



THE SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

FRE 101

3 credits (45 contact hours)

ESSENTIALS OF ELEMENTARY FRENCH I

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is designed for students with no previous knowledge of French. Through a combination of spoken and written exercises, students will learn the fundamentals of the French language. The initial emphasis will be on listening comprehension and oral ability, with progressively greater emphasis on reading and writing skills.

The aim of this class is to provide students, over a short period, with the means to understand French and express themselves. It contains both syntax and linguistic aspects and hands-on exercises in writing, speaking, listening, audio and video sessions - all of them placed in a communication context.

Class is taught in French.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Communication

Spell and say your name, greet others, present yourself, excuse yourself, thank others, present your family, say your preferences.

Observe and describe the street, give personal information (address, email, telephone number), talk about your neighborhood, describe people, give an itinerary, ask directions.

Express quantity, accept and refuse, ask and give a price, order in a café or restaurant, tell about an allergy, explain your tastes, complain, excuse yourself.

Talk about your work and activities, your schedule, make an appointment.

Give your opinion, talk about the sports you practise and your leisure time.

Culture

- France and *Francophonie*, ways to say hello (*la bise*), symbols (mottos, national anthem, *Marianne*,...).
- Street names (artists, politicians, places and dates).
- Shopping hours and restaurant hours, cooking recipes, eating organic food, fair trade.
- Work, organization of work schedules, the 35 hour work week, student housing.
- House exchange, opinions of webusers on towns, unusual destinations, extreme sports, collectors.

- French traditions and holidays, gastronomy.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

These skills adhere to the European Language Portfolio of level A1 of the CECRL (Cadre Européen Commun de Référence des Langues) of the Council of Europe.

At the end of the learning period, students will know, understand and be capable of:

Listening

Understand familiar words and very basic phrases concerning yourself, your family and immediate concrete surroundings when people speak slowly and clearly.

Reading

Understand familiar names, words and very simple sentences, for example simple written sentences about concrete and familiar texts including daily vocabulary, identifying important information, for example announcements.

Spoken interaction

Interact in a simple way provided the other person is prepared to repeat or rephrase things at a slower rate of speech and help you formulate what you say.

Ask and answer simple questions in areas of immediate need or on very familiar topics.

Spoken production

Use simple phrases and sentences to describe where you live and people you know.

Written production

Write a short, simple postcard or message, for example sending holiday greetings. You can fill in forms with personal details, for example entering your name, nationality and address on a registration form.

INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS AND ACTIVITIES

Typical class day includes :

- Oral discussion about what students did the day before, their own questions about their new life in France (phrases or cultural explanations they need, ...)
- Oral quiz about the last lesson
- Collective homework correction
- Lectures
- Practical exercises
- Field practice, outdoor observations to discover people and culture of Aix en Provence (for example : description of French dress ; the directions in the city ; the markets to speak with the sellers of fruits and vegetables)
- Cultural activities (for example : map of La Francophonie)

- Group work : creative writing, dialogues, role playing, ...
- Short oral presentations (for example: a report photo commented about the student's French area)
- Variety of games to practise French language such as songs, cartoons, board games, *bingo*, etc.

PRIMARY TEXTBOOKS

- *Rond-Point 1*, Éditions maison des langues, méthode de français
- *Grammaire progressive du français*, niveau débutant, Clé International

EVALUATION & GRADING

Assessment:

<p>Oral Participation and oral presentation: 25%</p> <p>Homework and quiz: 25%</p> <p>Tests: 25%</p>

Oral presentation:

Students will do short oral presentations.

Quiz:

Students take a few minutes' oral every class: They must review vocabulary and grammar after each class.

Homework:

Students will have daily homework exercises that will be corrected in class.

Tests:

Students take two tests

Final written exam:

Students take a cumulative final exam for two hours. It contains:

- Oral comprehension (short tracks)
- Written comprehension
- Written expression
- Grammar and vocabulary

Final oral exam:

Students take an individual oral expression with another teacher, 10 minutes' preparation then 10 minutes' discussion.

No test or exam will be given in advance or later.

Grade equivalence:

You also receive a French grade (between 0 and 20):

A: 20-17/20; A-: 16/20; B+ : 15/20 ; B : 14/20 ; B- :13/20 ; C+:12/20; C: 11/20; C-:10/20;
D+:9/20; D: 8/20; D-:7/20. F: 0-6/20

In case of a professor's absence, it may be necessary to make up lost class time Friday "Make-up" classes will be announced at least one week in advance; for questions of attendance, exams, work due, etc... These are considered normal course meetings.

ATTENDANCE

One of the primary requirements this semester is that you attend class. This is not a lecture class, and its success depends very much on your coming to class on time, prepared for the lesson, and ready to participate in discussion and activities. Attendance will be part of your final grade.

About attendance, any absence will negatively affect your grade.

The grade is reduced one-half letter for each unexcused absence. Being late two times is considered as an absence. For example, if your average grade is 16 (A-) but you have one unexcused absence, your final grade will be 15 (B+). Are considered as excused absences: absences linked to IAU excursions and sickness (a medical certificate is required).

When you return to class after an absence, even an excused absence due to an IAU field trip or sickness, you are required to make up the lesson and all homework must be done. Ask another student for worksheets and notes before the next class.

PLAGIARISM

Your academic honesty is required and plagiarism is not tolerated in our institution.

If compositions are copies of internet websites or written by anyone other than the student, the grade will be F.

