
French Conversation (advanced)

COURSE DESIGNATOR: MONT 3309

LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION: French

NUMBER OF CREDITS: 3

CONTACT HOURS: 45

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This class is built as a series of discussion sessions. Throughout group discussions about news and precise topics (gastronomy, French music, immigration...) students will acquire advanced vocabulary and learn more about social and cultural facts and French contemporary civilization.

We will study topics such as immigration in France, the French social system, cinema, leisure...and provide the students with useful information in everyday life.

Learning will be based on listening and speaking with material such as songs, TV shows, movie extracts... A vocabulary sheet will provide vocabulary about the topic studied. Focus will be put on correct vocabulary and pronunciation.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

The goal of the class is to provide students with advanced conversational skills in French and cultural knowledge about France and French people.

METHODOLOGY

- Every week, students will have to prepare an oral presentation on a French press article or other material (biography of an artist, book criticism...).
- Every week a vocabulary sheet about the topic of the class will be given and explained. Students will have to learn the vocabulary. Quizzes will be given randomly during the semester.
- The final exam will be a final oral presentation on a press article chosen by the student. The student should be able to have a detailed conversation about the article.

REQUIRED READINGS/ MATERIALS

RECOMMENDED READING (TO WORK ON YOUR PRONONCIATION)

- Barfety, Michelle et Patricia Beaujoin, *Expression orale*, Clé internationale, 2003.

RECOMMENDED NEWSPAPER

Local Newspapers:

- La gazette
- Direct Montpellier
- Le Midi Libre
- 20 Minutes

National Newspapers

- Marianne
- Le Monde

Cultural Magazines

- Télérama
- Studio
- Les Inrockuptibles

RECOMMENDED TVSHOWS

TV News:

- Le Journal de 20h de France 2
- Le 20 heure de TF1
- Le 19h45 de M6

Political and cultural shows

- *C dans l'air* sur France 5
- *Le grand journal* sur Canal +

American TV series dubbed in French:

- Grey's anatomy
- Dr. House
- Friends
- How I Met Your Mother
- The Simpsons

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	Achievement that is worthy of credit even though it fails to meet fully 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

Participation in class	25%
Cultural activities	25%
Quizzes	25%
Final oral exam	25%
Overall grade	100%

COURSE CONTENT

WEEK 1: INTRO TO CLASS/ PRESENTATION

Quick presentation of the class: format, assessment, exam
Recapitulation on how to introduce oneself in French and how to describe people.

WEEK 2: LA GASTRONOMIE: UNE IDENTITÉ FRANÇAISE/ GASTRONOMY: A PART OF THE FRENCH IDENTITY

Advanced Vocabulary of traditional gastronomy, wine tasting, and cooking
Translation of American recipes in French and explanation of French traditional recipes

WEEK 3: L'ÉCOLE/ SCHOOL IN FRANCE

History and description of the French Educational system
Vocabulary of school (from primary school to university)
Discussion about the differences between the French and the American system

WEEK 4: LES VACANCES ET LES VOYAGES/ TRAVELS AND VACATION

Vocabulary of transportation and of vacation
Study of the habits of the French population concerning vacation
Discussion about the students and their travels.

WEEK 5: LES RELATIONS HOMMES/FEMMES/ MEN/WOMEN RELATIONSHIPS

Differences between relationships in France and in the US (culture shock)

Vocabulary of personal relationships
French machism and feminism
Study of a video (Florence Foresti)

WEEK 6: LA FAMILLE/ LES AMIS/ FAMILY AND FRIENDS

Vocabulary of family and friendship
Evolution of the traditional French family
Study of famous families

WEEK 7: UN PEU DE POLITIQUE/ FRENCH POLITICS

Vocabulary of politics
History and presentation of the French political landscape
Discussion about the differences between French and American politics

WEEK 8: L'IMMIGRATION/ IMMIGRATION IN FRANCE

Vocabulary of immigration and discrimination
Immigration in France: past and present
Discussion about integration and discrimination
Immigration and popular culture (in songs)

WEEK 9: LA SANTÉ DES FRANÇAIS/ HEALTH AND THE FRENCH HEALTHCARE SYSTEM

Vocabulary of health
What to do when you are sick? Doctor's vocabulary
Presentation and history of the French healthcare system
Discussion of the American healthcare system

WEEK 10: LES LOISIRS/ LEISURE AND HOBBIES

Presentation of popular hobbies in French
Vocabulary of leisure
Differences between French and American leisure

WEEK 11: LE CINÉMA FRANÇAIS/ FRENCH CINEMA

Vocabulary of cinema
Discussion about movies

WEEK 12: LA MUSIQUE FRANÇAISE/ FRENCH MUSIC

Vocabulary of music and the musical industry
Discussion about French singers and musical genres.

WEEK 13: EXAMEN FINAL/ FINAL EXAM

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.