

FRENCH 105

INTERMEDIATE FRENCH II

Dr. LALANDE

FALL SEMESTER 2009

Office hours: Comenius Hall 103: M-W- 1:30 – 2:30, F 10:30 – 11:30 and by appointment.

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Textbooks

Joan H. Manley, Stuart Smith, John T. McMinn, Marc A. Prévost, *Horizons*, Fourth Edition, Thomson, Heinle, 2009.

Course objectives

Our goal during the semester will be to cover chapters 4, 5, 6, 7 and, hopefully, parts of chapter 8. **This means that we will have to keep an average of roughly two and a half weeks for each chapter.** At the beginning of the semester we may try to adopt a faster pace in order to build up some vocabulary. After four or five weeks we will slow down to make time for reviewing.

By the end of the semester students should be able to use full sentences and understand a simple conversation. They should also feel somewhat at ease with the basic fundamentals of French grammar and have a taste for it. Finally, they should be familiar with many cultural aspects of contemporary France.

Course policy

Attendance: Students are expected to attend ALL classes but they should also understand that attendance alone is not enough. They are also expected to participate in the short and simple discussions that will be held in class and **be ready to answer questions at any time.** This is a foreign language course and full participation is necessary. To ensure effective participation, students must come to class prepared with **all homework assignments done on time.** This is an important component of the class and, combined with your overall class participation, it will account for **25%** of the final grade. **REMEMBER: 25% of the grade will be determined by the level of your**

preparation when you come to class and by your willingness and readiness to answer questions.

You will be allowed **THREE absences** during the semester with no question asked. Consider those absences like three jokers that you may want to use when the unexpected happens (for example: you wake up late one morning or your car does not start or a friend or relative is ill or whatever). After three absences you will need a solid reason for missing class and, in case of an illness, a note from your doctor will be necessary. REMEMBER that a note from the campus nurse stating that it was given to you “at your request” will **not** be accepted. A note from the nurse needs to specify the details of the problem. “Excuses” given by friends or room-mates will not be accepted either.

Once you have used your three jokers any unexcused absence will automatically damage your participation grade. The fourth absence will lower your grade as follows: A, for example, will become A-; then it will become B, then B-, etc.

Grade assignment

There will be no mid-term but there will be a minimum of **SIX quizzes** (about one every other week), and they will be announced well in advance. If I deem it necessary, additional quizzes may be given. At the end of the semester the quizzes will be averaged with a little more weight given to quiz 4, 5 and 6. The lowest grade will be dropped before averaging. If you only have 5 grades, they will all be averaged. If you have only 4 grades, the 5th one will be considered to be an F and will be included as such in the average. The average grade on the quizzes will amount to **50%** of your final grade. There will be a final exam and it will account for **25%** of the final grade. Remember, your participation will also account for **25%** of your grade.

Grades on quizzes and final exam will be determined by the number of mistakes you have made. Some mistakes count for one point while others count for half a point. The addition of all the mistakes made gives you a negative number that will appear on the quizzes. The higher that number, the lower the grade.

Unless you have a very serious excuse there will be **no make-ups for quizzes missed**. Do not even ask for one. If you CANNOT come to class you must let me know in advance (if possible) and I will tell you whether your reason is legitimate or not.

Good manners

Remember also that a class is a social activity. As such, a few rules of social behavior must be respected. I will not chew gum in class out of respect for you, and I expect the same from you in return. I will not wear a cap of any sort that might hide my face or part of it, and I also expect the same from you in return. I do not go to class with a cellular

phone or a pager of sorts, and if you do, make sure the device is off. I know emergencies can happen and if you have to keep your cell on, please let me know at the beginning of class. I will do the same. Of course, there is no text messaging while in class. Speaking of emergencies, refrain from leaving the room during class unless it is really necessary. Finally, you are always welcome to ask questions. When you want to do so, do not interrupt what is going on, just raise your hand and you will be acknowledged.

Last recommendation

Do not ever use electronic translation engines that you may find on-line to do your homework. Those are usually so bad that their use is immediately noticed. Moreover such practices are called cheating or plagiarism and, as such, they are reprehensible.

If you have a problem of whatever kind, please let me know early. Do NOT wait until the situation worsens. You are always welcome to stop by my office (Comenius Hall 103) to discuss whatever concern you may have. You can also notify me after class that you would like to meet with me and we will set an appropriate time very promptly.

Also, you should be aware that the Department of Foreign Languages **does provide students with help at no cost.** Again, come to me to inquire. I wish you all a rewarding and pleasant semester.