



## THE SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

FRE 301

3 credits (45 contact hours)

### **ADVANCED FRENCH I: STRUCTURE AND EXPRESSION**

#### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course is designed for students with at least 4 semesters of college French,

Students will review and refine French grammar.

Students will practice the understanding of audio-visual documents from French media, will learn to speak about subjects in different forms (oral presentation, argumentation, speak in front of an audience, formal and informal discussion), will use French for expressing opinions, feelings and observations in writing and speaking, will read and prepare documents for group discussions.

Class is taught in French.

#### **COURSE OBJECTIVES**

The objective of the class is a deeper knowledge of French grammar, structure and syntax.

#### **Prerequisite to attend this course:**

##### **Listening:**

Understand the main points of clear speech on familiar matters encountered in work, school and education, sport and leisure, etc.

##### **Reading:**

Understand texts that consist mainly of high frequency everyday language.

##### **Spoken interaction:**

Communicate in simple and routine tasks requiring an exchange of information on familiar topics and activities. Handle short social exchanges.

##### **Spoken production:**

Use a series of phrases and sentences to describe my family and other people, living conditions, my educational background and my present or recent job.

## **Written production:**

Write simple connected text on topics which are familiar or of personal interest.

## **LEARNING OUTCOMES**

These skills adhere to the European Language Portfolio of level B1 of the CECRL (Cadre Européen Commun de Référence des Langues) of the Council of Europe.

At the end of the learning period of 4 hours' weekly French class over the semester, divided into two hours' course time (during which we emphasize the 4 skills), students will know, understand and be capable of:

- Student obtains a higher functional level of grammar competence and vocabulary.
- S/he can communicate (dialogue, write and understand) the content of familiar and social matters, personal opinions on common problems.
- S/he can understand distinctive characteristics of contemporary French and local civilization and culture.

Spoken interaction:

- Deal with most situations likely to arise whilst travelling in an area where the language is spoken. Enter unprepared into conversation on topics that are familiar, of personal interest or pertinent to everyday life (for examples: current events and issues, family, hobbies, work and travel)

Spoken production:

- Connect phrases in order to describe experiences and events, dreams, hopes and ambitions.
- Give reasons and explanations for opinions and plans.
- Narrate a story or relate the plot of a book or film and describe her/his reactions.

Writing:

- Write brief reports, which pass on routine factual information and state reasons for actions.
- Write personal letters describing experiences, feelings and events in detail.
- Describe basic details of unpredictable occurrences (for example, an accident).
- Describe dreams, hopes and ambitions.
- Take messages describing enquires, problems, etc.
- Describe the plot of a book or film and his/her reactions.
- Give reasons and explanations for opinions, plans and actions.

Listening:

- Guess the meaning of occasional unknown words from the context.
- Follow the main points of extended discussion.
- Follow clear speech in everyday conversation.
- Understand straightforward factual information about common everyday or job-related topics, identifying both general messages and specific details.
- Follow a lecture or a talk within her/his own field.
- Understand technical information, such as operation instructions for everyday equipment.
- Understand the information content of the majority of recorded or broadcast audio material about familiar subject.
- Follow many films in which visuals and action carry much of the storyline.

Reading:

- Understand straightforward texts on subject related to his/her field of interest.
- Find and understand general information s/he needs in everyday material, such as letters, brochures and official documents.
- Search one long or several short texts to locate specific information s/he needs to help her/him complete a task.
- Can recognize significant points in straightforward newspaper articles on familiar subjects
- Can identify the main conclusions in clearly written argumentative texts
- Recognize the general line of argument in a text
- Understand the description of events, feelings and wishes in personal letters well enough to correspond with a friend or acquaintance
- Understand clearly written straightforward instructions for a piece of equipment.

## **INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS AND ACTIVITIES**

Typical class day includes:

- Collective homework correction
- Oral discussion about your life in Aix
- Outdoor observations to discover Aix, France and the French culture
- Group works
- Grammar explanations
- Oral presentations
- Work with different materials and topics
- Conversations
- Debates
- Test

## **PRIMARY TEXTS**

***L'exercisier, Presses Universitaires de Grenoble***

The teacher will provide photocopies on authentic documents and grammar exercises.

