

Deciphering French culture - Mindsets and practices

EM023M2GB1

Semester

B

Discipline

Interpersonal development techniques

Contact hours

27 H

Number of spots

45

Open to visitors

Yes

Language



Coordinator



Stéphane DANGEL

List of lecturers

Lecturer(s)	Email	Contact hours - lecture
Stéphane DANGEL	sdangel@unistra.fr	9 h
Alexandre KOULMANN	akoulmann@gmail.com	18 h

Pedagogical contribution of the course to the program

No educational contribution associated with this course for this program.

Description

This course aims to allow students to better identify and understand some underlying cultural factors that may impact mindsets, behaviours and practices in today's France, particularly in the working environment. Beyond unearthing significant trends and patterns, such an approach will also enable students to revisit or confirm some workplace clichés traditionally associated with France -quality of life, incessant strikes, the 35-hour week, an overreaching state, to name a few-. By comparing facts and experiences in the home and host countries, whether within or outside Europe, the students will enhance their cross-cultural awareness and their ability to better adapt to an ever-changing world. This course is also an opportunity to assess some salient strengths and weaknesses of France as a cultural entity to be reckoned with in social or business interactions and dealings.

Teaching methods

Face-to-face

- Lectures
- Tutorials
- E-learning

In group

- Exercises
- Oral presentations
- Projects

Interaction

- Discussions/debates
- Personal accounts

Others

No items in this list have been checked.

Learning objectives

Cognitive domain

Upon completion of this course, students should be able to

- - (level 1) identify characteristic behaviours and practices
 - - (level 2) distinguish facts from clichés
 - - (level 5) interpret cultural determinisms
 - - (level 5) evaluate one's own observations and interpretations
 - - (level 6) incorporate data pertaining to different fields
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Affective domain

Upon completion of this course, students should be able to

- - (level 2) question ideas, opinions and feelings with peers from different cultural backgrounds
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Outline

Section 1: French Stereotypes and Paradoxes

Section 2: Institutions and Work

Section 3: French suburban Areas, between Spear and Dispair, and the difficult Relationship to Power

Section 4: The French Language

Section 5: The EU, an Attraction-Aversion Relationship

Section 6: Money and Business

Section 7: The French Retirement System and French Attitudes towards Retirement

Section 8: The role of France in the World, Perspectives, Intentions and Realities

Section 9: Revisions and Preparation for the Exam

No prerequisite has been provided

Knowledge in / Key concepts to master

None apart from a willingness to observe, identify and interpret situations and behaviour while remaining non-

judgmental and to further further grasp intrinsic similarities and differences with situations and behaviour in one's home country. A B2 level of English:
<https://rm.coe.int/CoERMPublicCommonSearchServices/DisplayDCTMContent?documentId=090000168045bb52>

Teaching material

Mandatory tools for the course

- Computer

Documents in all formats

- Newspaper articles
- Case studies/texts
- Worksheets

Moodle platform

- Upload of class documents
- Interface to submit coursework

Software

- Pack Office (Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Access)
- Keynote

Additional electronic platforms

- AssessFirst
 - CrossKnowledge
 - goFLUENT
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Recommended reading

Main reading material

- Gannon, M. and Pillai, R. (2015). Understanding global cultures: metaphorical journeys through 34 nations, clusters of nations, continents, and diversity. Thousand Oaks, Calif: Sage.
- Hazareesingh, Sudhir. How the French think. [Place of publication not identified]: Penguin Books, 2016. D'Iribarne, Philippe.
- "Giving French Management a Chance", December 2nd, 2005 Report by Sylvie Chevrier, Translation by Rachel Marlin. <https://ecole.org/en/session/586-giving-french-management-a-chance>
- <https://hbr.org/1991/07/the-making-of-a-french-manager>
- <http://johngaynardcreativity.blogspot.fr/2012/03/french-strangeness-philippe-diribarne.html> Hazareesingh Sudhir.
- "The Dimming of the light". <https://aeon.co/essays/french-thought-once-dazzled-the-world-what-went-wrong>.
- Related video: https://archive.org/details/Sudhir_Hazareesingh_on_How_the_French_Think Hofstede Geert
- Country Comparison <https://www.hofstede-insights.com/country-comparison-tool?countries>
- Mondon, A., & Dawes, S. (2023). The mainstreaming of the far right in France: Republican, liberal and illiberal articulations of racism. French Cultural Studies, 34(3), 329-339. <https://doi.org/10.1177/09571558231157224>.
- Ekman, M. (2022). The great replacement: Strategic mainstreaming of far-right conspiracy claims. Convergence,

28(4), 1127-1143. <https://doi.org/10.1177/13548565221091983>.

- Beaman, J., & Fredette, J. (2022). The US/France contrast frame and black lives matter in France. *Perspectives on Politics*, 20(4), 1346-1361.

https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Jean-Beaman/publication/363002766_The_USFrance_Contrast_Frame_and_Black_Lives_Matter_in_France/links/63a744c203aad5368e39b48f/The-US-France-Contrast-Frame-and-Black-Lives-Matter-in-France.pdf.

Additional literature

- <https://uk.france.fr/en> (the official web site of the French Government Tourist office)
 - <http://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/> (the official web site of the French Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs)
 - <https://www.data.gouv.fr/en/> (the official governmental Platform for Open Data)
 - <http://www.insee.fr/en/> (National Institute of Statistics and Economic Studies, in English)
 - <https://data.oecd.org/france.htm> (OECD data for France)
 - The Conversation (Select English as a language option) <https://theconversation.com/global/search?q=France>
 - Le Monde diplomatique in English <https://mondediplo.com/>
 - Politico <https://www.politico.com/news/france>
 - France24 TV Channel <https://www.france24.com/en/>
 - RFI in English (Radio France International) <https://www.rfi.fr/en/>
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EM Research: Be sure to mobilize at least one resource

Textbooks, case studies, translated material, etc. can be entered

Patricia Tehami, "Brand France: A Battle of Wits and Insights", *The Global Interdisciplinary Conference: Green Cities*, Nancy, 30 juin 2018

Assessment

List of assessment methods

Intermediate assessment / continuous assessment Other (date, pop quiz, etc.) : Depending on the chosen topic, given the topics covered in class

Oral (15 Min.) / Individual / English / Weight : 50 %

Details : Individually graded group presentation on a research topic.

This evaluation is used to measure ILO2.3-PGE, ILO3.1-PGE, ILO4.1-PGE, ILO4.2-PGE

Final evaluation Exam week

Written (120 Min.) / Individual / English / Weight : 50 %

Details : Course questions individual essay or case study.

This evaluation is used to measure ILO2.3-PGE, ILO3.1-PGE, ILO4.1-PGE, ILO4.2-PGE