

FREN 1A Elementary French

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Course Description and content

Catalog Description

FREN001A. Elementary French. First semester of College French, corresponding roughly to 1-2 semesters of high school French. This is a beginning French course. The French focuses on the development of development of elementary linguistic skill, with emphasis on the spoken language. The relationship of the language to French civilization and culture is given special attention.

Course Description

FREN1A is a hybrid course. For this class we have specific meeting times when students are required to be in attendance .Course materials and activities are delivered online . This course is designed to provide a hybrid experience, including both face-to-face and online activities. Contact time will be divided in the following way: approximately **55 % face-to-face and 45 % online**. Students must have a SacLink account and access to a computer. See www.csus.edu/saclink for information on how to create your SacLink account.

Textbook and Materials

1. FREN 1A Elementary French SacCt eTextbook 2012 - Free of charge for students is included .

A paper copy is available in the Library on Reserve.

2. Audio files to accompany FREN 1A Elementary French SacCt eTextbook. SacCt Audio Tracks are part of the listening exercises and are excellent tools for your comprehension.

3. Suggested: Parlez-Vous Français ? An Introduction to French Verbs and Tenses.
Beatrice Russell; Kendall Hunt Publisher. 2010. (ONLY)

4. A binder

5. Supporting SacCT material : Students Notes folder

Help with pronunciation and practice: go to: <http://text-to-speech.imtranslator.net/speech>.

6. During the first week, secure your own Saclink account to enter your SacCT account.

Syllabus, weekly activities and exercises to prepare for class, tests and homework due dates, announcements, and grades will be available on SacCT.

7. Optional: Students may wish to purchase a French/English-English/French dictionary or use the available dictionary online

The course ideally covers chapters 1 - 5.

Each module thoroughly integrates vocabulary, structures and cultural insights with that Module's theme. The course equally, develops the four language skills: oral comprehension, oral expression, writing, and reading. It familiarizes the student with the Francophone world. Grammatical structures are always presented in the context they naturally occur in French. Grammar explanations written in English with clear examples are found in your eTextbook for easy reference. Each grammar point is accompanied by exercises to facilitate home study.

Listening activities will be chosen from SacCt audio Tracks.

Detailed conjugations of French verbs are given in Parlez-Vous Français? with substantial examples of sentences illustrating the use of the verbs are given. Each chapter ends with a section containing conjugation exercises. Students have opportunity to practice, in particular, different forms of the most important basic and irregular French verbs.

CONTENT ORGANIZATION

SacCT eTextbook: Elementary French FREN 1A

1) . Get acquainted with your eTextbook and SacCT module (chapter) content so you can use them effectively.

On each page new words or new structures are explained in footnotes at the bottom of each page to help students remember, analyze and synthesize what they have just read on each page. Numerical footnotes are added in an easily comprehensible form. Visualization of information is especially important in a second language learning environment in order to retain the interest span of students and make them realize the pedagogical sequencing of material presented.

A list of vocabulary: French-English glossary are found at the back of the eTextbook.

Locate some of the important reference materials in SacCT and mark them as needed: look also in the folder Student Notes on SacCT to find course content (PowerPoint presentations) for each module (chapter).

2) Clearer verb conjugation charts are available in Parlez-vous Français? An Introduction to French Verbs and Tenses workbook. Verbs are grouped in their categories and are arranged in alphabetical order for easy access.

Chapter 1 consists of an introduction of French verb Tenses, Aspect and Mood (i.e. Indicative and imperative moods)

Chapter 2: Conjugation of the four most Frequently used verbs (être, avoir, aller, faire)

Chapter 3: Group 1: Conjugation of –er verbs (i.e. écouter, parler, aimer, préférer)

Chapter 4: Group 2. Conjugation of –ir verbs: Regular - ir verbs (finir, réfléchir)

Chapter 5: Group 3.

