

FRENCH 3230 - History and Economics of French Cinema from Paris to Cannes

Instructor: Lynn Ramey, French and Italian

Location: Paris, Cannes, and Lyon, France

Dates: May 6 – 31, 2019

Due to the participation in the Cannes Film Festival, this course could not be offered on campus. While there are a few simply cultural activities such as a game of pétanque (French lawn bowling) in Lyon, almost all outings are connected to learning about French media history and production. Paris, Cannes, and Lyon all have dedicated museums to film and the history of movie production. We will take day trips to Monaco and Nice where students will visit additional museums and film shooting locations. I have been teaching the history of French film for many years and have led versions of this Maymester twice (all versions have received excellent student evaluations). I study and publish on French media and speak French fluently. I'm delighted to have the opportunity to work 24/7 with students. The TA who will accompany me is not only a wonderfully enthusiastic teacher, he also has a film that has been submitted to the student section of the Cannes Festival.

In 1895 the Lumière brothers screened the very first moving pictures in a café in Paris. Today the second largest film exporter after the US, France continues to play a central role in the international movie market. Once a year, in May, the world cinema community comes back to the birthplace of film and celebrates at the Cannes Film Festival. A ten-day extravaganza of film screenings, star sightings, and prize awarding, the Festival (founded in 1946) is considered the most prestigious film festival in the world.

This Maymester class will begin on May 6 in Paris where we will spend a week learning about the past and present of the French film industry. Students will experience an accelerated course in French film history, from its origins, through the Golden Age on our way to the New Wave, and finishing in the present. We will visit the Cinémathèque, a comprehensive archive of French film with a museum that traces the history of French film production. We'll also visit a studio, and trace the path of famous locations in the world's most filmable city, among other media-related activities.

Having been thoroughly steeped in French film history and economics, we'll head for Cannes where the film festival will be taking place. Students will attend film screenings and have the opportunity to walk the red carpet with the stars, directors, and film professionals. We'll take side trips to Monaco and Nice, Mediterranean cities with connections to European film. After over a week in Cannes, we'll travel to Lyon where students will visit the Lumière brother's house and museum. We'll finish the course with culminating group projects where students will make their own media, create a plan for marketing it, and present it to the group. Class will end on May 31, and students are free to return home or continue their travels in Europe.

Students will be responsible for paying for travel from the U.S. to Paris and back home. Almost all breakfasts and dinners are included in the hostels in Paris and Lyon, as well as a group dinner in Paris and Lyon. No meals are provided for the eleven days in Cannes, but the students are housed in rooms that have kitchenettes.

This class is taught entirely in English and fulfills the AXLE INT requirement. It also counts toward the major and minor in French as well as the major in Cinema and Media Arts.

More information: <https://my.vanderbilt.edu/maymestercannes/> or lynn.ramey@vanderbilt.edu.

FEES: Cost is approx. \$7,740.00