

FALL 2014 – FREN0300 (INTERMEDIATE FRENCH) SYLLABUS

COURSE INFORMATION

Course description: A semi-intensive review with emphasis on all four skills (listening, speaking, reading and writing). Class materials include an audio CD, videos, French films, short stories, a play, and various other authentic documents. Four meetings per week plus a 50-minute conversation section with UTAs.

Organization: There are three sections:

Section 01: MWF 9:00-9:50 Smith-Buonanno G13 & T 10:30-11:50 Smith-Buonanno G13 -- Stephanie_Ravillon@brown.edu

Section 02: MWF 11:00-11:50 Sayles Hall 005 & T 9:00-10:20 Sayles Hall 005 -- Christopher_Robison@brown.edu

Section 03: MWF 12:00-12:50 Sayles Hall 306 & T 1:00-2:20 Wilson Hall 104 -- Justin_Gibson@brown.edu

Stéphanie Ravillon is the chairperson of this course. Her office is in Rochambeau House, 84 Prospect Street, room 304, phone extension 3-6494. Feel free to come and talk to her about the course, problems, thoughts, ambitions you might have with and about French, your future studies, study abroad, etc. You may also reach her at Stephanie_Ravillon@brown.edu

Please note that you must attend all four sessions of the SAME section each week. Mixing and matching of sections is NOT permissible. In addition to the four class sessions, you will be required to attend a weekly small (4-5 students) conversation group led by an undergraduate TA. Times and places for these groups will be arranged during the third week of class.

Prerequisites: FREN0200 or placement (previous experience with French is required to take this class).

OBJECTIVES OF THE COURSE

Course goals: By the end of this course, students should be able to do the following linguistic tasks in French with relative ease: ask questions, give descriptions, narrate events, make comparisons, issue affirmative and negative commands...

FREN300 is the first course of the intermediate sequence at Brown. It is followed by FREN400 and FR500.

Participation: Active participation in class activities is one of the single-most important things you can do to learn French. You will be expected to participate individually and in small groups. French is the language of all classroom activities. Join in and jouez le jeu!

Workload: We will progress at a very rapid pace. Accordingly, you should plan on spending a minimum of 8-10 hours per week on homework.

TEXTBOOKS AND MATERIALS

- Magnan, et. al, *Paroles*, 3rd edition, Holt, Rhinehart and Winston, 1999 (textbook, Cahier d'activités écrites et de laboratoire, Audio CD) -- Available at the Brown Bookstore.
- *Théâtre*, Yasmina Reza -- Available at the Brown Bookstore.
- All other materials will be available on Canvas.

You should familiarize yourself with the organization of *Paroles*, Student Listening CD, and Elfe exercises as soon as possible.

CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES AND HOMEWORK

Classwork: This course uses the direct, communicative approach. Consequently, you must come to class having read and prepared the explanations and exercises assigned in your textbook. In class, the instructor will not give extensive explanations of grammar; instead, we will do a variety of oral activities in order to put into practice the vocabulary, structures and concepts studied outside the classroom. Please note that you are responsible for vocabulary sections "Vocabulaire essentiel" (printed on light green backgrounds) of each Dossier and the "Grammaire" sections (printed on light blue backgrounds) of each Ensemble.

Activities and exercises in *Paroles*: Unless otherwise indicated ALL activities and exercises in the textbook should be used for practice at home before coming to class.

Cahier d'activités écrites et de laboratoire: In the *Cahier*, you are required to complete and correct all activities marked with an "*". Additional activities will also be assigned (see the "Calendrier").

Elfe exercises: These optional self-correcting computer drills (for verb usage, function words, and sentence structure) are available on Canvas. These exercises are strongly recommended.

Other materials: In addition to the book and the cahier, we will be working with films (*Le petit Nicolas*, *Les émotifs anonymes*), books (*Le petit Nicolas* de Sempé/Goscinny, « Art » de Yasmina Reza), and music to complement the grammar and expand the cultural content of the course.

EVALUATION

Attendance: Regular attendance is required. No more than three unexcused absences will be allowed. Beyond this limit, you must present a slip from Health Services or a note from a dean or your final grade for the course will be lowered by 5% points for each unexcused absence (for instance, 4 unexcused absences will cause a B- to be lowered to a C+). If you know in advance that you will be absent from class, speak to your instructor about the work you will miss.

Grading:

Exams: 50% (6 exams)

Writing activities: 10% (2 compositions)

Oral exams: 20% (2)

Participation/Homework: 20%

GENERAL SUGGESTIONS: HOW TO STUDY FOR CLASS

1) Study, don't read. With a foreign language, "reading" a chapter in the textbook is not the best approach to preparing for class. Instead of reading, think of

- memorizing the vocabulary (memorize the genre of each noun, too)
- memorizing the verb paradigms: practice until the conjugations come automatically
- observing how a model sentence is put together
- trying to *reuse* what is in the book as much as possible—develop the habit of consciously reusing idiomatic expressions (rather than starting from English and then looking for the French equivalent)

2) Listening. Try to listen actively rather than passively. In other words, listen the first time for comprehension, but listen again for the following reasons:

- for phonetic practice: how are the words pronounced?
- for help understanding how to translate from what you *hear* in French to how it is *written* in French. Can you *write* what you are hearing?

3) *Cahier*. After preparing the chapter, do the self-corrected exercises (all exercises marked with an *) for the corresponding dossier (remember: the answers are at the very back of the *Cahier*).

4) Writing:

- use your dictionary primarily to check words (genre and spelling).
- instead of starting from English (and from the sentences that you would like to put into French), start with what you already know how to say in French. In other words, try to *reuse* constructions and vocabulary that you have learned in class. As you become more advanced, you should also think in terms of reusing constructions you have observed in authentic discourse (in French newspapers or in literary texts, for instance).
- after you have finished composing, check over your work very carefully: consciously check the following three things:
 - genres (check in a dictionary, if you are not sure)
 - adjective agreements (number and gender)
 - verbs: do they agree with their subjects? (for instance, make sure you write “il est” and not “il es”)

ACADEMIC HONESTY POLICIES

As in all language courses in the French Studies Department, we expect that all work you turn in for grading (papers, exams, etc) is your own work and has not been read by someone (a student) or something (a translation engine) else. For more information, please read the academic code.

Academic achievement is ordinarily evaluated on the basis of work that a student produces independently. Students who submit academic work that uses others' ideas, words, research, or images without proper attribution and documentation are in violation of the academic code. Infringement of the academic code entails penalties ranging from reprimand to suspension, dismissal, or expulsion from the University.

Academic code of conduct

**TOUTE L'ÉQUIPE DE FREN0300 VOUS SOUHAITE UNE BONNE RENTRÉE
ET UN EXCELLENT SEMESTRE !**