

FRENCH 230

FRENCH GRAMMAR AND COMPOSITION
Fall 2006

Dr. Lalande

Office hours Comenius 103: M-W- 11:15 – 12:30, F 11:15 – 11:45 and by appoint. Telephone: 610-861-1399

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Textbook

Manuel de Composition Française, Pierre Limouzy & Jacques Bourgeacq, Mc Graw-Hill Publishing Company, 1990.

Course objectives

The purpose of this course is to learn/review all the major aspects of French grammar. Emphasis is placed on composition and completion of exercises designed to increase vocabulary and use of it. By the end of the semester students should be able to write essays of moderate length, in a clear and somewhat sophisticated style free of common grammatical mistakes. To reach this goal we will cover carefully the first ten chapters. If time permits we will also add chapter 14. This means that we will attempt to cover a chapter per week. This seems to me to be a reasonable pace but it requires that students be well prepared at all times.

Work assignment

In class, we will mostly concentrate on the theoretical aspect of each chapter, and on explanations of specific grammatical points. Students will have to practice, outside of class, with the drills that accompany each lesson. Those exercises will be assigned on a regular basis and will be mandatory. Do not forget that home assignments are a vital component of the course. The class will be conducted in French except when a grammatical explanation requires clarification in English.

Besides the drills there will be writing assignments every week. Students will write a composition that will be due every other Monday. The length of the composition will increase as the semester goes on. Each composition will be corrected and returned by the following Wednesday with a grade. The corrections made will only signal where there are mistakes and their nature. Students will then have to go back to their compositions and make the appropriate corrections for the following Monday. A second grade will be assigned and it will take into consideration the quality of the style and the appropriateness of the corrections.

Evaluation

In addition to the compositions there will be four written tests during the semester.

The mid-term grade will be the average of the first two tests for 50%, the average of the compositions for 25% and class participation for 25%.

The final grade will be determined by the final exam grade for 20%, the average of the four written tests for 30%, the average of the compositions for 25%, the quality of the student's participation in class for 25%.

Class attendance is, of course, obligatory. Each student will be allowed 3 unmotivated absences. The fourth unmotivated absence will result in the automatic lowering of the participation grade by one letter grade. With the fifth absence, the participation grade will be lowered by two letter grades. With the sixth absence, the final grade will be lowered by one letter grade and so on..

One piece of friendly advice

Do NOT ever think of using the various translation engines you may find on the Internet. They do NOT work. Most of the time the translations they provide make no sense whatsoever and besides, such use is called CHEATING. The current Student Handbook gives you all the information you need to know regarding the risks involved in such dishonesty.

One final note

Please avoid eating in class and make sure your cellular phone(s) are off. Also, avoid looking bored. If, indeed, you are bored, let me know and we'll try altogether to bring more life into the subject matter!

I wish you a good semester!