Category 1: Conjugation of other –ir verbs (i.e. venir, devenir, sortir)

Category 2: Verbs ending in –re (verbs conjugated like prendre, comprendre, lire,)

Category 3: Verbs ending in –oir (i.e. Pouvoir, vouloir)

Chapter 6. Pronominal verbs. Category 1. Pronominal verbs expressing reflexive or reciprocal actions (se laver, s'aimer, se revoir)

Note:

This syllabus is designed for “beginners”. Beginners are typically learners who have had one or two semesters of high school French. However previous knowledge of French is not required. “False” beginners (learners/students who are familiar with French and as such can move pretty quickly to advanced French levels (FREN 1B, FREN 2A) will be required to take FREN 1B, 2A or FREN 5. Students must drop the class by the drop deadline and register in FREN 1B, or take a challenge Exam with me, within the first month of the semester. The students must accept the letter grade assigned by the instructor based on their challenge Exam performance. The exam copy will not be available to students after it has been graded. FREN 1A/1B Placement test is available from Professor Russell’s SacCT. Students should take the placement test within the first 4 week of class for primarily French 1A & French 1B. The purpose of this test is to assess the student knowledge of French grammar and vocabulary, in order to place the student in the most appropriate level.

Method of Instruction

Active student participation is required. Oral comprehension and practice are essential to become comfortable with all aspects of the language and culture.

Oral participation includes, repeating, readings, games, singing, creating cultural situations and finally one final dialog. Quizzes, exercises, electronic written responses and dialogues build lexical and grammatical skills.

Lab/ Listening activities are an essential part of the course. This course requires a valid Saclink account and has a SacCT component. FREN 1A is an elementary course, first semester. This course will be taught entirely in French (English explanations of one or two grammatical structures will be given only when clearly needed). Students are expected to attend class regularly.

Student Learning Outcomes: Upon successful completion of this course students will be able to:

- 1) Students can present themselves and others, greet others and answer greetings .
- 2) Converse (speak with acceptable pronunciation and understand spoken French) in simple

- but correct French, demonstrating mastery of the vocabulary and grammatical concepts.
- 3) Write in simple but correct French, demonstrating mastery of the vocabulary and grammatical concepts included in the footnotes of SacCt eTextbook. FREN 1A. Introduction to French (required textbook)
 - 4) Read and understand simple French texts, available in your e-textbook under *Compétences Culturelles* (From Modules 1-5)
 - 5) Count from 1 to 1000.000, Use adjective to describe people
 - 6) Tell dates and time
 - 7) Demonstrate an understanding of appropriate speech and conduct within French culture, and an understanding of cultural differences and similarities between France and the U.S.
 - 8). Express likes and dislikes, agree or disagree, construct negative sentences, and phrase simple questions
 - 9) Improve their mastery of the language and interest in the culture (French and the Francophone world) even after the course is completed.
 - 10). Demonstrate skills in using computer technologies

Testing: Content of tests: All 5 tests

Exams

Integrative and comprehensive exams on the content of each Module.

Module exams will include (a) a dictation section, b) vocabulary exercises, c) grammar exercises, d) a culture section and (e) a reading comprehension section. For each module, you may be asked to write a short composition. Exams will be done in a Computer lab.

Oral Exam will enable you to gauge your command of the material covered in class (look in SacCt, click on Oral Exam folder) and are a valuable tool for your self-assessment.

Student will submit an oral exam audio file (mp3 file or Wav) in the professor's email during the last week of instruction. Students may be required to go to the lab in MRP 2002 (walk –in lab) to complete the Oral exam if they don't have a computer at home, or work from home if they do.

Oral Exam Recording software and Devices

Notes:

Audio file: Using a laptop with built in mic and speakers may result in feedback and poor audio quality for you and your professor. The important thing is to keep files small (mp3) and to not upload .wav files; they are so large that they can shut down your submission capabilities into SacCT.

Oral Exam submission guidelines

Student will submit an oral exam audio file (mp3 file PREFERRED) . The important thing is to keep files small (mp3) and **to NOT upload .wav files**; they are so large that they can shut down your submission capabilities into SacCT.

1. If you don't already have a microphone, you may buy a microphone at the CSUS bookstore. Use the microphone in a CSUs computer lab to record your Oral exam (you may go to Mariposa 2002, AIRC2004, the Library on the third floor or other computer labs). Send the audio file as *mp3 file* to your professor.
2. You may use your cell phone to record your oral exam and **convert** your cell phone audio file ("voice mail") into MP3 format using a free online converter program. Submit the audio file as *mp3 file* to your professor.
3. You may use a tape recorder to record your oral exam. Give the cassette/ tape to the professor or leave it in the Department of Foreign Languages mailbox (leave the tape with a staff in the department of Foreign Languages).
4. You may record your Oral Exam on a CD. Give the burned CD to the professor or leave it in the Department of Foreign Languages mailbox (leave the tape with a staff in the department of Foreign Languages).