Cheating is also a form of plagiarism. During a test or an exam, do not use phone, textbooks and notebooks, do not look at your classmate's paper.

Also, it is expected that, concerning group work, the efforts presented in class reflect the contributions of every member of the group.

ACHIEVEMENT

Comment atteindre ces buts?

Your cell phone, tablet and computer must be turned off.

Carefully prepare your material and your homework for each class. If you come to class without your material and without having done your homework, you will be unprepared and will waste the time of other students. You must have read and heard the material to be prepared in advance!

Do not go to the toilet during the class (except in case of emergency). It disturbs the professor, as well as other students, and you will miss a part of the lesson.

Participate regularly in class activities with respect and consideration for all: take advantage of chances to talk, repeat the answers to yourself when others are talking, listen to your fellow students, and play an active role. We will be doing a lot of partner work in this class. Thus you are responsible not only to the professor but also to your peers in the class. Constantly trying new sounds, words, phrases and ideas requires active participation. Thus it is vital to have a classroom atmosphere of respect, and consideration. For example, when another group is playing a role, stop working in order to listen to them; when a student makes a presentation, be attentive to her/him. Treat others as you would like to be treated.

Do not be afraid to make mistakes: Error is the site of learning. You cannot learn another language without making mistakes and learning from them. Please, don't limit your participation, speaking out and use the language even with mistakes, and you will get a higher participation grade.

Find aspects of the course that motivate. Be open to new ideas and approaches. If you come to class well prepared and with a good attitude, you will do well in the class.

In short, you have the power and the responsibility. You must take an active role in your learning

Indeed, the class is going to be in French. Even if you don't understand everything the professor says, you will be able to get the main idea by paying attention to everything that happens (gestures, mimes, writing, repetition, explanations...). Do not be frustrated if you don't understand each word. Using all the available information to figure out what is being said is how one learns to understand a second language. Thus we practice this skill in class a lot, and your comprehension will improve over time.

Finally, please, enjoy and take advantage of this learning period. You are going to live in another country, another culture, surrounded by new people, immersed in another language. Make sure to learn all you can, to be curious, courageous and to make the most of this amazing experience.

CALENDAR

Dates and contents may change according to the pace of the class.

Semaine 1 : Qui suis-je ?

- *Actes de parole* : se présenter - donner son âge - donner ses coordonnées - épeler - compter (< 20)
- *Vocabulaire* : les salutations - les nombres < 20 - les mots et phrases utiles
- *Grammaire* : s'appeler (je, tu, il) - être et avoir au présent - les articles définis et indéfinis - le masculin, féminin, pluriel des noms
- *Phonétique* : l'alphabet - les sons spécifiques du français et les prononciations difficiles

Day 1- Syllabus et présentation des livres

- *Unité 1* - Saluer et se présenter : *Je m'appelle...*
 - Pour moi, la France, c'est...
 - Les sons du français et l'alphabet => épeler son nom
 - Les mots et phrases utiles
 - C'est du français ?

Day 2 - Les nombres de 1 à 20

- *Unité 1* - Les articles définis et indéfinis (masculin, féminin, pluriel)
 - C'est / Ce n'est pas
 - Tu ou Vous ?
 - Pourquoi => pour / parce que
 - Moi aussi / Pas moi

Day 3 - Être / Avoir

- *Unité 1* - Carnet d'adresses
 - Présenter une personne
 - Test 1

Semaine 2 : Ma famille / Mes goûts

- *Actes de parole* : donner sa nationalité - parler de sa famille - dire ce qu'on aime ou qu'on n'aime pas - poser des questions - compter (> 20)
- *Vocabulaire* : les nationalités - la famille - les nombres >20 - les verbes de goût
- *Grammaire* : l'accord des adjectifs - la possession - le présent des verbes à une base
- *Phonétique* : le masculin, féminin des adjectifs - verbes et lettres muettes

Day 4- Présentations orales

- *Unité 2* - Donner des informations sur une personne
 - Professions / loisirs
 - Accord de l'adjectif
 - Les nationalités
 - Prononciation des adjectifs

Day 5- La famille

- *Unité 2* - Les possessifs
 - C'est / il est / il a
 - Les nombres > 20

Day 6 - Les goûts et les activités

- *Unité 2* - Verbes à une base
 - Les questions
 - Compréhensions écrite et orale
 - Prononciation des verbes au présent

Day 7 - Présentations orales

- *Unité 2* - Révisions et test 2

Semaine 3 : La ville

- *Actes de parole* : décrire la ville - situer - parler de ses goûts et ses activités en matière de vacances

- *Vocabulaire : les nationalités - la famille - les nombres >20 - les verbes de gout*
- *Grammaire : l'accord des adjectifs - la possession - le présent des verbes à une base*
- *Phonétique : les liaisons - question ou affirmation ?*

Day 8 - Il y a / il n'y a pas

- *Unité 3 - Articles indéfinis*
 - Les loisirs
 - Faire et aller
 - La situation
 - Questions ou affirmations ?

Day 9- Le vocabulaire de la ville

- *Unité 3 - Les moyens de transport*
 - Les couleurs
 - Sortie en ville : décrire la ville et les personnes

Day 10 - Les mois, les saisons

- *Unité 3 - Les moyens de transport*
 - Les vacances
 - Moi aussi / moi non plus

Day 11 : - Révisions

- Oral blanc
- Les liaisons
- Film

Day 12 - Examen final (écrit et oral)