

FREN 1A
Fall 2009
Syllabus

Professor Nicole Buffard
Mariposa 2031
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Office Hours:

Tuesday and Thursday from 10:30 to 11:30am; Wednesday from 12:15 to 1:15pm or by appointment.

Please do not hesitate to contact me during my office hours or make an appointment with me when we are in class if you need extra help on the material or if you have questions regarding the class. Or email me at buffard@csus.edu.

Free Tutors are available in the Department of Foreign Languages in Mariposa 2032. Their hours will be announced at the beginning of the semester.

Course Description:

This first semester college French course is a first semester elementary course (the second semester elementary course is FREN 1B). It focuses on the development of elementary linguistic skills. With a strong emphasis on the spoken language, we will concentrate our efforts on the four language learning skills – speaking, listening, reading and writing – within Francophone contemporary, cultural contexts.

Course Objectives:

The objectives of this course are to develop equally the four language skills, familiarize the students with the Francophone world, and provide instruction and practice towards competence in French oral and written communication.

We will study Modules 1 through 5 in the textbook *Motifs*. Starting with how to introduce ourselves we will communicate in French all through the semester by gradually adding up vocabulary and grammatical concepts. Cultural aspects of French and Francophone countries will be integrated to language learning such as an overview of the Francophone world, the Latin Quarter in Paris, the French family, the Tour de France, French cinema and cafés. A variety of tools will be used to enhance language learning: videos / DVDs, CDs, cassettes, the technology available in the language laboratory in Mariposa.

We will learn how to pronounce French words and practice throughout the semester. We will also practice the rhythm and articulation of the French language.

Special needs:

I will make every effort to accommodate any student with special needs. Please come and talk to me in person.

If you have a disability and require accommodations, you need to provide disability documentation to SSWD, Lassen Hall 1008, (916) 278-6955.

Important Guidelines and Expectations:

a/ Preparation:

Class material is presented in French, and, when necessary, in English. Both grammar and conversation are emphasized. Communication is an important aspect of foreign language learning, this means that students are expected to express themselves as often as possible and

with as much comfort as possible. Patience with one another and respect of one another are therefore crucial for the experience to be both profitable and pleasurable.

In order to participate successfully in class, students will be given material that they will need to study before class. In class I will always explain the material studied at home.

b/ In-Class:

Active participation is essential in a language class. Therefore all students are expected to actively participate in class. This means speaking, as well as listening to the instructor and the other students. It is amazing what we can learn from each other: new vocabulary, new ways of interacting with others, of saying certain things. We will practice oral expression in a variety of ways: questions/answers, group activities, skits etc.

Your participation is essential for the class to function well. Every student plays an important part in the dynamic of the class. Silent students put the burden of getting the class going on other students, which is not very fair. Each of you must participate actively in the work of the group.

c/ Outside Class:

Consistent practice of all four skills builds and reinforces our understanding of a language. It is therefore necessary that students practice French outside class in a variety of ways. Students are expected to study/practice French every day (30 to 60 minutes, even on days when our class does not meet) through daily class assignments. Other pleasurable ways, also include watching French movies, listening to French music, reading cooking recipes etc. Please ask me if you need ideas.

Methodology:

Active participation of the students is required in class and outside of class. In class, the students are expected to be alert, ready to participate whenever it is possible. A foreign language class requires everybody's willingness to interact with the other students, and the instructor.

The more you put into this class, the more you will benefit from it. Participation outside of class implies your willingness to spend time on your homework, on studying the material, as well as a constant attention to any kind of information/events/activities related to French.

We will start the semester with the basics of French language, and then we will develop our ability to communicate in French, our knowledge of Francophone cultures, and our knowledge of grammar.

We will proceed gradually and carefully to learn the new material. We will also use the material we learn in a variety of ways: conversation, questions and answers, skits etc. Again it is important that each student understands how much his/her input is essential for the class to work successfully.

Expectations and ethics

Classroom behavior:

CSUS expects our students and faculty to conduct themselves with honesty and integrity. Therefore, each student is expected to uphold high ethical standards inside and outside the classroom. The classroom should be an environment for learning. Therefore, behavior that is disruptive, that belittles another or which discourages others from achieving their academic goals has no place in this classroom.

Academic misconduct:

When you turn in an assignment and take credit for it, it must be your own work. If it is not, you have committed academic misconduct.

- *Plagiarism* is representing the work of someone else as your own. Most commonly this occurs by copying from a textbook or other sources and failing to give proper credit to the author. You may avoid this problem by always using quotation marks whenever you use someone else's exact words and by always giving references whenever you quote from or paraphrase another author. However in translation you cannot use other people's work, all your translations have to be your own in order to be graded.

- *Cheating*: if you give or receive unauthorized aid while completing any of the requirements for this course, you have cheated. Giving answers during an exam, writing a paper for another student or copying another student's work are all forms of cheating. Assistance from the writing lab, talking to a professor or fellow student or forming a study group before an exam are all acceptable forms of aid.

Penalties:

The penalties for violation of this ethics policy will range, at the discretion of the instructor, from having to redo the assignments, to failing the course, to an appearance before the Dean.

Textbook:

We will be using the textbook *Motifs*, by Kimberly Jansma & Margaret Ann Kassen, fourth edition, 2004. The textbook *Motifs* is used in French 1B as well.

