
Contemporary French Civilization

COURSE DESIGNATOR: MONT 3312

LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION: French

NUMBER OF CREDITS: 3

CONTACT HOURS: 45

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course explores French contemporary society from multiple perspectives: on a national, regional, departmental, local, and international level. Students will learn about the various institutions of the *République* (the president, government, laws, *laïcité*...), the political systems, the social systems (trade unions, volunteer organizations, and social security), the juridical systems and how they have evolved over time and are how they operate in the current context with its specificities (the francophone world, technology, diplomacy...)

COURSE OBJECTIVES

- Students will develop their oral and written skills with the goal of being able to discuss the subject in an effective manner.
- Students will acquire a thorough knowledge of contemporary French society and the transformations it has undergone over time.

METHODOLOGY

Classroom 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

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

Exams (x2)	50%
Participation	20%
Final exam	30%
Overall grade	100%

COURSE CONTENT

WEEK 1

- Geography of France/its administrative subdivisions and organization

WEEK 2

- France as seen by foreigners

WEEK 3

- France's heritage

WEEK 4

- France's President

WEEK 5

- France's laws I

WEEK 6

- France's laws II—judicial framework and organization

WEEK 7

- France's labor unions

WEEK 8

- France's volunteer organizations and culture

WEEK 9

- France, *laïcité*
- France's social security institutions

WEEK 10

- France, *laïcité*

- France's social security institutions

WEEK 11

- France's diplomacy

WEEK 12

- France, the Francophone world

WEEK 13

- *Course conclusions*

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.