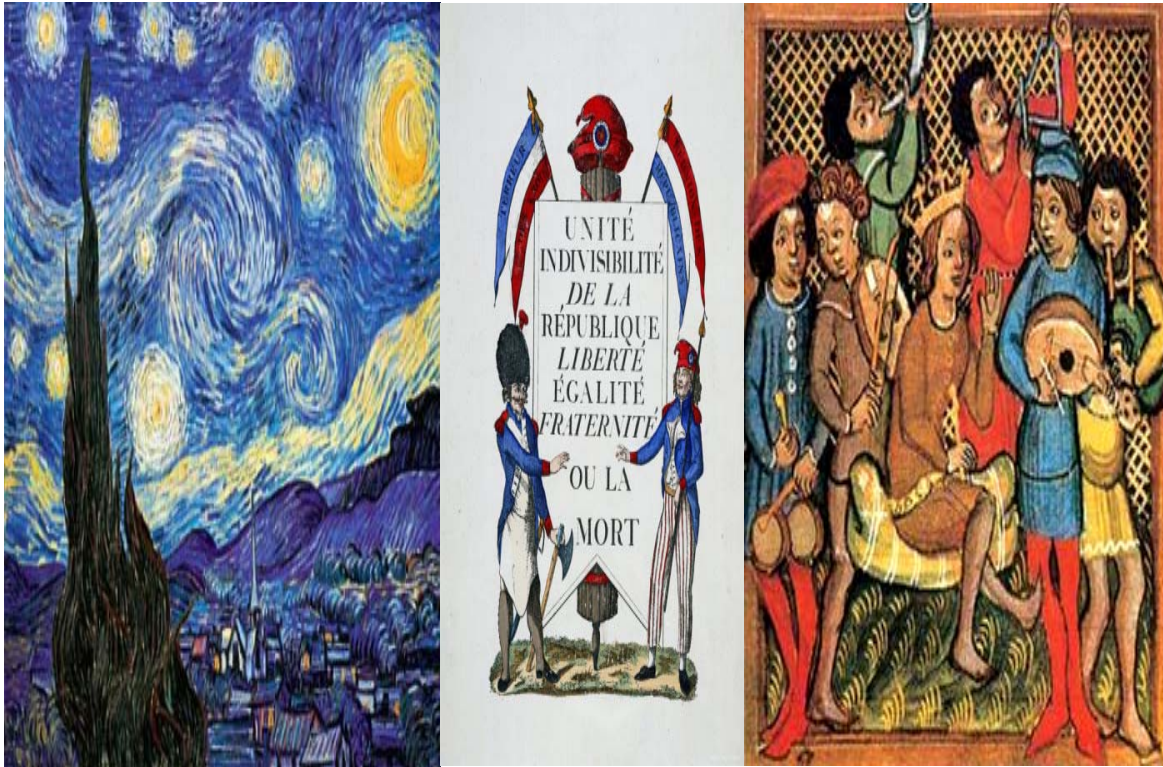


FALL 2018

FRANCE: ART, CULTURE, HISTORY, IDEAS

FR 581



Explore French culture, from Roman Gaul to contemporary Paris by way of Impressionism. Explore Gothic cathedrals, Loire Valley châteaux, the Palace of Versailles, and the Cité des arts et de la musique. Study the paintings of Vigée Le Brun, Delacroix, Manet, Monet, Van Gogh, Seurat, and Sophie Calle. Hear Gregorian chant, troubadours, Lulli, and Edith Piaf. Engage in debates about artistic styles, democracy, and war and peace. Encounter the personalities that have shaped French history – Jeanne d’Arc, Catherine de Medici, Louis XIV, and Napoleon. Discover the Louvre, the Musée d’Orsay, Notre Dame, and the Eiffel Tower.

Course taught in French

Prof. Tom Broden

Tuesday and Thursday, 9:00–10:15 am

FR 581: French Culture

Designed for French minors, majors, and other advanced French students, this course explores the highlights of French culture over the ages. After a short introduction to French geography (natural features, cities, traditional provinces), we will study the Lascaux cave paintings, Gallo-Roman civilization, Romanesque and Gothic cathedrals, Renaissance châteaux, and Versailles. We will view paintings from Impressionism and Post-Impressionism, and paintings and sculptures from the Classical period to the Contemporary era. We will discuss main trends in French society, ideas, and aesthetics, and will examine major historical figures such as Joan of Arc, Louis XIV, Napoleon, and Charles de Gaulle. Students will become familiar with much of the cultural knowledge commonly considered essential for every French person.

In addition to homework, quizzes, and tests, students will give presentations and write reports on their own individually chosen topics.

Conducted in French, the course aims to improve students' listening comprehension, discussion skills, reading comprehension, competence in writing short essays, and ability to describe visual images orally and in writing. The course also seeks to develop skills in analysis and critical thinking.

Instructor: Prof. Tom Broden, broden@purdue.edu