



AN ECONOMY OF CREATION: DISCOVERING THE FRENCH SAVOIR-FAIRE

APA Program: Paris: Gap Year

Language of instruction: French

US semester credits: 4.0

Term availability: Fall Semester, Spring Semester

Course Prerequisite

Designed for students who have mastered the equivalent of AP French or three semesters of French at their home institution. They should have approximately the B1 starting level according to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR).

Course Objective

- Gain vocabulary and economic and cultural knowledge of French artisans and maker specialties
- Discover the creators of haute couture, design, and gastronomy unique to France
- Communicate in oral and written French in professional situations
- Meet and exchange with creators of all types in their workplaces

Course Description

Introduction to the economic sectors of haute couture, design and gastronomy. Delve into three different and rich sectors of artisan creator trades based on ancestral know-how.

- What are the artisanal skills behind the design of haute couture clothing and accessories?
 - Explore the crafts through articles, research and visiting studios/workshops (jewelry maker, embroiderer, hat maker, plumassier, pleat-maker, glove maker, etc.)
- The professions of gastronomy: from farm to table, understand the association of a wine with a dish through visits, discussions and tastings
- Art and decoration: designers of innovative objects (luminaires, etc.)

Schedule

- The course takes place over a seven week period. Students meet three hours each week:
 - 90 minutes in class
 - 90 minutes at studios, workshops, laboratories and showrooms
- Students will take part in preparations and activities at the various workshops.
- Students are required to conduct research and presentations in addition to the course and visits.

Assessment

- Continual assessment: active participation in class
- Oral presentation with PowerPoint or other visual support
- 3 theory tests, each one given after the completion of the corresponding theme covered

Syllabus subject to change