

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

FREN 3501 Sustainable Communities in France, TT 3:30-4:45 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

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<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 course examines social, cultural, artistic and environmental dimensions of sustainability and the concepts of identity, diversity, social equity and inclusion/exclusion in the French context. The course may include visits, workshops, field work (interviews, projects based on visits...), excursions and group research projects. 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 sustainable communities in France and the French-speaking tri-border region (Eastern France, Belgium and Luxemburg) through lectures, workshops, projects, videos, downloads from the Internet, and class discussions. Students will:

- be able to identify relationships among ecological, social, and economic systems;
- develop their analysis skills related to methodology for social and cultural studies;
- analyze documents and content related to French society and its sustainable communities;
- improve their oral and written communication skills in French; and
- understand the importance of sustainable communities in French- way of life

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 (20% 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 topics for the week. We will focus on sustainability (definition, history, goals, facilitating factors, difficulties...) and its applications in Metz and the tri-border region.
- 2 SHORT ESSAYS (40% of final grade, 20% each)
 - 1/ ESSAY 1 (20%): on sustainability (definition, history, UN sustainable development goals...)
 - 2/ ESSAY 2 (20%): on applied sustainability in France and Europe, with focus on Metz and the tri-border region.
- 2 MINI-PRESENTATIONS IN CLASS based on your 2 essays (20% of final grade, 10% each)

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