



AMBROSE

Faculty of Arts & Sciences

French 101

French I — Fall 2007

Instructor: Dr. Cornelia Burian
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Class Meeting: Monday 1:00 – 5:15
Room 753
Consultation: Wed 2:00 – 3:00
or by appointment

Course Description: This is an introductory French course.

Course Objectives:

1. To help students acquire a basic grasp of French grammar and to achieve basic levels of consistency in grammatical accuracy.
2. To build and expand your vocabulary knowledge so you will be able to:
 - a. talk, write about, and comprehend a great variety of topics.
 - b. talk, write about, and comprehend familiar topics with greater precision, i.e., so that you will know more and more specific words to describe similar concepts or actions.You will also learn how to study and retain vocabulary most efficiently and according to your personal preferences.
3. To develop successful reading strategies and to practice reading a variety of text types about a number of different topics.
4. To improve listening strategies through interaction in class and also through exposure to authentic and unedited native French speech in videos, music, and listening activities.
5. To learn more about the cultures of French speaking countries.
6. To develop your speaking and listening abilities so that you will be able to converse with untrained native speakers of French on a variety of topics.

These learning goals are reflected in the evaluation criteria described below.

Your Final Grade will be based on:

1 oral project/fluency test	15%
class participation (regular contributions, preparedness)	10%
3 tests (10% each)	30%
5 written projects (5% each)	25%
final exam	20%
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total	100%

Grades:

A+ = 100-99%	A = 98-91%	A- = 90-86%
B+ = 85-81%	B = 80-76%	B- = 75-71%
C+ = 70-67%	C = 66-62%	C- = 61-58%
D+ = 57-54%	D = 53-50%	
F = 49% and below		

Marking Criteria:

1. **grammar / vocabulary tests (3):** After we have completed about two chapters, there will be an exam focusing on the vocabulary and the grammar topics discussed in the respective chapters. Grammatical accuracy and knowledge of the individual vocabulary items will be the primary grading criteria. The purpose of the exams is to make sure that you have a basic understanding of the discrete points of grammar and the discrete vocabulary items.
2. **oral project/fluency test:** at the end of the semester, you will have to come to my office for an interview. I will ask you about different topics that we covered in class (i.e. your family, your interests, which courses you are taking etc.), and you will also have to read a French text. I will evaluate your level of fluency (grammar, vocabulary) and your pronunciation.
4. **writing projects (5):** The exams described above are meant to ensure that you have been “introduced” to certain distinct and discrete points of grammar. However, such discrete and non-contextual knowledge poorly reflects the overall goals of the course or foreign language learning in general. Naturally, it is more desirable to be able to use these “grammar items” to convey certain communicative messages and intentions and to employ a given form correctly not by itself but together with other, related forms. Thus, more comprehensive writing assignments are better suited to help in the development of your expressive skills. It is also important to note that when we write (as when we speak), we must consider the audience we address. I am NOT your primary audience.
5. ***Issues of academic honesty and the use of technology:***
At the beginning of the semester, I will discuss with you standards of ethical behavior in academia and, specifically, foreign language writing, using technological resources. These explanations will include the use of on-line dictionaries and appropriate use of other online materials, such as foreign language websites, in your own work. **The use of translation programs is categorically prohibited for any work submitted as your own.**

Please know that it is not very difficult for an instructor to recognize plagiarized work. Inaccurate incorporations, typos in the English input (which result in inaccurate or even missing French translations), and—most tellingly—a stark differential in stylistic sophistication by comparison to a student’s usual work, including the use of regional varieties, are sure giveaways.

Violations of standards of academic honesty will not be tolerated!

6. **homework:** Besides the writing assignments, there will be additional homework, mostly in preparation of working with reading texts or videos or of discussion of grammar points. The need to take homework assignments seriously cannot be overemphasized. Already, the time available is minimal in view of the goal, i.e., to learn (to speak, read, comprehend, and write) French. It is essential to prepare as much as possible at home so as to free up class time for activities which you cannot be completed by yourself: for example, conversations, exchanges of ideas, etc.

It is very important to acknowledge that the conscientious completion of homework assignments does not only benefit yourself but—because it makes crucial class time available—is a responsibility you have towards the other students in the class.

6. **class participation:** Because active use of French is a main goal of this course, it is essential that you come to class prepared to participate. After each phase of the course, I will give you a written evaluation of your participation as determined by the following schema:

A = prepared for class and volunteers frequently (3–5 times per class)

B = prepared for class and volunteers infrequently (1–2 times per class)

C = prepared for class but does not volunteer, responds when called upon

D = not prepared for class and often does not respond when called upon

F = cannot respond in class or does not attend class

Please know that not all class participation will be volunteering to speak in front of the whole class. You will be doing a great deal of group work, and I will monitor your participation while working with others as well. Moreover, I reserve the right to give quizzes (announced or unannounced, to be counted as homework assignments) to test your level of preparedness for individual class sessions.

Finally, please note that coming to class in itself is not considered evidence of good “class participation;” rather it is a prerequisite. I would encourage you to inform me of any absences in advance whenever possible. This greatly helps with conveying assignments, lesson planning, and saving handouts. Absence from class other than for major medical or religious reasons does not absolve you from turning in assignments or becoming aware of any new assignment due dates. Quizzes or exams which are missed due to unexcused absences can only be made up with my consent and at my discretion.

7. **final exam (1):** This will be a comprehensive exam of two hours that will take place during the final examination period.

Textbook:

Terrell, Rogers, Kerr & Spielmann eds. *Deux Mondes: A Communicative Approach*. 5th edition. New York: McGraw-Hill, 2005.

Semesterplan

Please note that

- all dates are subject to change. Changes will occur inevitably. I will announce any such changes to the class. Please keep yourself updated.

REVIEW DATES!

September

10 chapitre 1
17 chapitre 1 devoir #1
24 chapitre 2

October

1 chapitre 2 devoir #2, examen #1
8 no class - Thanksgiving Day
15 chapitre 2/3
22 chapitre 3 devoir #3
29 chapitre 3 examen #2

November

5 chapitre 3/4 devoir #4
12 chapitre 4
19 chapitre 4 devoir #5
26 chapitre 5

December

3 chapitre 5 examen #3
10 chapitre 5 & review

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Please familiarize yourself with the University College's regulations as outlined in the calendar
If you have any special concerns now or throughout the course, please feel free to approach me to make proper
arrangements.

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Hope you enjoy the semester!