trends, personalities, and events; search for a meaning and a definition of what constitutes the cultural heritage of France. To achieve a perception from within, this course avoids an anthological approach. Primary sources and documents, such as chroniques, mémoires, journaux, revues, and correspondence.

232. Oral Expression Emphasis on use of the spoken language within the context of daily French civilization. Intensive participation intended to encourage increasing freedom of oral expression, particularly as applied to those areas of intercultural communication of value to Americans who will be living or working in France. Prerequisite: 116 or the equivalent.

Fr 411. Advanced Grammar and Composition

Same as Linguistic Studies 417
Advanced problems in grammar. Written exercises, free composition, discussions. For prospective teachers and candidates for advanced degrees. Conducted in French. Prerequisites: Fr 307D, 308D or equivalent, or permission of instructor. Required for master's candidates in French unless waived by director of graduate studies. Credit 3 units.

r 310. Practical and Commercial French Development of reading and writing proficiency and soloral communication in the French-speaking mess world. Topics: banking, retailing, advertising, incss-letter writing, etc. Prerequisite: Fr 307D or pivalent. Credit 3 units.

CLA LF 340 French Civilization Prereq: CLA LF 303. Current issues in politics, society, and education. Today's France through its memories and cultural symbols: Joan of Arc, the French Academy, Vichy and de Gaulle, among others. Materials drawn from contemporary essays, articles, movies, and videotapes. Livni. 4 cr, 2nd sem.

Contemporary France V45.0164 LEP Area 6. When alternately conducted in English, this course is numbered V45.0864. 4 points. The concept of "French civilization" in both its mythical and real aspects. Gives the student considerable knowledge about the economic and social features of contemporary France. The comparative approach between French and American culture is used.