Links for a free download of an mp3 voice recorder . (Students need a microphone to use these recorders)

MP3 Audio Recorder Free at:

<http://en.kioskea.net/download/download-3496-mp3-audio-recorder-free>

Audacity : Audio Editor and Recorder at:

<http://audacity.sourceforge.net/download/windows>

Other software can do the same.

Homework and Assignments will be posted on SacCT.

As part of your preparation for the next class meeting, you will be assigned some exercises online and/or ones created by your instructor. All Homework and compositions are due on Thursdays (check the exact dates) except when the day falls on a campus holiday (i.e. Labor Day, Thanksgiving (fall semester) or Spring Break, Cesar Chavez Birthday (spring semester). Completion of work in a timely manner counts for participation points. **Students are expected to check/read their emails regularly** to check announcements or other information send by the instructor.

Note: We will not meet in the classroom on days when students have Online Assignments on SacCt. Online Assignments (which replace class periods) must be completed on the due date and they count also for attendance and participation points. Students may be required to go to the lab in MRP 2002 (walk –in lab) or other labs on Campus and complete exercises on SacCT if they don't have a computer at home, or work from home if they do. It will be the

student's responsibility to complete the assignments, on time, before the deadline. These SacCT online exercises will be graded. Students can use any of the IRT managed student computer labs on campus. Visit the University Labs website (<http://www.csus.edu/uccs/labs/generalinfo/about.stm>) for information about locations, hours, and resources available.

Compositions: You will write and submit online 3 compositions, the subject of which will relate to topics covered in class. (Sample topics: Portrait d'une célébrité, Mon portrait, Ma chambre et Mes Camarades de Chambre, Ma routine)

Class Preparation and participation

During class periods there will be plenty of opportunities for you to practice what you have learned. I expect you to study assigned materials before you come to class.

Assigned weekly activities and readings will be posted on SacCT and I will always explain the material studied at home in class. You will be required to work on activities in class in a variety of configurations (individually, with a partner, with a group). When you work with other students, I will observe and evaluate your use of French, your ability to focus on the task and use time effectively, and your cooperativeness. 10 unexcused absences will immediately incur into a final F in this class.

Discussion Board (optional)

Students ask course related questions.

Grading

Students' grade depends on performance on written and oral tests, homework, compositions, and participation in class as well in attendance.

Policy on Late Assignments and Exams:

All assignments must be submitted on time. You must present a "documented" excuse (i.e. an excused medical absence must be documented from a doctor or the student clinic, on campus) for any late assignments; otherwise your work will be downgraded.

Note: If you are absent from class on an exam day, you will take a make-up test within one week of the scheduled test day at a time that is mutually convenient for you and your instructor.

No make- up exams or assignments beyond the official last day of instruction for this particular course.

Grades

Grades will be based on the following:

Class participation Online Assignments Three (3) Compositions	Oral Exam Exam 1: Module 1& Part1 of module 2 Exam 2: Part 2 of module 2 Exam 3: Module 3 Exam 4: Module 4 Exam 5 : Module 5 & modules (1- 4)

Grading Scale

To calculate your percentage grade, divide **your Total Points** by FREN 1A Total Possible Points, and multiply by 100. This is your percentage grade.

Example: John earned total points 1601.95 out of 1700 (FREN 1A total possible points).
 $(1601.95: 1700) \times 100 = 94.23\%$ (A)

Grading Scale%

93%-100% = A	73% -76.9% =C
90%-92.9 = A-	70% -72.9% = C-
87% -89.9% = B+	67% -69.9 % = D+
83% -86.9% = B	63% – 66.9 % = D
80% -82.9% = B-	60% – 62.9 % = D-
77% -79.9% = C+	0-59.9% = F

Special needs: Students with Disabilities

CSUS Services to Students with Disabilities (SSWD) offers a wide range of support services and accommodations to students in order to ensure equal access and opportunity to pursue their educational goals. Consult the following webpage for information: <http://www.csus.edu/sswd/services/policies/LD-Policy.html> . Services and accommodations are provided to students with visual, hearing, mobility impairments, specific learning disabilities, psychiatric disorders, and/or other types of disabilities. Student must submit medical or professional documentation prior to meeting with a counselor for needs assessment and accommodation plan. For more information call 916-278-7825.

