

Fr 385: Travels in Provence

MW(F) 9h00-9h50

Steve Bishop



One of the fantasy locations people name for a vacation destination or second home is southern France. Why is this region, Provence, so loved and revered? Why not Paris, Normandy, or Denmark for that matter? The main reason is that Provence has its own unique and charming character separate from other countries and even the rest of France. This course investigates the cultural traditions and characteristics particular to Provence, including its history, language, cuisine, literature, music, art, architecture, and other cultural manifestations. The texts include short works and excerpts of history and literature, films, and some artwork, music, and food (sorry, no wine). There is also room in the course for a few topics of the students' choosing.

Students may take the course for either 2 or 3 hours of credit (CR#55924, FREN 385.002 or CR#55925, FREN 385.003 respectively). Students taking the course for 2 hours are expected to participate in discussions, take 2 exams, write 1 paper (2-3 pages), and do a presentation. Students taking the class for 3 hours do the same as well as a research paper of 6-10 pages on an aspect of Provence of their choosing. Note that because the main course is for 2 hrs, it will almost never meet on Fridays.

Students going on the French Summer abroad trip to Paris and Provence are strongly encouraged to take this class as it is an introduction to the region they will visit. However, students in this class are not obligated to go on the Summer trip, nor are students not in this class forbidden from going on the trip. Students can obtain 1-3 additional hours of credit by signing up for Fr 320 in the Summer semester and going on the trip. For more information on the course or the Summer trip, contact Steve Bishop in 323C Ortega or at sbishop@unm.edu.