

Syllabus
French 109 – Advanced Practice of French

Professor: Kevin Elstob

French 109 - Section 1
MW: 3 pm - 4.15 pm (EUR 309)

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Office Hours:
Mon: 1pm - 3pm; Tues: 2 - 3 pm
and by appointment

Catalog Description

Practice with French conversation, reading, and vocabulary development; supervised individual and small-group instruction designed to develop French vocabulary, including the conversation, listening and reading skills necessary for advanced study in French. May be taken for credit three times. **Prerequisite:** FREN 002B. 3 units.

Course Objectives

Develop interactive skills for a French-speaking environment in five key areas:

- a) Conversation: learn how to interpret, understand, and react to a variety of speaking situations: formal, casual, friendly, hostile. By watching, critiquing, and listening to passages from films, novels, songs and poetry, and your own writing and dialogues, you will demonstrate an understanding of the cultural and linguistic significance of choices of words and expressions in given contexts.
- b) Writing: through quick write, journal, and composition learn how to write in different situations and how to correct and check for grammar mistakes, change vocabulary and word order to make a piece of writing more incisive and satisfying.
- c) Listening: demonstrate your understanding of the ways in which different linguistic registers and vocabulary choices build a context and also emerge from a particular cultural context. Interpret spoken dialogue and written French from literary, cinematic, and popular cultural sources.
- d) Reading: interpret not only the meaning and message of a passage but also the importance of its style, tone of voice, and register.
- e) Setting: this class places an emphasis on setting. Through the Internet and movie excerpts, prose and poetry, and your own writing and acting out of dialogues, demonstrate your understanding of the role setting plays in determining the vocabulary, grammar and tone of a particular piece.

Important Guidelines and Expectations

a) In-Class: This class is an active class; you should not anticipate sitting back and listening to lectures. You are expected to participate actively in classroom activities. This means speaking, moving, and acting out scenes in front of other students. There will

be large and small group activities to prepare you for your stints in front of the class. In order to fully participate in this class and gain maximum benefit from the French immersion environment we create, you must prepare for class by doing the homework activities; these activities will be collected at every class and credited to your grades.

Class material is presented in French. Both grammar, oral and written skills are emphasized. In keeping with my views that language proficiency grows through the common courtesies and agreements that have anchored all language speaking communities, I expect you to show mutual respect for one another, participate actively in class, focus on class activities, and demonstrate a desire to learn. I emphasize using class time to practice as much spoken French as possible. This means not only speaking, but also listening; you should listen carefully to the instructor AND to other students. By listening closely to the French around us we can learn a lot about how to say things and how to interact in another language.

b) Preparation and Outside Class: In order to participate successfully, you need to study the activities and readings before coming to class. You must speak French immediately integrating the new material. Consistent practice of all of the skills reinforces and builds understanding of the language. SO you NEED to practice outside class as well as in class. Language is a DAILY activity therefore I expect you to do 30-60 minutes of French EVERYDAY - do not be afraid to do more than what is in the text; do enjoyable activities - music, movies, making a recipe - I am happy to provide ideas.

Textbook

There is no textbook for this class. There will be a series of handouts created from French movie scenes, excerpts from novels, songs and poetry. You will also receive CDs with material on them. You should have a French only dictionary, such as Le Petit Robert, and access to the Internet so that you can use the on-line grammar and vocabulary resources.

Method

Your active participation in class is required. Oral practice of the French language is essential to your becoming comfortable with the language and the culture. Part of your grades will depend on your participation in class. Oral participation will include: using the vocabulary and new expressions as modeled by the professor, readings, dialogues with partners and in groups, skits and debates, games, songs, and rehearsals for recordings we do in class.

SaLink Account

We will use SacCT to post grades and the homework schedule.

NO CLASSES

CSUS Academic Holidays: NOVEMBER 11 and 26

FURLOUGH Days for Our Class: NOVEMBER 25

FURLOUGH DAYS

Due to the massive budget cuts in the State of California, faculty have been furloughed for 2 days per month. Some of these days are instructional days, and, as the CSU administration and the faculty labor union said, “cuts of this magnitude will naturally have consequences for the quality of education.” One of these furlough days, listed above, will be taken when class would normally have met. Alternative assignments will be given to make up for the lost time.

For details on all assignments, please check the “Week by Week” on the SacCT page

GRADING

	POINTS
TAKE HOME FINAL	100
Oral Project Presentations - Dec 14 EUR 103: 3-5pm	100
4 Reading Comprehension Exercises: 1. “Je ne connais pas la Provence” (Due Sept 23) 2. “Gare du nord” (Due Oct 7) 3. “Ensemble, c’est tout” (Due Oct 28) 4. “L’Amant de Lady Chatterley” (Due Nov 30)	80
3 Dialogues: 1. «Une rencontre en voyage » (Due : Sep 16) 2. « Je pars » (Due : Oct 7) 3. « A Paris » (Due : Nov 4)	90
3 Compositions : 1. « Mes vacances » (Due : Sep 9) 2. « Au restaurant» (Due : Oct 14) 3. « L’Ecole» (Due : Nov 16)	90
8 Online Group Discussions (In French) For details see “Week by Week” section of SacCT	80
Homework Weekly homework schedule can be found on the SacCT web site	300
Participation For each class, there will be an assignment sheet to complete and hand in.	120
Binder Include all your work (handout with details to follow) Due : Dec 7	40
TOTAL	1000

What you need to get a good grade:

Your overall effort in doing homework and participating in class are essential

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

B - a 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 materials presented, but confusion exists in the overall understanding of some concepts presented (70-79%)

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

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

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

PLEASE NOTE

Homework and participation

Do all homework on time, participate in class, be in class and do in class assignments

NB : All homework can be corrected for upgrade IF it is given in on time. The new grade is the average of original and corrected scores.

Syllabus changes

The instructor reserves the right to alter this syllabus at any time should it be warranted by the demands of sound pedagogy. Changes to the syllabus will be announced on the SacCT announcement page. In any event, the posted, e-text versions of the syllabus and schedule of classes are authoritative, taking precedence over any printed version.

Special needs - *Students with Disabilities*

In order to ensure equal access and opportunity to pursue their educational goals, CSUS Services to Students with Disabilities (SSWD) offers support services for students with visual, hearing, mobility impairments, specific learning disabilities, psychiatric disorders, and/or other types of disabilities. For more information call 916-278-7825.

If you have a documented disability and verification from SSWD, and wish to discuss academic accommodations, please contact me as soon as