

FRE 281 Intermediate French I University of Southern Mississippi in Pontlevoy, France

Dr. Joanne Burnett
lundi/mercredi 10h10-10h55
mardi/jeudi 8h20-9h50

Specific Course Objectives

- ✓ Students learn French in a manner that is consistent with the *Standards for Foreign Language Learning in the 21st Century* (American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages). The 5 C's—*Communication, Cultures, Connections, Comparisons, Communities*—are reinforced throughout the course.
- ✓ Students develop an understanding of and increasingly are able to produce French for everyday communication.
- ✓ Students enter the course with basic knowledge of French but are expected to reach the Intermediate (Low, Mid) range according to the ACTFL oral proficiency scale.
- ✓ Students learn French based on *real-life situations* with a focus in 281 on food, past events including childhood and family; and the geography of the Francophone world.
- ✓ Students learn about the cultures where French is spoken through dynamic, functional, and practical activities and are exposed to several sociolinguistic varieties of the French language as spoken in metropolitan France, Guadeloupe, Cameroun, and Québec
- ✓ Students practice French through multimedia applications, including video and audio recordings, and various Internet activities.
- ✓ Students learn the grammar of French in a pedagogically relevant manner and *according to their communicative needs*.
- ✓ Student improvement is assessed via different tools, including class participation, written and oral exams, journaling, and workbook exercises.

Required Materials

- Jansma, K., & Kassen, M. A. (2007). *Motifs: An Introduction to French*. (4th ed.). Boston: Thomson Heinle (including 2 red Text Audio CDs).
- Jansma, K., & Kassen, M.A. (2007). *Motifs: An Introduction to French : Workbook/Lab Manual* (4th ed.). Boston: Thomson Heinle. The answer key should be bundled with the book, along with the lab audio program CDs.

Recommended Materials

A French-English dictionary; web address: www.wordreference.com is also very useful for looking up unknown words.

Policies and Requirements

- **Attendance is mandatory.** Because of the cumulative nature of language learning and the emphasis of the course on oral proficiency and communicative skills, it is essential that students keep up with the course work on a daily basis and attend all classes. Any student who accumulates more than two absences for any reason will have his/her final course grade lowered by two points for each absence after the second absence. A total of eight or more absences (no matter what the reason) constitutes an automatic F.

- **Three written exams and one oral exam** will be administered to review the vocabulary, grammar, and cultural knowledge studied in class and at home. Towards the end of the semester your instructor will give you individually or in pairs an **oral exam** based on one or more of the themes studied during the semester. The specific format of the exam will be explained later in the semester. ***There will be no make-ups for exams.***
- Each chapter (and each section) of *Motifs* has corresponding pages in the combined **workbook and lab manual (cahier)**. The Activités écrites has written exercises; the Activités de compréhension et de prononciation has listening comprehension and pronunciation practice activities. These exercises are to be completed in writing ***before class and corrected using the ANSWER KEY and another color of pen.*** This will allow your instructor to see the effort you have put into self-correction. The number of errors is not as important as the process of thinking and rewriting that goes into the workbook. You will tear your work book exercises out of the book and hand them in at each written test. Your instructor will check free-response activities.
- In any language course **participation** is essential. By participating regularly in class discussions and activities, you will have the opportunity to put into practice the vocabulary and structures you are learning, you will be able to receive invaluable feedback from your instructor and classmates, and you will develop your ability to communicate in French. Your participation grade will be based on the following behaviors:
 - Coming to class well prepared: studying the lesson and doing all homework
 - Being ready to start working when class begins
 - Attempting to speak only French from the time you enter the room until the time you leave
 - Contributing to all partner and group activities
 - Volunteering and participating regularly
 - Helping your classmates understand/practice the main point of the lesson.
 - Being courteous and polite with your instructor and classmates in French and in English

Students will be called upon in class to demonstrate their mastery of all homework assignments. ***No late homework assignments will be accepted.***

- **Journal activity:** See description below.

