

## FLNG 251 Section 02 Culture Clash: French / Francophone vs US

### Prof Alek Toumi

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### Office Hours

Mon 3:00- 3:50  
Tue 1:00-1:50 and by appointment

**Why** do the French, Francophone and by extension Europeans seem so cultured, savvy, passionate yet odd, strange, even weird to Americans? **Why** do they seem rude, "immoral" and have sometimes been called *anti-American*? **How do they "think"**, behave and express their thoughts? What makes them different from Americans and how does one explain this "love-hate" relationship?

With a "macro" global approach, this course is designed to answer many of the still unexplained French-European behaviors and prepare students for France, Europe and the Mediterranean world before traveling as a student, scholar, on business or simply as a tourist. Issues of Immigration-Migrants from Africa and their children will be examined.

By defining and examining the *Habitus* of the French / Francophone then comparing it with the American one, through concepts of educational system, family, conversation, friendships, relationships and identity, we gain better understanding of differences and learn to improve communication in the real world (highly recommended for majors in French-German-Spanish-ESL, International Studies, History, Political Science, Education, Business, and Peace Corps volunteers).

What is and is not For Lang 251?

FLNG 251 is NOT your traditional French Films course, where various movements, directors and technics of film making are studied. We will use 12 modern French films made by European directors between the sixties and today, each of them presenting a *real situation* where *cultural conflicts* occur. Fictional and documentary films are used as documents to provide a "*first-hand experience*" about controversial issues that occur in language and culture, identity, immigration/Immigrants and Otherness.

### Books:

Raymonde Carroll Cultural Misunderstandings

Rochefort H W French Toast: An American woman in Paris...

### Articles

Pierre Bourdieu *Habitus et Culture ; Doxa*

Immigration and Identity

French Declaration of the Rights of Man.

Free US Constitution / Declaration of Independence

<https://constitutionus.com/original-documents/declaration-of-independence-2/>



### International Students in Barcelona, Spain

#### **FLNG 251 Sec 01 Course Learning Outcomes:**

With diligent effort from their part, students will be able to:

CLO1: Compare how films portray different struggles for justice, equality, and human dignity in educational systems in the U.S. and Francophone countries. [HU LO1]

CLO2: Compare and thoughtfully respond to cultural clashes as they are depicted in the films and compare implications of similar occurrences in your own culture [HU LO2]

CLO3: Identify the key components found in diverse Francophone cultures such as language, religious practices and secularism, family traditions, and politics. [GA LO1]

CLO4: Analyze immigration, naturalization, and cultural assimilation as key forces that contribute to interconnectedness and conflicts inside the Francophone world. [GA LO2]

CLO5: Demonstrate curiosity and empathetic insight about sensible areas of potential cultural clashes by comparing Francophone and Anglophone experiences. [GA LO5]

## **WORK**

25% Quizzes and class participation

25% Midterm Exam

50% Final Exam

### **Attendance is mandatory!**

Please, arrive **on time**. Being late is impolite and disturbs the entire class.

Being late or absent will be penalized. Excessive absences could lead to being dropped from the class.

If you have a problem with a class before this class, let me know.

If you have to miss, talk to me ahead of time.

If you decide to remain in this course, you must come to class on Mondays and Wednesdays

## **FLNG 251 Section 1 Culture Clash: French / Francophone vs US**

### Education in Primary School-High School and Family

L'argent de poche / **Small Change**

1976 - 104 min

Diabolo menthe / **Peppermint Soda** 1967

La fracture du myocarde / **Cross my Heart**

1992 - 105 min

### Friendships-Relations with Others

Un monde sans pitié / **Love Without Pity**

La discrète / **The Discret**

1990 - 96 min

Un coeur en hiver / **A Heart in Winter**

1993- 100 min

### Social Classes

**Ridicule** (Nobility vs People) 1994-104 min

La vie est un long fleuve tranquille / **Life is a Long River** (Othe French)

1987 – 89 min

### Immigrations, Migrants, Francophone / European Identity:

Entre les murs **The Walls**

La haine – **Hate**

1995 – 91 min

### Conclusion

L'auberge espagnole / **Spanish House** (International Students in Spain)

**Le Divorce** : Franco-American Couples in Paris 2003- 115 min

**Films are on CANVAS.**

I Primary School, Junior high, High School

**Week 1**

Syllabus; Introduction Cultural Misunderstandings  
Introduction French Toast

**Week 2**

Read Cultural Misunderstandings Introduction  
Introduction French Toast  
**Watch Film L'argent de poche / Small Change, 1976**  
Wed Film Discussion

**Week 3**

Read Cultural Misunderstandings: The Home  
French Toast: School Daze  
**Watch Film Diabolo menthe / Peppermint soda**  
Wed Film Discussion

**Week 4**

Read Cultural Misunderstandings Parents-Children  
**Film Cross my heart** Wed Film Discussion

**Week**

Read Cultural M: Friendship  
**Film Love Without Pity**  
Wed Discussion

**Week 6**

Cultural Mis:. Conversation  
French Toast Parisians  
**Film The Discret** / Wed Discussion The Discreet

**Week 7**

Cultural Mis The Couple  
French Toast French Woman  
**Film A Heart in Winter, 1990- 96 min** / Wed Discussion

**Week 8 Mar 13, 15**

**Midterm Exam**