

**Program Rationale**  
**Humanities: International Studies**  
**1441-1**

As I have studied the French language, I have realized the importance of actively exploring the history and culture behind France as well as other francophone countries. Stuart Hall says, “Language is culture, culture is language.” I find that these two studies are inextricably linked and I feel that it is necessary that I pursue them together. West Africa in particular has caught my interest as a French student. Colonialism and post-colonialism in West Africa have played a significant role in the historical, literary and linguistic aspects (FREN 399 Written Expression and Grammar) of these francophone countries. My course of study focuses on the changes colonization brought about and their effects on francophone West Africa. Specifically, I am studying how the French language has made its impact on these francophone countries amidst assimilation and cultural change. I plan to delve into the anthropological intricacies of said linguistic assimilation on this particular region. Additionally, I am looking at how the introduction of French into West Africa has affected the literature (FREN 331 Introduction to French Literature; ENGL 325 Colonial and Post-Colonial Literature; HUM 499 African Literature), art (HUM 499 Analysis of the Image; HUM 499 Franco-African Cinema), philosophy, and music (MUS 311 Music of the World) of the region.

I believe that my study abroad this semester in Nantes, France will give me more insight into the complexities of the French language and the country from which this major influence on West Africa originated.