

L175 - Selected Topics in Language: French Conversation

CALIFORNIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

Division of Humanities and Social Sciences

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Intense training in oral expression including pronunciation, vocabulary, listening comprehension and fluency. Lectures and discussions focus on scientific French.

PREREQUISITE:

- 3 years of French in High School, or 2 years at Caltech.

TARGET AUDIENCE:

- Undergraduates planning to attend the International Exchange Program at Ecole Polytechnique in the fall term of their senior year.
- Graduate students enrolled in the GALCIT Dual Masters Program with Ecole Polytechnique.
- Undergraduate and graduate students who go to CERN under the SURF program.
- Undergraduate and graduate students enrolled in the NSF REU program run by Michigan.
- Caltech professors and postdocs intending to spend some time in France.
- Any Caltech students interested in scientific French.

CLASS ORGANIZATION:

- A 25-minute presentation by a French-speaking guest scientist on his or her area of expertise. The lecturers are Caltech Professors or JPL scientists.
- A 15-minute question and answer session.
- A 45-minute discussion of the assigned article connected to the speaker's talk.
- The guest speakers are chosen to match the students' majors (astronomy, physics, biology, chemistry, computer science, engineering, math etc.)
- The articles are selected from French scientific magazines. They develop the students' vocabulary and give an opportunity to expand on the discussion.
- Lecturers and topics change every year. Students can enroll in the course more than once.
- Students are required to do a presentation of their SURF research or any scientific topic they like.
- The class is only offered P/F and meets for 90 minutes twice a week.

