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CS 2017-18 Semester 1: Comparative higher education systems/Toefl preparation

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1) to study, from a comparative perspective, higher educational systems throughout the world and particularly in the countries with which Sciences Po has study-abroad partnerships. Through newspaper articles and videos, we will look into university admissions systems across the world and examine the controversy often linked to admission. Specific focus on fair access to education and participation in higher education.

2) prepare students for the grueling 4-hour internet-based TOEFL exam, though not guarantee you get a good score... it all depends on your initial level and how motivated and hard-working you are. You will also become familiar with university student vocabulary and idioms to make you feel comfortable speaking to a professor/working in a student team/dealing with administrative issues in an English speaking university context. Each week we will train for the independent and integrated tasks contained in a typical test. The course will particularly focus on what Sciences Po students find difficult on test day: the ever-present scientific and pseudo-scientific themes (hard science). Class exercises will emphasize the speaking part of the test (absent from the final exam for this class).

You can attend this class even if you do not intend to enroll in the actual TOEFL exam or if you don't intend to take the final exam because it is good training to boost your level of English in all 4 skills.

NB Most of our international partnerships DO NOT require a TOEFL score for the 2nd year abroad. Information on this can be found on the Sciences Po website "partir à l'étranger" section and on the intranet with your logins. The IR department will organize a meeting in October to provide all the information on the year abroad. If you want to find out about the TOEFL exam, but do not want to attend the whole course, you may attend the first class only.

Evaluation: Final written exam in January for all students (Part 1: TOEFL reading comprehension, listening comprehension and integrated writing tasks, Part 2: short answer questions on specific aspects of comparative higher educational systems covered in class).