

CHM 4930 – Science History and Sustainability (3 credits)
CHM4956 – Communicating Science (3 credits)
UF in France, Summer A 2025

Instructor: Dr. Tammy A. Davidson
Email: davidson@chem.ufl.edu
WhatsApp: + See canvas site

Office Location: Sisler Hall, room 429
Office Hours: TBA

Course Information

CHM 4930 – Science History and Stability: This course is part of an immersive four-week study abroad program. We will explore several important scientific discoveries and examine how modern scientific practices are being used to provide sustainable methods for future processes. From the history of the silk trade in France to the use of fermentation to generate skin care products and clean fuels, we will learn how scientific processes have evolved over time to be more environmentally conscious and sustainable. Upon completion of the course, students will be able to:

- Correlate historical events to major discoveries in science
- Describe how the early silk industry in France is connected to advances in computer technology
- Identify ways that biomass can be used to generate high-value materials

CHM 4956 – Communicating Science: This course will examine how cultural differences contribute to science literacy here in the US and abroad, and will highlight the responsibility of professionals in STEM fields to communicate science in clear, concise ways. We will study examples of science communications from traditional news outlets and social media sources to compare the effectiveness of various types of scientific communication. Upon completion of the course, students will be able to:

- Differentiate between science, pseudoscience, and nonsense in science communication
- Participate in effective discussions of science with audiences of varied backgrounds
- Demonstrate effective written and verbal communication skills

Prerequisites: none

Required Text: *The Fabric of Civilization: How Textiles Made the World*, Virginia Postrel, 2021, ISBN 978-1541617629. E-Book available from Marston Science Library. May also be [purchased from Amazon](#) or other bookstores.

E-Learning (Canvas) Site: <http://elearning.ufl.edu>. Login with Gatorlink ID and password. This site will be updated periodically with announcements, assignments, grades, and other information. It is your responsibility to check Canvas frequently to make sure that you do not miss important announcements and to ensure that your gradebook is accurate. For computer assistance, visit <https://helpdesk.ufl.edu/>.

Attendance: Students are expected to participate in all class discussions, excursions, and group activities. Due to the structure of this program, missed activities cannot be made up.

Course Communication Policy: We will communicate through WhatsApp prior to, during, and after this program. Be sure to download the app onto your phone before you leave the USA. You can find more information and download instructions here: <https://www.whatsapp.com/download>.

Assignments and Grading

Your grade will be based on the following items:

<u>Item</u>	<u>Weighting</u>
Pre-Departure Activities	15%
Excursion/Activity Reflections	50%
Final Reflection Essay	20%
Participation	15%

Final grades in the course will be assigned using the following grading scale: A ≥ 90%, A- = 87-89%, B+ = 84-86%, B = 77-83%, B- = 73-76%, C+ = 70-72%, C = 63-69%, C- = 60-62%, D+ = 57-59%, D = 50-56%, E < 50%. There will not be a curve beyond that already included within the grading scale. [UF grading policies can be found in the Undergraduate Catalog.](#)

Pre-Departure Activities: We will have a mandatory pre-departure meeting to discuss program logistics, expectations, and safety policies. Students will also need to complete the activities listed in the course schedule below.

Excursion/Activity Reflections: A series of brief reflections will be completed each week. Students will focus their reflections on aspects of the excursions/activities that relate to their major coursework or career goals.

Final Reflection Essay: A 2-3 page reflection on the study abroad experience, cultural competencies gained, and personal/professional growth.

Participation: Students are expected to attend all excursions and group events, and participate in all daily debriefing discussions.

Program Schedule

This program will run from May 17 through June 13, 2025. Excursions dates and locations may vary depending on final itinerary.

Pre-Departure Assignments

- Attend **Mandatory Pre-Departure Orientation** Meeting – Friday, April 25 10:00AM – 12:00PM in Sisler 429
- Submit **Flight Information** in Canvas – due no later than April 24, 2025
- Download **WhatsApp and install on your phone** – due no later than April 24, 2025
- Watch “Building the Eiffel Tower”, NOVA documentary. [Available here](#) through UF Libraries. **Note:** You will need to use VPN or UF Proxy Server if you are not on campus ([click here](#) for information).
- Watch “How Fabric Helped Build Modern Civilization with Virginia Postrel”, Big Think 2021. [Available here](#) through UF Libraries. See access note above.
- Read *The Fabric of Civilization: How Textiles Shaped the World*, preface and chapter 1. [Available here](#) as e-book through UF Libraries, or can be [purchased from Amazon](#) or other bookstores.

May 17, 2025 – arrival in Lyon, France. Meet group at Lyon Saint-Exupéry Airport in designated location (TBA).

Lyon (May 17-28) Excursions and Activities

Read *The Fabric of Civilization: How Textiles Shaped the World*, chapters 2-3.
Complete Lyon Canvas activities and reflections.

- Welcome Dinner
- Guided tour of Old Lyon and traboules
- Visit to Musée Lugdunum (Gallo-Roman ruins and museum)
- Tour of Energy Recovery and Processing Unit
- Visit to Lumiere Museum – cinematography inventions
- Tour of Maison des Canuts (silk factory)
- Visit to Lyon's famous Halles Bocuse market
- Picnic at Tete d'Or Parc – a large urban park

May 28, 2025 – travel from Lyon to Reims by train

Reims (May 28 – June 4) Excursions and Activities

Read *The Fabric of Civilization: How Textiles Shaped the World*, chapter 4.
Complete Reims Canvas activities and reflections.

- Tour of Givaudan Active Beauty
- Visit to les Halles Boulingrin market
- Visit to a Champagne house (with tasting)
- Guided tour of Reims Cathedral

June 4, 2025 – travel from Reims to Paris by train

Paris (June 4-13) Excursions and Activities

Read *The Fabric of Civilization: How Textiles Shaped the World*, chapter 7.
Complete Paris Canvas activities and reflections.

- Visit to an art restoration workshop
- Seine river cruise
- Guided tour of the Louvre or Musée d'Orsay (TBD)
- Guided tour of Atelier des Gobelins, a tapestry workshop
- Guided visit to le forêt de Fontainebleau and visit to castle
- Musée des Arts et Métiers
- Guided tour of Musée Marie Curie
- Tour of urban farm Agropolis
- Cheese factory Saint-Faron de Meaux
- Farewell Dinner

June 13, 2025 – depart Paris at end of program

Post-Departure Activities

Final Reflection Essay – due June 20, 2025

Other Important Information

Academic Honesty Guidelines: UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states “We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: “On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.” The Conduct Code specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. [See the UF Conduct Code website for more information.](#) If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor in this class.

DRC Accommodations: Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the Disability Resource Center. [See the “Get Started With the DRC” webpage on the Disability Resource Center site.](#) It is important for students to share their accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access needs as early as possible in the semester.

Evaluations: Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/>. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>.