

**Serve Learn Sustain (SLS)-France Program @ Georgia Tech-Europe, Metz, France**

**FREN 3500 Field Work Abroad, TT 5-6:15 PM, 3 Credits**

**Fall 2026 Syllabus and Homework Assignments**

**INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION**

Instructor: Dr. Christophe Ippolito

GT Office: Swann 226 / Georgia Tech-Europe Office TBA / Office hours: TBA

Email address: [cippolito6@gatech.edu](mailto:cippolito6@gatech.edu)

<https://iac.gatech.edu/people/person/christophe-ippolito>

I will be readily available to help students along including with advice on program and everyday life in Metz (I'm very familiar with this city). If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to email me. **This syllabus will be posted on Georgia Tech-Europe site in Spring 2026 and emailing me in Spring or Summer 2026 is fine.**

The homework submission will be managed online. This course requires internet access and a computer with microphone and camera in working order. Communication will be via Announcements. Please enable the notification preferences on your Canvas account if you have turned it off (Canvas > Account > Notifications > Announcement).

**The best and quickest way to contact me is by email to which I will usually respond within 24 hours.** Students are urged to visit my office hours, virtually or on site. We can set up individual appointments.

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This community-based course will focus on theme-based individual projects abroad. Fall 2026 students will learn about local sustainability practices in the city of Metz, France and the French-speaking tri-border region (Eastern France, Belgium and Luxemburg). They will meet both at GTE and in the city, where they will volunteer with a community organization of their choice under the supervision of their instructor. They may interview people, shoot videos, complete service projects, report on sustainability practices, create websites and have other activities. To the extent possible, students' professional and career interests are matched with the volunteer site. Course required for the SLS-France Program. Conducted in French.

If you have taken French classes in high school/another college or are a heritage speaker, please take the placement test (<https://modlangs.gatech.edu/students/placement-tests>) and provide a copy of your score the first day of class.

## COURSE GOALS AND LEARNING OUTCOMES

This course will introduce students to local sustainability practices. Students will:

- be able to demonstrate skills needed to work effectively in different types of communities;
- be able to evaluate how decisions impact the sustainability of communities;
- develop their analysis skills related to methodology for social and cultural studies;
- analyze documents and content related to sustainable development in France;
- improve their oral and written communication skills in French and the French-speaking tri-border region; and
- understand the importance of sustainability practices in French-speaking cultures today.

## COURSE MATERIALS

Web-based material on sustainability in France and Europe, with focus on Metz and the French-speaking tri-border region (Eastern France, Belgium and Luxemburg). Selected documents and links on Canvas.

## EVALUATION AND GRADING POLICY

- ACTIVE PARTICIPATION (10% of final grade). A rubric will be made available. Attendance essential and part of the grade.
- WEEKLY POSTINGS on Canvas (20% of final grade): on your volunteering experience (before you begin your volunteering work, please post on the sustainable aspects of Metz including the non-governmental organizations we will visit or guided excursions we'll do).
- 2 SHORT ESSAYS (30% of final grade, 15% each)
  - 1/ ESSAY 1 (10%): on (an aspect of) Metz (related to sustainability; *nicknamed "La Ville Verte" (The Green City) and recipient of several environmental awards, this French city is well-known for the important role sustainability plays in everyday life and won several environmental awards; it has one of the largest pedestrian areas in France.*
  - 2/ ESSAY 2 (10%): your report on your volunteering experience.
- 2 MINI-PRESENTATIONS IN CLASS based on your 2 essays (20% of final grade, 10% each)
- SUPERVISED VOLUNTEERING (20% of final grade).

**\*A detailed syllabus will be made available in August 2026. It will include a weekly schedule with due dates for assignments.**