Survey of French Literature

*Semester Syllabus*

**Part 1: Course Information**

**Instructor Information**

- **Instructor:** Kevin Elstob
- **Office:** Mariposa 2013
- **Office Hours:** Mon 3-5 pm; Tue 7-8 pm
- **Office Telephone:** 916-278-6565 - *voice mail only*
- **E-mail:** kelstob@csus.edu *preferred means of contact*

**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 home page for the class. In any event, the posted, e-text versions of the syllabus and schedule of classes are authoritative, taking precedence over any printed version.

**Course Description**

An introduction to French literature through texts of varied length from different time periods and genres with a focus on the use of language

*Conducted in French.*

**Prerequisite**

- FREN 101, FREN 103, FREN 109 *or instructor permission*

**Textbook & Course Materials**

- The required textbook will be a download available on SacCT

**Course Requirements**

- Access to SacCT – all material: textbook and supplementary readings, internet resources, and video clips will be available through SacCT

**Course Structure**

The course meets twice per week except for those days when there is no class due to holidays. The in-class meeting is a mix of lecture, discussion, role-play, and games connected to the course objectives. *Students must prepare to participate fully in these classroom meetings by doing the required reading ahead of the class meeting.*
Part 2: Course Objectives

This course is not a complete survey of all of French literature; it is an introduction to French literature and will include excerpts from plays, novels and poetry from the whole of French literary history. We will read the excerpts outside of class and discuss them in class. Our concentration will have two strands: reading (fr. Lecture) and, literary and historical analyses. We will begin by working on understanding what we read and gradually develop techniques and tools for applying the skills and vocabulary for literary analysis. We will do this both in our discussions and our written work. All written work, reading, discussions, role-play, and games in class will be conducted in French and will encourage students to practice all of their linguistic skills.

By creating this course of study my main aim is to enable students to

• Improve their speaking, reading, listening, and writing skills in French

After completing the course, the student will be able to:

• Demonstrate an understanding of the complex relations and interconnections between text-author-reader
• Recognize and make connections between the literary texts and various contemporary and historical aspects of French culture
• Identify the major intellectual and literary movements that correspond to the works we study

Students will meet the objectives listed above by a combination of the following (see a detailed version of expected behaviors lower down)

• Attendance of all class meetings
• Completing all assignments in a full and timely manner
• Active participation in class discussions and activities

Part 3: Schedule

• See SacCT for a detailed Outline and Assignment schedule
Part 4: Grading Policy

Graded Course Activities

Each student will enter this world of reading and literature at her/his own pace and learn how to act, interact, function, debate, and think as a speaker and reader of French. Our approach is designed to allow everybody the opportunity to learn and use vocabulary, expressions, and turns of phrase in everyday functional situations and more involved, intricate discussion. Our framework allows for much revision, and critical review by professor and classmates: individual and group activities, discussion, conversation, formal presentations and written compositions.

Our variety of literary texts comes from contemporary and historical periods. The texts will help students grasp:

- Literary language and culture in context
- A variety of approaches to reading and discussion
- Naturally recycled structure and vocabulary

Extensive practice will help students express themselves and understand French in a variety of situations. Selected grammar points may be treated within the context of the work we are studying. We aim to enhance students’ fluency, accuracy, and instincts in French by building their confidence so that each of them can take the extra step and dare to go further down the road to proficiency and understanding.

A few guidelines

a. In keeping with our views on how linguistic ability grows through common courtesies and an adherence to certain standards of behavior, we expect students to show mutual respect, participate actively in class, to focus on class activities, and demonstrate a desire to learn.

b. We believe in active language learning. We emphasize using class time to practice as much French as possible. This means not only speaking, but also AND quite often more importantly listening; students should listen carefully to the instructor AND to other students. By listening closely to each other we can learn a lot about how to say things in French. Given that all five skills (listening, reading, speaking, writing, and cultural awareness) are dependent to some degree on one another, there will also be reading and writing exercises.

c. Consistent practice of our listening skills reinforces our speaking and our overall understanding of the language. So, we need to practice not only in class, but also at home. Students should do at least 30 minutes French practice (listening, speaking, reading, writing) EVERY DAY.

d) For this class, you will need:

i) a three‐ringed binder in which to keep all assignments and readings for the class. Students will turn this binder in during the last week of class and receive a grade on it.

