

GTL 2000 - Metz – Gateway to France and Europe

Instructors : Pr. Jennifer Orth – Veillon & Pr. Sonia Serafin - Georgia Tech Europe

Credit hours: 1

Course prerequisites: None

This syllabus is subject to change.

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 : 50%

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 5 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.

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<https://catalog.gatech.edu/policies/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.

1. SCHEDULE of CLASSES: Subject to changes due to unforeseen circumstances. SEE schedule of organized site visits thereafter.

Week 1: Pr. Jennifer Orth – Veillon and Pr. Sonia Serafin.

Monday May 15th: 6.15-7.45 pm *All students.* CESCOAM Amphitheater:
Course introduction. Presentation of curriculum and travel options. How to register in the organized site visits weekends or independent studies.

Online. *All students.* Film 'Engineering Rome'. Link will be sent.

Week 2: Pr. Jennifer Orth – Veillon and Pr. Sonia Serafin.

Tuesday May 21st : 6.15-7.45pm *All students.* MDE Amphitheater:
Approach to French Culture. Sonia Serafin

Wednesday May 22nd: 6.15-7.45 pm *All students.* CESCOAM Amphitheater:
Understanding Contemporary Europe Through War and Peace: Dr. Jennifer Orth – Veillon

Online. *All students.* Self-guided visit of Metz. Link will be sent.

ALTERNATIVE ONE: CHOOSE ONE WEEK-END of SITE VISITS ORGANIZED by GTE Faculty

Confirmation, registration procedures and details of travels will be given during class on **Wednesday May 15th**. This schedule could change due to Covid regulations or other circumstances.

1. Roman Empire students (max 50):

Saturday May 18th: Visit Trier in Germany: Roman amphitheater, Roman Bath and Basilica, Metz Aqueduct.

Sunday May 19th: Bliesbrück-Reinheim Archeological site in both France and Germany.

2. Two wars students (max 50):

Saturday May 18th: St. Mihiel American Cemetery, Thiaucout German Cemetery, Verdun

Sunday May 19th: Ft. Hackenberg and Ft. de Queuleu

Thursday June 6th afternoon: Ceremony at American WW2 cemetery for Georgia Tech students – soldiers.

3. France and the European Union students (max 50):

Saturday May 25th: Strasbourg city tour, visit of the European Parliament.

Sunday May 26th : Scy - Chazelles, Robert Schuman Home & Museum Schengen, Luxembourg museum & history of Schengen accord for a 'borderless 'Europe; tour of Luxembourg city.

Students register after first class for ONE of the following:

1. ROMAN EMPIRE:

50 students max. Sonia Serafin

Site visits: City of Trier – Germany (2 hour guided visit), Museum Cour d'Or (1 hour guided visit),– Aqueduct 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. ALSACE – LORRAINE –TWO WARS

50 students max. Dr. Jennifer Orth -Veillon

Site visits: WWI 1914-1918 German Cemetery, American Cemetery, Verdun (Separate Guided visits to cemeteries, Verdun museum, and Ft. Douaumont 8 am – 6:30pm), 1939-1945: Ft. de Queuleu Concentration Camp (2-hour guided visit of fort and grounds), Maginot Line, Fort Hackenberg (2 hour guided visit), St Avold American WWII cemetery (Ceremony June 6th)

Browse **Britannica Site** to Refresh WWI History and/or find video that recaps WWI history, especially the Western Front

Read Antoine Prost, from “Verdun” – Document on Canvas

Watch WWI: Gold Star Pilgrimages in the 1930s ([link here](#))

Jay Winter, from Sites of Memory, Sites of Mourning - Document on Canvas

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

Read France from the Holocaust Museum Encyclopedia [link here](#)

Read How WWII Shaped Modern France, [link here](#)

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

50 students max. Dr. Jennifer Orth - Veillon

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://archive.euussciencetechnology.eu/uploads/docs/guideforamer2011.pdf>

ALTERNATIVE TWO: INDEPENDENT STUDY THEMES

Students (in groups of 4/5) 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 or four 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
- ***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