

Hamilton in France Curriculum

Academic Year 2025-26

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, political science, psychology, journalism, biology, linguistics, dance, photography, 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 and 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, we frequently require additional tutorials and/or methodology workshops for university courses. These tutorials and workshops will be provided by HiF.

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

Fall 2025

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 2025, 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. Fall 2026, HiF. ½ 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 2025, HiF. One credit.
- **History of French Painting: 1815-1914. Modernity, Technology and the Question of the Subject.**** This course, which meets alternatively in class and in various museums in Paris, offers students a panoramic vision of painting in the context of the tremendous social, technological and political development at the end of the nineteenth-century, in France and in Europe. Fall 2025, 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 2025, 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 2025, HiF and Smith College Consortium. One credit.
- **A Century of Revolutions in France (1789-1871).** This course guides students in thinking through the representation of a century of revolutions in France, 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 2025, HiF. One credit.

Courses Taken at French Universities and Partnering Schools

- Sorbonne Nouvelle (SN): Ethnographic Cinema to Anthropological Film; Musicals in Film; History of Modern Cinema; Silent Film; The Fantastic and Science Fiction in Film; Biopics (Cinema); Defectors in French Literature (French Literature). One credit.
- Paris Cité (UPC): Plants Facing Environmental Stress (Biology); Economies of Emerging Countries (Economics); Medieval History (History); Clinical Psychology (Psychology); Global History of Capitalism (History). One credit.
- Sorbonne Université (SU): Practices of Journalistic Writing; Literature and History. One credit.
- Painting and Drawing (Grande Chaumière). One credit.
- Advanced Photography (Studio Vermès). One credit.
- Individual Jazz Vocal Lessons. ½ credit.
- Classical Dance Course. ½ credit.

Spring 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. Spring 2026, 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 2026, 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 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. Spring 2026, 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 2026, 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 2026, 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 2026, HiF. One credit.
- **Rewriting colonial and postcolonial history in words and images.** This multidisciplinary course explores France's colonial and postcolonial past, from slavery to the present day. Its aim is to understand how Francophone Caribbean and African writers and filmmakers revisit and reclaim a history long written by others. Readings include novels, poetry, essays, graphic novels, films, paintings. Spring 2026, 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); the Teen Series (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): Histoire 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). One credit.
- Classical Dance Course. 1/2 credit.