

Hamilton in France Curriculum

Academic Year 2026-27

This document provides a snapshot of the courses offered at Hamilton in France (HiF). This past year, students have taken courses in phonetics, art history, theater, literature, history, philosophy, painting and drawing, cinema, economy, geography, chemistry, theology, linguistics, philosophy, music theory, and museum studies, in addition to internships with an art workshop, gallery, university scientific laboratory, and business start-up and private jazz vocal lessons. Enrollment in courses at French universities is determined in consultation with the academic director and is based on a range of factors, including the Evalangue score, relevant coursework and experience, curricular needs, and graduation requirements. Please note: depending on the number of contact hours in non-HiF university courses, we frequently require additional tutorials and/or methodology workshops. These tutorials and workshops will be provided by HiF.

Note: Courses with a double asterisk (**) are offered on an annual basis.

Fall 2026

Courses Offered at HiF

- **Advanced Grammar and Composition.**** Systematic review of grammar and style designed to improve students' method of written textual analysis and argumentation required by French universities. The course helps students develop vocabulary and organization which will be useful beyond their experience in France. Fall 2026, HiF. One credit.
- **The Arts of Theater.**** The theme of this very original class is based on plays staged in Paris theaters each semester. Students read and examine plays and attend five to six productions in various theaters in Paris (Comédie française, Odeon, but also independent theaters). They also become acquainted with the historical and social significance of theater and the living arts in France. Fall 2026, HiF. One credit.
- **Towards Modern Arts: Painters and Sculptors from the Revolution to Interwar Paris.**** This course, which meets alternatively in class and in various museums in Paris, offers students a panoramic vision of painting and sculpture in the context of 150 years of political developments through the 19th and 20th centuries. Fall 2026, HiF. One credit.
- **Françafrique.**** Political history of the relation between France and various countries in Africa from the colonial period to “the independence” period. This course focuses on the major moments, themes, debates and actors that have marked the history of political relations between France and its former colonies and the relevance of this history in current political affairs. Fall 2026, HiF and Smith College Consortium. One credit.

- **France Today: Democracy in Danger?*** While France is one of the founders of the "Human Rights," candidates of the extreme right have become serious contenders in recent elections, and soon to be presidential elections. This course will examine the political history of France and the roots of current divisions which are, at least on the surface, destabilizing democracy. Fall 2026, HiF and Smith College Consortium. One credit.
- **Thinking About and Representing the Revolution.** This course guides students in thinking through the representation of the French Revolution, a foundational period in the French political and historical imagination. Students will consider a range of sources, including historical documents, novels, poetry, theatre, and films, and graphic novels. Fall 2026, HiF. One credit.

Courses Taken at French Universities and Partnering Schools

- Sorbonne Nouvelle (SN): Art History and Theory (intro course); Survey of Experimental Cinema; Native Voices of the Americas (literature); Literary Creations from the Margins; Truth and its Veils in 16th Century Literature; When Everything Goes Wrong: 17th Century Literature; 19th Century Travel Literature; Anticolonial Appropriations of Shakespeare; Expressing and Making Love in French Literature; Interculturality of Don Quixote. One credit.
- Paris Cité (UPC): Public and Welfare Economy; History of Economic Thought; Spectroscopy (Chemistry); Words and Sounds in Music Writing; Epistemology (Sociology); Geography of Energies and Energetic Transition (Geography/ Environmental Studies). One credit.
- Sorbonne Université (SU): History of Contemporary Philosophy. One credit.
- Institut Catholique de Paris (ICP): Wisdoms of Antiquity; Modern Philosophy: Kant; Anthropological and Theological Approaches of Cultural Images. One credit.
- Painting and Drawing (Grande Chaumière; Conservatoire de Paris). One credit.

Spring 2027

Courses Offered at HiF

- **Advanced Grammar and Composition.**** Systematic review of grammar and style designed to improve students' method of written textual analysis and argumentation required by French universities. The course helps students develop vocabulary and organization which will be useful beyond their experience in France. Spring 2027, HiF. One credit.
- **Phonetics and Diction.**** Theoretical rules of spoken French and phonetic transcriptions, individual correction of pronunciation (phonemes, stress and intonation) and auditory training in a relaxed but rigorous environment. Spring 2027, HiF. One credit.

- **Gender and Immigration in France.** In-depth study of authors and filmmakers who, while French nationals residing in metropolitan France and writing in French, are often considered outsiders to the French artistic realm. Focus on ethnic and gender stereotypes in the texts (novels, short stories, films) and paratexts (publishing materials, online and print media) of twentieth-and twenty-first century postcolonial artists in France. Spring 2027. HiF. One credit.
- **Speaking Out: A History of Political Discourse from the French Revolution of 1789 to Our Times.**** Speaking out has a long history in France, from political speeches to other visual or embodied forms of speech such as demonstrations, political caricatures, songs and graffiti. This course explores all these different “prise de parole” as a lens through which to understand the political history of modern France. HiF-Smith consortium (students from HiF and Smith colleges). Spring 2027, HiF. One credit.
- **The Arts of Theater.**** The theme of this very original class is based on plays staged in Paris theaters each semester. Students read and examine plays and attend five to six productions in various theaters in Paris (Comédie française, Odeon, but also independent theaters). They also become acquainted with the historical and social significance of theater and the living arts in France. Spring 2027, HiF. One credit.
- **Paris Architecture: Private and Public Space.**** Introduction to the architectural history of Paris and its urban development, taking into account the socio-political and environmental contexts in which the city was developed. This course alternates sessions in class and visits in various neighborhoods and monuments in Paris. Spring 2027, HiF. One credit.
- **Crises in the European Union.**** Study of various crises that have shaped and reshaped the format and alliances of the European Union from the creation of the EU to Brexit. This is a Consortium course (students from HiF and Smith colleges). Spring 2027, HiF. One credit.
- **French Thought in Context: Philosophical and Political Histories of Modernity in Paris.** This class reads key texts in French philosophical and political thought on modernity while exploring the Parisian sites and geographies that inspired them. No philosophy or political theory background required but comfortable walking shoes are a must. Spring 2027, HiF. One credit.

Courses Taken at French Universities and Partnering Schools

- Sorbonne Nouvelle (SN): Literature and Madness (French Literature); Museums and Heritage (Cultural Mediation); Cinema and Popular Music (Film); Francophone Literatures (French Literature); Scandalous Women in Literature (French Literature); Cultural Approaches to Television Series (Film); French Poetry (French Literature); Morphology and Lexical Semantics and Sentence Syntax (Linguistics); Geographies of Hell in Literature (French Literature); Fictional Accounts of Early Britain (French Literature); The Femme Fatale (French Literature); Middle Eastern Cinema (Film). One credit.

- Paris Cité (UPC): History of Muslim Worlds (History); State, Empire, Nation: A Transnational History of Europe, 19th century (History); Medieval History (History); Religions and Societies (History); Cinema of World War II (Film); Economic Politics and European Integration (Economics); History of Globalization, 16th-19th centuries (History). One credit.
- Painting and Drawing (Grande Chaumière; Conservatoire de Paris). One credit.
- Classical Dance Course. 1/2 credit.