



# Intermediate French Conversation

## Course Details

**Course Designator & Number: MONT 1309**

**Number of Credits: 3**

**Language of Instruction: French**

**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 basic 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 basic 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 basic 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 basic 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 press article or other material, first in English and then in French as the semester progresses (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 short conversation about the article.

## Required Reading / Materials

### RECOMMENDED READING (TO WORK ON YOUR PRONUNCIATION)

- 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 TV SHOWS

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

| 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               |  |
| 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 |
|------------------------|---------------------|
| Participation in class | 25%                 |

|                     |      |
|---------------------|------|
| Cultural activities | 25%  |
| Quizzes             | 25%  |
| Final oral exam     | 25%  |
| Overall grade       | 100% |

## Course Content

### Week 1

#### Introduction to Class/Presentation

##### Activities:

- Quick presentation of the class: format, assessment, exam
- Recapitulations 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

##### Activities:

- Vocabulary of traditional gastronomy, wine tasting and cooking
- Explanation of French traditional recipes

### Week 3

#### L'École/ School in France

##### Activities:

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

### Week 4

#### Les Vacances Et Les Voyages/ Travels and Vacations

##### Activities:

- 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**

#### **Activities:**

- Differences between relationships in France and in the US (culture shock)
- Vocabulary of personal relationships
- French machism and feminism

## **Week 6**

### **La Famille/ Les Amis/ Family & Friends**

#### **Activities:**

- Vocabulary of family and friendship
- Evolution of the traditional French family
- Discussion about host families and home families

## **Week 7**

### **Un Peu de Politique/ French Politics**

#### **Activities:**

- Vocabulary of politics
- Brief history and presentation of the French political landscape
- Discussion about the differences between French and American politics

## **Week 8**

### **L'Immigration/ Immigration in France**

#### **Activities:**

- Vocabulary of immigration and discrimination
- Immigration in France: past and present
- Discussion about integration and discrimination

## **Week 9**

### **La Santé des Français/Health and the French Healthcare System**

#### **Activities:**

- 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 & Hobbies**

#### **Activities:**

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

## **Week 11**

### **Le Cinéma Français/ French Cinema**

#### **Activities:**

- Vocabulary of cinema.
- Discussion about movies

## **Week 12**

### **La Musique Française/ French Music**

#### **Activities:**

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

## **Week 13**

### **Examen Final/ 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](#).