



The UNIVERSITY of VERMONT

Global Village
RESIDENTIAL LEARNING COMMUNITY

La Maison Française

Prof. Joseph Acquisto and Prof. Janet Whatley, Program Directors

OVERVIEW

Students who are studying French language, literature and culture in an American setting need opportunities to speak the language outside the classroom, to develop the use of the language in their everyday lives, and to enrich their understanding of the contexts of Francophone culture.

The Living/Learning Center offers students a community based on their interests in Francophone language and culture, in which they make French the language of their everyday activities. A student resident organizer will lead the group. Residents of the French house will agree to use French exclusively for a specified portion of the day. The French house will also be the center for many activities based on Francophone culture which are available in or close to Burlington; films, lectures, contacts with French speakers throughout the University and city community, visits from experts on the Francophone developing world, visits to Quebec, theater, music, museums, television programs and reportage. Participants in the French house will improve their fluency and gain a greater familiarity with issues in contemporary Francophone experience.

Potential activities may include the following:

- having dinner with a member of the French faculty with a focused discussion on a particular Francophone subject;
- inviting a member of the Burlington Francophone community to have dinner and talk;
- attending the Pause-Café in downtown Burlington;
- viewing and discussing a French film;
- Reading and discussing a work of Francophone literature;
- researching on the Web a subject of present concern as expressed in the French media

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

To help students improve their fluency in French.

Action Steps

- Establish French as the language of communication for a definite period of time or set of circumstances (for instance, all communal meals, all meetings and public discussions, and informal interactions in public areas).

- Make available audio tapes, video tapes, TV programming, the French CBC channel, magazines, and dictionaries.
- Establish contact and organize meetings with Francophone speakers from the university and the community (see below).

To make accessible the Francophone intellectual and artistic resources of our region.

Action Steps

- Films: There is a wealth of great French film available on videocassette and DVD. Possible topics for film series include: World Wars I and II, the end of the French colonial empire, the art of the theater, perspectives on feminism, etc.
- Art exhibits: The Fleming Museum frequently has exhibits or lectures involving art of the Francophone world.
- Lectures: (a) From French-speaking UVM faculty: the French House students would interview Francophone faculty to discover their common areas of interest, including subjects related to Canada, Africa, the Caribbean, etc. (b) Other speakers from the region (possibly including Montreal) whose specialties in literature, the arts, the social sciences or natural sciences interest the students.
- Visits to Montreal: to explore the architectural heritage of the city, to attend concerts, book exhibits, museums, theater, ballet, etc.
- Video and Television resources such as French CBC.

To foster relations with the Francophone community in the University, the city of Burlington, and the region.

Action Steps

- Contact local Francophone organizations for exchange of hospitality: for instance, the Pause-Café in downtown Burlington.
- Invite undergraduate and graduate students who are native French speakers from other disciplines.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

The French House will serve as a center of hospitality for Francophone people in the University and in the Burlington area. There are many people on campus from Francophone countries (Ivory Coast, Zaire, Senegal, Haiti, France, Belgium, Switzerland) who welcome the opportunity to meet other Francophones to speak their native languages. There are a number of people in the Burlington community of Franco-American background who want to preserve their family

traditions of French language. The population of Burlington, which is becoming more diverse, now includes many people from Francophone Africa. The French House can therefore serve as a liaison between the University community and the Burlington area.



About the Global Village

This program is part of the Global Village Residential Learning Community (RLC). For UVM students interested in exploring other cultures, studying abroad, or pursuing lives and careers in an increasingly interconnected world, the Global Village may be just the place for you! Drawing on the resources of the Living/Learning Center and its dynamic network of student- and faculty-led programs, the community of learners that make up the Global Village will be engaged in coursework, lectures, concerts, exhibits, faculty and peer mentoring, social connections with international students, group meals, and trips that:

- Explore the many connections among language, art and culture at regional, national, and international scales.
- Share disciplinary expertise within an environment that values a holistic approach to “living and learning.”
- Encourage formal and informal contacts among students, faculty, and staff within the Global Village, the Living/Learning Center, the other Residential Learning Communities, and the university as a whole.
- Aim to be a complement to existing international and cross-cultural programs at UVM.
- “Think globally and act locally” by outreach to the international community at UVM and within the greater Burlington area.

More information about the Global Village RLC can be found at: <http://www.uvm.edu/globalvillage>

GRS 095/096: The Global Village Seminar

GRS 095/096: The Global Village Seminar is a largely self-paced, one-credit course designed to help you get the most out of your experience as a citizen of the Global Village Residential Learning Community. All new Global Village residents **must** enroll in GRS 095 for one credit during the fall semester or GRS 096 for the spring semester. (Returning Global Village students who have not yet satisfactorily completed the class must enroll in GRS 095 during the fall semester.) This course will be graded on a “Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory” basis. The course will be partly comprised of a series of “Common Hour” community gatherings held on Thursday afternoons. The primary purpose of the Common Hour meetings is to build a stronger sense of community among the members of the many Global Village houses and programs. As well, the Common Hour gatherings will help Global Village citizens build a common knowledge and skill set, including such topics as intercultural communication, globalization, etc. A variety of program offerings will take place during Common Hour meetings, such as special guest lectures, interactive dialogue and social gatherings. During weeks when the Common Hours are not held, you are expected to participate in one educational event or activity with a global cultural theme. We’ll provide you with a list of suggested events and activities, or you can identify other events/activities with a global cultural theme; you choose which ones you wish to attend.

We’ll provide you with a Global Village Passport; use it to keep track of your activities and explorations. In addition to documenting participation in Common Hours and the educational events/activities, you will need to do reflective writing in the form of five short journal entries on

the cultural/educational events that you participated in, along with a lengthier essay looking back on your most meaningful experience of the semester within the Global Village.

Returning Global Village students are also invited (but not required) to enroll in GRS 095 during the fall semester. Enrollment in GRS 096 for one credit during the spring semester is optional and encouraged for all students.

If you anticipate a problem with fulfilling this course expectation (such as if you will already be enrolled in 18 credits), please contact Prof. Joseph Acquisto, Faculty Director of the Global Village, at Joseph.Acquisto@uvm.edu

For more details about this course, visit: <http://www.uvm.edu/~gvrlc/passport/GRS095096.pdf>