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# French Grammar and Methodology I

COURSE DESIGNATOR: MONT 3301

LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION: French

NUMBER OF CREDITS: 3

CONTACT HOURS: 45

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## COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will allow students to acquire the written and oral skills necessary for pursuing a university curriculum in France. These acquired proficiencies will therefore be interdisciplinary in nature and will provide the students with the ability to adapt to different types of academic writing that are unique to the French system. Acquiring methods of structuring and organizing assignments, and a thorough reinforcement of grammatical knowledge will also be course objectives.

## COURSE OBJECTIVES

- To train and prepare students for various written exercises/assignments specific to the French university curriculum. This includes organizing and structuring ideas as well as initiating the students to the different systems of thought to which they might need to adapt as they approach writing projects they have been tasked with completing.
- To improve both their oral and written French skills (comprehension and expression) and to help them express their thoughts in grammatically correct and linguistic register-appropriate French.
- To reinforce the students' grammatical knowledge and skills.

## METHODOLOGY

An inductive approach, with both visual and audio material as supporting pedagogical media will be used to reinforce grammatical skills. Written and oral activities will be a key part of the curriculum. Extensive feedback will be provided for written assignments; one written assignment will be handed in for corrections almost every week. There will also be several grammar tests over the course of the semester to ensure students' acquisition of the material. The following types of assignments will be covered: *résumé* (summary), *essai argumentatif* (argumentative essay), the *exposé* (oral presentation).

## COURSE PREREQUISITES

Students must have a minimum level of B1 (Threshold or Intermediate) in the Common European Language Framework or have completed the equivalent of FREN 1004 (4<sup>th</sup> semester French) in the University of Minnesota system.

## REQUIRED READINGS/ MATERIALS

### TEXTBOOKS

Abry D., M-L. Chalaron. *La grammaire des premiers temps 2*. PUG.  
Barnoud C., E. Sirejols. *Nouveaux Exercices de grammaire*. CLE  
De Salin G. D., S. Dupré Latour. *Nouveaux exercices de grammaire*. PUG.  
Descotes-Genon C., M-H. Morsel, C. Richou. *L'exercisier*. PUG.  
Gregoire. M, 2011, *Grammaire Progressive du Français, Intermédiaire* CLE International.  
Gregoire. M, 2012, *Grammaire Progressive du Français, Perfectionnement*, CLE International.  
Miquel. C, 2012, *Grammaire en dialogue, Intermédiaire*, CLE International  
Pons. S, Dollez, 2007, *Alter Ego*, niveau B1, Hachette  
*Point par point*. Didier.

### NEWS SOURCES

Le Monde, Libération, le Figaro

**WEBSITES**

- Lepointdufle.net
- Le français facile.com
- TV5.org
- Internetactuel

**GRADING**

Grading Rubric		
A	93-100	Achievement that is outstanding relative to the level necessary to meet course requirements.
A-	90-92	Achievement that is significantly above the level necessary to meet course requirements.
B+	87-89	
B	83-86	
B-	80-82	Achievement that meets the course requirements in every respect.
C+	77-79	
C	73-76	
C-	70-72	
D+	67-69	Achievement that is worthy of credit even though it fails to meet fully the course requirements.
D	60-66	
F	0-59	Represents failure (or no credit) and signifies that the work was either (1) completed but at a level of achievement that is not worthy of credit or (2) was not completed and there was no agreement between the instructor and the student that the student would be awarded an I.

**SUMMARY OF HOW GRADES ARE WEIGHTED**

Homework, participation, attendance	15%
Oral presentation	20%
First exam	20%
Second exam	20%
Final project	25%
<b>Overall grade</b>	<b>100%</b>

**ASSESSMENT DETAILS**

Different pedagogical tools will be exploited, including excerpts from literary works, news source articles, visual images and graphs; a broad variety of themes and topics will allow students to improve their written and oral language skills in French and also project themselves in French and Francophone society.

Each assignment, whether written or oral, will be worked on in and outside of the classroom, individually or in groups. Students will be asked to hand in assignments on a regular basis (a minimum of three written grades and one oral, for a group presentation).

The group oral presentation (2–3 students) will take place during the “grammar” sessions. Topics will include themes that highlight French society, and potentially a comparison with American society.

## COURSE CONTENT

### WEEK 1

Methodology: Oral presentation techniques

Grammar: Past tense

### WEEK 2

Methodology: *Résumé* (summary) writing techniques and reformulation

Grammar: The simple past (*passé simple*)

### WEEK 3

Methodology: *Résumé* (summary)

Grammar: The subjunctive/relative clauses and conjunctions + exposé 1

### WEEK 4

Methodology: Exam 1 (Summary composition + grammar)

Grammar: Sequence of tenses in indirect discourse (past tense + presentation 2)

### WEEK 5

Methodology: Grammar exam 1 corrections/the techniques for writing a *synthèse* (a thematic summary of several documents)

Grammar: Introductory verbs and expressions of time in indirect discourse in the past + Presentation 3

## WEEK 6

Methodology: *Synthèse* writing and composition

Grammar: Compound relative pronouns + Presentation 4

## WEEK 7

Methodology: *Synthèse* writing and composition

Grammar: Double pronouns, Demonstratives, Indefinite pronouns + Presentation 5

## WEEK 8

Methodology: Exam 2 (*Synthèse* composition)

Grammar: Discursive and logical connectors + Presentation 6

## WEEK 9

Methodology: Thesis-writing/creation + Argument/Example

Grammar: Expressions of causality + Presentation 7

## WEEK 10

Methodology: Argumentation (outline creation/stylistic differentiation)

Grammar: Expressions of causality, opposition + Presentation 8

## WEEK 11

Methodology: The argumentative essay

Grammar: Expressions of concession + Presentation 10

## WEEK 12

Methodology: The argumentative essay (continued...)

Grammar: Expressions of concession + Presentation 10

## WEEK 13

Course conclusions and discussion

### ATTENDANCE POLICY

Students are expected to be on time and attend all classes while abroad. Many instructors assess both attendance and participation when assigning a final course grade. Attendance alone does not guarantee a positive participation grade; the student should be prepared for class and engage in class discussion. See the onsite syllabus for specific class requirements.

### UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Academic integrity is essential to a positive teaching and learning environment. All students enrolled in University courses are expected to complete coursework responsibilities with fairness and honesty. Failure to do so by seeking unfair advantage over others or misrepresenting someone else's work as your own can result in disciplinary action. The University Student Conduct Code defines scholastic dishonesty as follows:

#### SCHOLASTIC DISHONESTY:

Scholastic dishonesty means plagiarizing; cheating on assignments or examinations; engaging in unauthorized collaboration on academic work; taking, acquiring, or using test materials without faculty permission; submitting false or incomplete records of academic achievement; acting alone or in cooperation with another to falsify records or to obtain dishonestly grades, honors, awards, or professional endorsement; altering forging, or misusing a University academic record; or fabricating or falsifying data, research procedures, or data analysis.

Within this course, a student responsible for scholastic dishonesty can be assigned a penalty up to and including an "F" or "N" for the course. If you have any questions regarding the expectations for a specific assignment or exam, ask.

#### STUDENT CONDUCT:

The University of Minnesota has specific policies concerning student conduct. This information can be found on the Learning Abroad Center website.