



French Phonetics

Course Details

Course Designator & Number: MONT 3014

Number of Credits: 3

Language of Instruction: French

Contact Hours: 45

Course Description

This course provides an in-depth study of French phonetics. In class, students will practice oral production as well as improve their listening comprehension skills by working in the language lab. In addition, during these language-lab sessions, the professor will work one-on-one with students to improve their pronunciation. Over the course of the semester, students will also discover regional pronunciation differences, and grasp what it means to speak with a Parisian or Marseillais accent. By the end of the course, students will have a much better grasp of pronouncing French properly, and will have acquired all the tools necessary to progressively improve as they continue with their study of the language. The following topics are covered: the phonetic alphabet, prosody, closed vowels, the unstable “e,” rules for liaison, linking, semi-vowels, consonant chains, semi-open/semi-closed vowels, nasals, rhythm, intonation, and accents

Course Objectives

Students will improve their oral French and pronunciation: phonemes, linking sounds, fluidity, intonation, and overall expressiveness.

Methodology

Classroom activities include: working with the phonetic alphabet, pronunciation norms, corrective phonetics, listening exercises, guided phonetic correction, repetition and pronunciation practice, rhythm work, intonation and accentuation, reading with expression, practice note-taking, oral rewording, understanding language register.

Activities will vary between group work and individual assignments. Documentaries, articles, and oral presentations will serve as the basis of discussions and debates.

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 in the University of Minnesota system.

Required Readings/Materials

Course websites and online resources:

- <http://www.lcp.fr/>
- <http://www.afp.com/fr>
- <http://dessinemoileco.com>

Grading

Grading Rubric

Letter Grade	Score or Percentage	Description
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	

Letter Grade	Score or Percentage	Description
B-	80–82	Achievement that meets the course requirements in every respect.
C+	77–79	
C	73–76	
C-	70–72	Achievement that is worthy of credit even though it fails to fully meet the course requirements.
D+	67–69	
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

Assignments	Percentage of Grade
Exams (two)	40%
Oral recitations (poems, etc.)	20%

Participation	10%
Final exam	30%
Overall grade	100%

Course Content

Week 1: Introduction

- The vocalic system of the phonetic alphabet
- Prosody (rhythm, intonation, accentuation)

Week 2: Using the Phonetic Alphabet

- Closed vowels (y) (u)--discrimination, exercise

Week 3: Closed Vowels (U) (Y) Exercises

- Phonetic transcriptions

Week 4: Liaisons and Sequences; Exercises

- Semi-closed and semi-open vowels; identifying unstable <<e>>

Week 5: Les Voyelles Mi-Fermées Entraînement

- Liaisons and linking consonants

Week 6: Semi-Closed and Semi-Open Vowels

- Obligatory liaisons

Week 7: Semi-Closed and Semi-Open Vowels

- Linking consonants and obligatory liaisons

Week 8: Distinguishing Nasals I, Exercises

- Phonetic transcription, practice exercises

Week 9: Distinguishing Nasals II, Practice Exercises

Week 10: Forbidden Liaisons

- Distinguishing (l) and (R) practice exercises

Week 11:

- Optional liaisons
- Phonetic transcriptions
- Oral tests

Week 12: Introduction

- Review session
- Oral tests

Week 13:

- Final Exam

Policies

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 on-site syllabus for specific class requirements.

University of Minnesota Policies & 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](#).