

INTRODUCTION TO FRENCH CULTURE FLFR 352

Spring 2013 - TR 1:30-2:50PM - Hardin Administration Building 318

Instructor: Mr. Yann Opsitch. *Office:* 310 Chambers. *Phone:* office – 674-2046 *e-mail* – yjo00a@acu.edu. *Office hours:* Tuesday and Thursday 3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. Other times by appointment.

MISSION STATEMENTS

The mission of **Abilene Christian University** is to educate its students for Christian service and leadership throughout the world. The mission of the **Academic Division** of Abilene Christian University is to plan, organize and implement academic programs that focus on educating students for Christian service and leadership throughout the world.

The mission of the **College of Arts and Sciences** is to educate students for world wide service and leadership through programs of study and other learning experiences that blend a Liberal Arts education with professional and career education.

The mission of the **Department of Language and Literature** is to lead students to understand and participate in languages and cultures of other nations and peoples for the purpose of Christian service throughout the world.

Purpose:

The French Language is well suited to facilitate the worldwide outreach of the mission statements given above. It has played a decisive role as a vehicle of culture in Western Civilization (diplomacy, literature, philosophy, commerce, etc.) for over a thousand years. It is one of the most widely spoken languages on our planet. The globe is dotted with countries where French is used as a first or second language.

In the 21st Century French is spoken as a national language (i.e. has legal standing sometimes with another language or languages) throughout the following nations: Belgium, Benin, Burkina-Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Democratic Republic of Congo, Djibouti, France, Gabon, Guinea, Haiti, Ivory Coast, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Mali, Monaco, Niger, Republic of Congo, Rwanda, Senegal, Seychelles, Switzerland, Togo, Vanuatu, [Île de la Réunion, Martinique, Guadeloupe, and French Guiana which are French Departments, as well as Saint Pierre et Miquelon and French Polynesia, which are French Overseas Collectivities are politically a part of France.]

French has a strong presence in education and commerce in many other nations around the world – Morocco, Tunisia, Algeria, etc. After English, it is the most widely spoken second language in the world. It is one of the six official languages of the United Nations and along with English is one of the two working languages in the **UN Security Council**. French is spoken by 220 million people which represents 13% of the world population. The use of the French language will be expanding in the future. In 2050 there will be between 700 and 750 French speakers in the world. French is the third most commonly used language on the Internet, after English and German. It is the second most spoken language in the **European Union** (according to “13ème sommet des pays de langue française, Montreux Suisse, les 22 au 24 octobre” 2010).

The diligent student can expect to have a more accurate and realistic understanding of French culture and society through this course while improving his or her ability to use the French language.

Prerequisites

FLFR 222 (Intermediate French II) or the equivalent through testing.

Course Content: This course is a study of French society from the standpoint of anthropology, history and the culture.

Course Content

This course will introduce students to a survey of French and American relations. Students will study how the French understand basic human values; concepts about the human body; the place of the family in French society; the educational system; France within the European Union; the question of immigration.

Teaching Methods

The course will be taught using for the most part the French language but also some English when needed. The main textbook for the course is written in French and students will be reading through a good part of this book. It is important for students to study about French culture and society by learning first learning the terminology and concepts in the French language. Since part of the course will be class discussions and presentations it is vital that the students be immersed as much as possible in the language.

Statement Concerning Christian perspective

The topics that will be discussed in this class are important in the context of French culture. The topics will be taught and discussed in a way that will relate the French culture to the Christian faith.

Course goal

The purpose of the course is to help students reach a better understanding of the French people and their culture and also to be able to enter into basic conversations about these topics.

Procedures

The language of the course will be French for the most part. English will be used, especially in some of the written assignments. Discussions will be for the most part in

French.

Required Tasks

Required tasks will include reading from the book “Les Français”, discussions in the classroom on topics studied in class and at home and written assignments in English.

Textbooks

The course will be based on the textbook “Les Français” (Third edition), by Laurence Wylie and Jean-Francois Brière. Additional articles and movie clips will complete the readings.

COMPETENCIES

Knowledge. Students will be given weekly assignments to verify if they are furthering their knowledge about French culture. 20% of the final grade based on a grade from 100(A) to below 60 (F).

Comprehension. Students will discuss in the classroom their written assignments. 10% of final grade based on a grade from 100 (A) to below 60 (F).