## **ASSESSMENT**

- Oral Participation: 30%
- Homework, Compositions, Written assignment: 20%
- Tests: 20%
- Mid-semester exam: 15%
- Final exam: 15% (half-written/half-oral)

### **Attendance and Participation:**

This is not a lecture class and its success depends very much on your coming to class on time, prepared for the lesson, homework done, and ready to participate in discussion and activities.

One of the primary requirements this semester is that you attend class. Attendance and participation will be part of your final grade: the grade is reduced one-half letter for each unexcused absence above two. Being late two times is considered as an absence.

For example, if your average grade is 16 (A-) but you have three unexcused absences, your final grade will be 15 (B+).

### **Homework and compositions:**

Students must review the lesson after each class.

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

Compositions and their corrected versions should be written independently without the help of a translator and should be neatly presented and on time.

Grades will be penalized one letter for each class handed in late. Grade will become « F » after one week's tardiness.

### **Tests:**

Students take a short quiz every Friday.

### **Mid-semester exam:**

Students take a cumulative mid-semester exam after the two first parts of the program.

It contains:

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

### **Final written exam**

Students take a cumulative final exam (based on the 4 skills of the program).

It contains:

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

### **Final oral exam**

Students take an oral exam:

- 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 can 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 afternoon or Wednesday at 12:00. "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 of the 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 discussions 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 above two. Being late two times and is reduced as an absence. For example, if your average grade is 16 (A-) but you have two unexcused absences, your final grade will be 15 (B+).

Considered an excused absence: absences linked to IAU excursions and sickness with a medical certificate is required.

When you come back to class after an absence, even though it is an excused absence due to IAU field trip or sickness, you have to make up for the lesson and homework have to be done. Ask for notes and sheets to a classmate before next class.

### **PLAGIARISM**

We want your academic honesty and plagiarism is not tolerated in our institution.

If compositions are copies of internet website or written by anybody else 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 in group work the efforts presented in class reflect the contributions of every member of the group.

### **CALENDAR**

À chaque classe nous utilisons des exercices du site LEPOINTFLE)

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

## Week 1

- Grammaire: Présent de l'indicatif des verbes irréguliers
- Adjectifs qualificatifs
- Superlatifs et les comparatifs
- Thème: Voyage dans les 5 sens
- Portraits
- Matériel: Extrait de L'âge d'homme de Michel Leiris

## Week 2

- Grammaire: Passé composé
- Imparfait
- Plus-que-parfait
- Négation
- Thème: Souvenirs
- Histoire
- Matériel: Extraits du film: Amélie Poulain
- Texte: La madeleine Proust

## Week 3

- Grammaire: Pronoms personnels directs et indirects
- Accords des participes passés
- Thème: Le profil numérique de la classe et du futur
- Matériel: Chanson: Dis-lui oui Bénabar

## Week 4

- Grammaire: Pronoms relatifs simples, complexes et toniques
- Accords des participes passés
- Thème: La presse et le cinéma
- Matériel: TV5 Congo /reportage

## Week 5

- Grammaire: Phrases hypothétiques
- Conditionnel
- Futur simple
- Thème: Sur le chemin de la vie
- Activités insolites
- Matériel: Conception d'un programme électoral et simulation d'une élection
- Extraits de reportages

## Week 6

- Grammaire: Questions directes et indirectes
- Adjectifs et pronoms possessifs

- Adjectifs et pronoms démonstratifs
- Infinitifs à/de/pour
- Thème: Choix de société. L'écologie
- Matériel: Les indignés S. Hessel
- Visite d'une chocolaterie
- Utilisation du questionnaire élaboré en classe

### **Week 7**

- Grammaire: Gérondif
- Participe présent
- Noms géographiques
- Thème: La francophonie
- La carte du monde de vos apprentissages linguistiques
- Matériel: TV5 francophonie pour la création du volet culturel d'un séjour dans un pays francophone

### **Week 8**

- Grammaire: Subjonctif présent et passé
- Thème: Apprendre le français: un sacré voyage
- Un voyage extraordinaire
- Matériel: Les Françaises vues par les Américaines (reportage)

### **Week 9**

- Grammaire: Le discours indirect
- Thème: Une vie après l'école
- Révision
- Examen final oral
- Examen final écrit