ii) a downloadable textbook – see SacCT. The materials will include modern and historical excerpts from novels, plays, poems and short stories. We will also use excerpts from feature films, advertisements, and songs to help grasp situations, scenes, and vocabulary in context.

iii) an outgoing attitude, and a dedication to be ready to enjoy your triumphs and mistakes; to laugh at yourself and with others.
Graded Course Activities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Description – for full details see online schedule on SacCT</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>200</td>
<td>20 Devoirs (Homework Assignments -10 are online quizzes based on the readings)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>150</td>
<td>5 Short Projects</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>150</td>
<td>Attendance 10 pts per week (5 pts per class) – you get 5 points credit each for the holidays</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>250</td>
<td>Participation – 25 In-Class assignments</td>
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<tr>
<td>50</td>
<td>Short Story Reading Project</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50</td>
<td>Turn in your “Classeur”: Dec 11</td>
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<tr>
<td>150</td>
<td>Final (Dec 16: 1 pm-2.45 pm)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Points Possible**

**Late Work Policy**

Be sure to pay close attention to deadlines—there will be no make up assignments, or late work accepted without a serious and compelling reason and instructor approval. If you miss class you cannot make up the points, but you can do an extra credit assignment to partially compensate for points you missed.

**Viewing Grades in SacCT**

Points you receive for graded activities will be posted to the SacCT Grade Center. Click on the My Grades link on the left navigation to view your points. Your instructor will try to update the online grades before the next class meeting.

**Letter Grade Assignment**

Final grades assigned for this course will be based on the percentage of total points earned and are assigned as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Letter Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Performance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93-100%</td>
<td>Excellent Work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90-92%</td>
<td>Nearly Excellent Work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87-89%</td>
<td>Very Good Work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>83-86%</td>
<td>Good Work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80-82%</td>
<td>Mostly Good Work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>77-79%</td>
<td>Above Average Work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>73-76%</td>
<td>Average Work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>70-72%</td>
<td>Mostly Average Work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>67-69%</td>
<td>Below Average Work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>60-66%</td>
<td>Poor Work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>0-59%</td>
<td>Failing Work</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Understand When You May Drop This Course

It is the student’s responsibility to understand when they need to consider dropping a course. Refer to the Sac State Course Schedule for dates and deadlines for registration. After this period, a serious and compelling reason is required to drop from the course. Serious and compelling reasons includes: (1) documented and significant change in work hours, leaving student unable to attend class, or (2) documented and severe physical/mental illness/injury to the student or student’s family.

Incomplete Policy
Under emergency/special circumstances, students may petition for an incomplete grade.

Inform Your Instructor of Any Accommodations Needed

If you have a documented disability and verification from the Office of Services to Students with Disabilities (SSWD), and wish to discuss academic accommodations, please contact your instructor as soon as possible. It is the student’s responsibility to provide documentation of disability to SSWD and meet with a SSWD counselor to request special accommodation before classes start.

SSWD is located in Lassen Hall 1008 and can be contacted by phone at (916) 278-6955 (Voice) (916) 278-7239 (TDD only) or via email at sswd@csus.edu.

Commit to Integrity

As a student in this course (and at this university) you are expected to maintain high degrees of professionalism, commitment to active learning and participation in this class and also integrity in your behavior in and out of the classroom.

Sac State’s Academic Honesty Policy & Procedures

“The principles of truth and honesty are recognized as fundamental to a community of scholars and teachers. California State University, Sacramento expects that both faculty and students will honor these principles, and in so doing, will protect the integrity of academic work and student grades.”

Read more about Sac State’s Academic Honesty Policy & Procedures

Definitions

At Sac State, “cheating is the act of obtaining or attempting to obtain credit for academic work through the use of any dishonest, deceptive, or fraudulent means.”

“Plagiarism is a form of cheating. At Sac State, “plagiarism is the use of distinctive ideas or works belonging to another person without providing adequate acknowledgement of that person’s contribution.” Source: Sacramento State University Library

**Important Note:** Any form of academic dishonesty, including cheating and plagiarism, may be reported to the office of student affairs.

**Course policies are subject to change.** It is the student’s responsibility to check SacCT for corrections or updates to the syllabus. Any changes will be posted in SacCT.