Application. Students will be required to take notes of class discussions and present summaries of these discussions. 10% of final grade based on a grade from 100 (A) to below 60 (F).

Analysis. Once a week students will be asked specific questions about the topic at hand and be required to appraise this question in light of what they have learned. 20% of the final grade based on a grade from 100 (A) to below 60 (F).

Synthesis I and II Mid term and Final exams. Students will answer a number of questions on French culture for their mid term and final exams (50% of those questions and answers will be in French). 20% (10% of the final grade for each Synthesis exam).

Final paper. They will write a final paper in English on a topic of their choice, pertaining to one of the class topics. This paper should be four pages in length.

Written assignments in English: 20%

Summaries of discussions in French: 20%

Questions on the topics: 20%

Synthesis I and II: 20%

Final paper: 20%

Grading: 100-90=A, 89-80=B, 79-70=C, 69-60=D, Below 60=Failure.

Student Behavior and Academic Integrity

The professor fully supports the policies of the University and College Arts & Sciences concerning student behavior, dress, discipline, and academic honesty. The following is the statement concerning academic integrity formulated by the ACU College of Arts and Sciences:

Violations of academic integrity and other forms of cheating, as defined in ACU's Academic Integrity Policy, involve the intention to deceive or mislead or misrepresent, and therefore are a form of lying and represent actions contrary to the behavioral norms that flow from the nature of God. Violations will be addressed as described in the Policy. While the university enforces the Policy, the most powerful motive for integrity and truthfulness comes from one's desire to imitate God's nature in our lives. Every member of the faculty, staff and student body is responsible for protecting the integrity of learning, scholarship and research. The full Policy is available for review at the Provost's office web site (<http://www.acu.edu/campusoffices/provost>) and the following offices: provost, college deans, Dean of campus life, director of student judicial affairs, director of residential life education and academic departments.

Attendance:

Class participation is a must in order to attain the student objectives. Students are given **5 absences** to cover any illness or personal matters. If they accumulate a **6th absence there will be an automatic one letter grade drop** on their final grade average. If they accumulate **8 absences, there will be a second letter grade drop** on their final grade average. If there are **9 or more absences, students will be automatically dropped with a grade of WF**. Absences due to an official university function, for which there are written university excuses, will not be included in the above tally. Any assignments missed for excused absences should be made up.

Calendar of required readings and discussion topics from "Les Français", Laurence Wylie et Jean-Francois Brière.

Jan 15: Introduction to the course; syllabus; assignments.

Jan 17: A survey of French and American relations; clip. Readings and questions for Jan 22, pp 32-46.

Jan 22: Discussion of questions; readings for Jan 24, pp 47-54

Jan 24: Discussion of questions; readings for Jan 29, 54-61

Jan 29: Discussion of questions; readings for Jan 31, 61-67

Jan 31: Discussion of questions; readings for Feb 5, 68-74

Feb 5: Discussion of questions; readings for Feb 7, 75-80

Feb 7: Discussion of questions; readings for Feb 12, 81-85

Feb 12: Discussion of questions; readings for Feb 14, 86-91

Feb 14: Discussion of questions; readings for Feb 19, 91-96

Feb 19: Discussion of questions; readings for Feb 21, 97-106

Feb 21: Discussion of questions; readings for Feb 26, 106-111

Feb 26: Discussion of questions; readings for Mar 5, 112-121

Mar 5: Discussion of questions; readings for Mar 7, 121-126

SPRING BREAK - March 11-15

Mar 19: Mid term exam (Synthesis I)

Mar 21: Discussion of questions; readings for Mar 10, 127-135

Mar 26: Discussion of questions; readings for Mar 28, 135-142

Mar 28: Discussion of questions; readings for April 2, 158-164

Apr 2: Discussion of questions; readings for Apr 4, 164-169

Apr 4: Discussion of questions; readings for Apr 9, 169-173

Apr 9: Discussion of questions; readings for Apr 11, 235-238

Apr 11: Discussion of questions; readings for Apr 12, 238-242

Apr 16: Discussion of questions; readings for Apr 18, 242-244

Apr 18: Discussion of questions; readings for Apr 23, 244-250

Apr 23: Discussion of questions; readings for Apr 25, 250-253

April 25: Discussion of questions, pp 250-253

Apr 30: Visit and discussion with students from France.

May 2: Final paper due; presentation of final paper; evaluations.

May 7-10: Final exam (Synthesis II)