Doing Well in French

Everybody experiences foreign language anxiety. The first days in France may seem like a barrage of strange sounds, structures, and vocabulary that seem impossible to master. ***Don't panic!*** The different components of the course allow your instructor to evaluate ***more*** than just your French language abilities. If you demonstrate your willingness to ***try hard*** and to ***work regularly***, you may achieve a passing grade. This course is designed to make it possible for you to understand French and to communicate in French. Nevertheless, ***you cannot learn a foreign language with no effort.*** If you establish a serious study routine from Day 1 and make every effort to write in your journal and do your workbook exercises in a consistent manner, you will remember the materials studied in class and be more able to use them outside of class. In this way, you will become more confident in the French-speaking environment. ***It is imperative that you work on your French every day inside and outside of the classroom.***

Evaluation		Les Notes
Examens écrits	30%	90-100 A
Examen oral	10 %	80-89 B
Cahier	20%	70-79 C
Participation	20%	60-69 D
Journal	20%	0-59 F

Calendrier	
<u>16 -19 février</u> Chapitre 7	<i>23-27 mars semaine à Paris</i>
<u>23 -26 février</u> Chapitre 7	<u>13-16 avril</u> Chapitres 8-9 Test Ch. 8 Cahier à rendre
<u>2 -5 mars</u> Chapitres 7- 8 Test Ch. 7 Cahier à rendre	<u>20-23 avril</u> Chapitre 9
<u>9-12 mars</u> Chapitre 8 Journal à rendre	<u>27-30 avril</u> Chapitre 9 Journal à rendre
<u>16-19 mars</u> Chapitre 8	<u>4-9 mai</u> Chapitre 9 Test Ch. 9 Cahier à rendre Examen oral

Journal

French 282
Printemps 2009

In order to critically reflect upon your cultural experiences and language progress while living in France, you will keep a journal during your time in Europe. This is an opportunity to gain the most of your immersion experience, both linguistically and culturally, by actively processing your experiences in France. You are to use this journal to reflect upon cultural aspects of French life introduced through the textbook and your own personal observations as well as observe and record your language progress throughout the semester.

How to organize your journal:

- ✓ A notebook or binder may be used as a journal
- ✓ You are to divide your journal into the following sections:
 1. *Observations and Free writing (16 pages total)*
 2. *Dictionary (10 entries per week)*
 3. *Language Progress (4 entries total)*Include the date for each journal entry.
- ✓ Writing can be done in French or English.
- ✓ Journals may be checked in class without notice prior to due dates, and so it is important to bring your journal to every class and keep it up to date.

1. Observations: 1 page per entry, 2 entries per week (total 16 pages)

In this section you will reflect upon the various images, behaviors and/or practices that strike you as interesting/different. In each unit of *Motifs*, there is a section labeled *Perpectives Culturelles*, you may use these sections as a basis for some of your observations. You may also choose to reflect upon one of the films you have seen during the Abbey film series. You may also write about a commercial, a song, a sign, a place or monument. You may use the following questions as a guideline for your reflections:

- Why? What attracted your interest?
- To what age group/social class/ethnicity/religion is it relevant?
- What is the context?
- What is the circumstance? crisis, mundane, common, infrequent, conventional, unconventional, etc..?
- What is the target audience?
- What was your reaction?
- How would this image/behavior/etc. be received if it took place in your own country?

As part of your observations, if you desire, you are also encouraged to engage in Free creative writing:

You may create, in French or English, a poem, a song, short dialogue, etc on any topic of your choosing related to your experience here in France.

Beyond your Observations include:

2. Dictionary: at least 10 words/phrases per week

Use this section to maintain a log of newly acquired words. You are to list the word and its definition. You may also want to ask a native speaker about the vocabulary. How frequently is it used? Is it outdated (think of the English word 'rad')? Is it colloquial or proper for formal occasions? You can also use an audio device for recording phrases/words that you hear around you.

Beyond your Observations include:

3. Language progress: one 1/2 page entry every other week (4 total entries)

This section's purpose is to allow you a chance to think critically about your progress in the language. Use this section to discuss your strengths, your frustrations and pose any questions you may have about the language. In addition, for these entries, you are to record on your digital recording device, 2 recent phrases you have found most useful. Ask a native speaker to state these phrases for your recorder. Then record yourself saying the same phrases. Listen to both of the recordings and write your observations.