

Places and institutions

la fac: the university.

la BU (bibliothèque universitaire), la bibli: the university library, sometimes shared among different universities

le RU (restaurant universitaire): cafeteria operated by the CROUS serving subsidized meals to students (with locations all over Paris)

la scolarité / le secrétariat administratif: the administrative office for the entire university

le secrétariat pédagogique / le secrétariat de l'UFR: the office for a department, sometimes broken down along years of study (L1-L2, L3, etc.)

l'UFR (Unité de formation et de recherche): the department

le/la responsable de la licence: director of undergraduate studies

S1, S2, etc.: semesters 1 (fall) and 2 (spring). Some universities number all semesters of the three-year *licence* from S1 to S6. Spring L2-level classes would then correspond to S4 for example.

Bac + 1,2, etc.: the level of a course of study or class expressed as a number of years above high-school final exams (the *bac*)

Administrative matters

l'inscription administrative: affiliation procedure

l'inscription pédagogique: registration for a specific program of study and specific classes

ECTS (European Credits Transfer Scale): European credits, which do not correspond to NYU credits

Classes and teaching material

L1, L2, L3: the three years of the French (and European) bachelor degree (sometimes followed by two years of master M1 and M2 and the doctorate D)

un TD (travaux dirigés): recitation or lab session

une conférence de méthode: recitation session

un CM (cour magistral) / un cours d'amphi: lecture

les diapos: the slides

le(s) poly(copié)(s): photocopied documents

Work and exams

les examens: exams or the exam period

les partiels: mid-term exams

les rattrapages: a second session of exams for students who have failed on the first (always scheduled too late for NYU Paris students to attend)

les partiels:

l'oral: an oral exam or the grade for oral work

un DST (devoir sur tables) / un DS (devoir surveillé) / un examen sur tables: in-class exam (of varying formats)

le contrôle continu (CC): all the work done towards your grade before the end-of-term exam session (in-class, take-home, oral, etc.)

un DM (devoir à la maison): take-home work

la soutenance: the defense of a short thesis

Assignments

une dissertation: a French-style structured essay, popular in the humanities and some social sciences, for which two elements are very important: the *problématique* and the part structure

un commentaire de texte: commentary of a short literary, philosophical or historical text meant to elucidate its meaning and what is at stake and to situate it in its context (although this should not be overdone). It is important to articulate what *problématique* the text deals with and to carve the text into parts (usually two or three). The body of the work engages in a sentence-by-sentence explanation.

un commentaire de documents / une épreuve sur documents: an essay based on a series of documents (*dossier documentaire*) meant to guide and support a problematized approach to a (historical, social, philosophical) question.

un QCM (questionnaire à choix multiples): multiple-choice questions

un exposé: an oral presentation in class

une problématique: the network of questions or problem you construct in response to an essay or *dissertation* prompt, meant to highlight why the prompt points to a genuine issue and structure your approach in the body of your paper

une biblio: short for *bibliographie*

la méthodo: short for *méthodologie*