Students may also wish to purchase a French/English-English/French dictionary. Please see me for advice on this. If you already own such a dictionary bring it to class and show it to me.

Homework & exams:

Homework & written assignments will be assigned regularly. It is essential that you complete your homework and turn it in on time. Late work will not be graded unless there is a medical excuse with a doctor's note.

Homework & written assignments represent 15% of the final grade.

Compositions: 4 compositions will be assigned throughout the semester (they are due the day after tests). I will not accept late compositions. If you have exceptional circumstances you need bring me a written document.

The Compositions represent 10% of the final grade.

Tests: There will be 4 tests during the semester which will cover the material we have been studying. The tests reflect the variety of activities we have in class and your homework assignments. I will not allow make-up unless documented exceptional circumstances.

The Tests represent 30% of the final grade.

Oral Exams: there will be two oral exams during the semester: the Midterm Oral Exam, and the Final Oral Exam. They will consist in dialogues/conversations written by students in groups of two or three which they will memorize and perform for the class.

There will be no make-up oral exams. The Midterm Oral Exam will take place in class on October 22. The Final oral exam will also take place in class on December 9 and 10. The Oral exams represent 10% of the final grade.

Final exam: will cover all the material we studied during the semester. It will reflect the variety of activities we have in class and your homework assignments. The Final will take place on **Tuesday December 15 from 8 to 10am**.

The Final exam represents 20% of the final grade.

Attendance & Tardiness:

Attendance will be checked regularly. Unexcused absences will affect your attendance grade which will be calculated in the following way: the number of unexcused absences will be divided by the number of times class meets during the semester.

Students who are regularly late will be counted as absent unless they have a valid reason for their tardiness. If you are late three times it equals to one absence.

Attendance and participation represent 15% of the final grade.

Student Learning Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of this course students will be able to demonstrate:

1/ the ability to communicate primarily with formulaic speech to list, enumerate, identify, express courtesies, agreement, and disagreement, focusing mainly on the present tense and the proximate future within the cultural context.

2/ that they are able to begin to create and respond using the language in culturally appropriate ways.

3/ that they are able to think critically by manipulating the basic structures of the language to develop meaning in listening, speaking, reading and writing within the cultural context.

4/ a better understanding of the culture of the language they are studying through the cultural context of the language that forms the basis of their study, internet searches in the language and exploration of the perspectives, products, and practices of the culture.

Grading Scale:

A- very good work, almost error-free understanding and knowledge of vocabulary, grammar, sentence structure, and oral comprehension and proficiency (90-100%)

B- good understanding and knowledge of vocabulary, grammar, syntax, and good oral skills but errors occur throughout homework and tests (80-89%)

C- knowledge and ability at this level reflects some understanding and knowledge of most material presented, but confusion exists in the overall understanding of most concepts presented (70-79%)

D- little understanding and knowledge of vocabulary, grammar, syntax, and oral comprehension and proficiency (60-69%)

I- students who have to stop coming to classes and turning work can get an incomplete but in order to receive this grade they must complete a written contract with the instructor.

U- unofficial drops (equivalent to an F) are given to students who do not attend class or no longer attend class, turn in assignments, or take tests.

System of notation:

Attendance & Participation	15%
Tests	30%
Final Exam	20%
Oral Exams	10%
Compositions	10%
Homework and written Assignments	15%

100%

Schedule for classes:

August	31	Introduction	
September	1	<u>Module 1</u> : <i>Les Camarades et la Salle de classe</i>	
	2	Module 1	
	3	Module 1	
	7	LABOR DAY: NO CLASS	
	8	Module 1	
	9	Module 1	
	10	Module 1	
	14	Module 1	
	15	Module 1	
	16	TEST 1	
	17	<u>Module 2</u> : <i>La Vie Universitaire</i>	[Composition 1 is due]
	21	Module 2	
	22	Module 2	
	23	Module 2	
	24	Module 2	
	28	Module 2	
	29	Module 2	
	30	Module 2	
October	1	Module 2	
	5	TEST 2	
	6	<u>Module 3</u> : <i>Chez l'étudiant</i>	[Composition 2 is due]
	7	Module 3	
	8	Module 3	
	12	Module 3	
	13	Module 3	

	14	Module 3	
	15	Module 3	
	19	Module 3	
	20	Module 3	
	21	Module 3	
	22	Midterm Oral Exam	
	26	<u>Module 4: Travail et Loisirs</u>	[composition 3 is due]
	27	Module 4	
	28	Module 4	
	29	Module 4	
November	2	Module 4	
	3	Module 4	
	4	Module 4	
	5	Module 4	
	9	Module 4	
	10	Module 4	
	11	VETERANS DAY: NO CLASS	
	12	TEST 3	
	16	<u>Module 5: On sort?</u>	[Composition 4 is due]
	17	Module 5	
	18	Module 5	
	19	Module 5	
	23	Module 5	
	24	Module 5	
	25	NO CLASS	
	26	THANKSGIVING: NO CLASS	
December	30	Module 5	
	1	Module 5	
	2	Module 5	
	3	TEST 4	
	7	Révisions pour l'examen final	
	8	Révisions pour l'examen final	
	9	Final Oral Exam	
	10	Final Oral Exam	

Final Exam: Tuesday December 15 from 8 to 10am.