Academic Honesty

The Department of Foreign Languages at CSUS complies with the University Policy & Procedures. “Students are expected to understand what cheating and plagiarism are and taking steps to avoid them. Students are expected to do this whether working individually or as part of a group.” For more information refer to the following webpage: <http://www.csus.edu/umannual/student/UMA00150.htm>

Other Expectations

1. Respect in the classroom.

Because this class is larger than it has been in the past, the need to be especially respectful when others are speaking is of paramount importance. I would expect you would take (*moral*) responsibility for helping to keep order and civility in the classroom (e.i. No side talking when others have the floor or have been called upon). Being respectful contribute to a positive learning environment.

2. Electronic devices

For students who chose to bring a lap top or other electronic devices in the classroom, I expect that you are only using them to refer to this French course in SacCt.

3. Tardiness and leaving early

I expect everyone to be in class on time because when you show up late or leave early, it affects other students' ability to concentrate.

4. Grade assumptions

The beauty of a new semester is that everybody has to prove themselves all over again with a clean slate. So those of you who got Cs or Ds in previous semesters, you can work hard to improve your grade. Those of you who had had As mostly in previous semesters you have to prove to me in this course by your work that you should earn an A.

FREN 1A ELEMENTARY FRENCH Tentative Schedule ¹

Assigned weekly activities and readings will be posted on SacCT

WEEK 1.

Day 1: Monday

Introduction to FREN1A. Secure your Saclink & SacCT accounts

Meeting in Lab: MRP 2000. Introduction to SacCT and other online materials.

SacCt eTextbook FREN 1A Elementary French. Module 1. SacCt notes

WEEK 2

SacCt eTextbook. Module 1

SacCt Notes

Thursday, No Class. Online assignment 1

WEEK 3

SacCt eTextbook. Module 1. SacCt notes

No Class. Online Assignment 2. Homework 1 (due midnight)

EXAM 1 (MRP 2000)

WEEK 4

SacCt eTextbook. Module 2. SacCt Notes

Pratique : Parlez-Vous Français? (P-VF), Chapitre 3

No Class. Online assignment 3. Composition 1 (due by midnight)

WEEK 5

SacCt eTextbook. Module 2. SacCT notes

Pratique: Parlez-Vous Français? (P-VF), Chapitre 2

No Class .Online Assignment 4 (due midnight)

WEEK 6

SacCt eTextbook. Module 2. SacCt notes

Pratique: Parlez-Vous Français? (P-VF), Chapitre 2

SacCt eTextbook. Module 3. SacCT notes

No class. Online Assignment 5 & **Exam 2** (Timed Exam in any CSUS lab)

WEEK 7

SacCt eTextbook. Module 3 SacCT notes

Pratique: Parlez-Vous Français? (P-VF), Chapitre 5

No class. Online Assignment 6 & Composition 2
(due midnight)

WEEK 8.

SacCt eTextbook. Module 3 SacCT notes

Pratique: Parlez-Vous Français? (P-VF), Chapitre 2

No class. Online Assignment 7

WEEK 9

¹ The Instructor reserves the right to change anything on this schedule

SacCt eTextbook. Module 4 SacCT notes

Pratique: Parlez-Vous Français? (P-VF), Chapitres 2&3

SacCt eTextbook. Module 5. SacCT notes

No class. Online Assignment 8 (due midnight) **Exam 3** Lab MRP 2000

WEEK 10

SacCt eTextbook. Module 5. SacCT notes

Pratique: Parlez-Vous Français? (P-VF), Chapitre 5

No class. Online Assignment 9

WEEK 11.

SacCt eTextbook. Module 5. SacCT notes

Practice: Parlez- Vous Français? (P-VF), Chapitre 5

No class. Online Assignment. 10& Composition 3 (due by midnight)

WEEK 12

SacCt eTextbook. Module 5. SacCT notes

Practice: Parlez-vous Français? (P-VF), Chapitre 5

No class Online Assignment. 11

Week 13.

SacCt eTextbook. Module 5 . SacCT notes

No class Online Assignment. 12

Week 14. Review . module 5 . SacCT notes

Exam 4 Lab MRP 2000

No class Online Assignment. 13 & Exam Review: Self –corrected Exam 5 Review

Week 15

Module 5: Exam 5

No class. Oral Exam: Submit via email oral exam audio file: mp3 file or wav.

WEEK 16 (or week 17 for Spring only). Final Exam week. **No** Final Exam.

No make- up Exam will be given beyond the last day of instruction.