

FLFR 386 FRENCH COMPOSITION AND CONVERSATION

Instructor:

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Office hours: Monday - Thursday – 3:00-5:00 or by appointment.

Purpose:

"The mission of Abilene Christian University is to educate its students for Christian service and leadership throughout the world" (Abilene Christian University Catalog). The purpose of Advanced Conversation French FLFR 386 is to facilitate the world outreach of the ACU Mission Statement by introducing students to the importance of "culture" (general education) for the French people as it is expressed in daily conversation.

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.

The diligent student can expect to improve his or her ability in the use of the language and an understanding of French.

Prerequisites:

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

Course Content:

This course is based on a number of culturally relevant scenarios. The vocabulary and dialogues in these scenarios are based on situations which can be encountered in France. The scenarios are based on authentic situations and students learn to first comprehend the language and situations involved. They will also learn to develop skills in responding to these situations. The course is divided in ten units and each theme is based on current events, leisure time, asking for help etc. Practice for this part of the

course will be based on “Practice Makes Perfect French Conversation” by Eliane Kurbegov. Students will also have audio-files in French of each scenario so as to be able to work on the pronunciation. These audio-files will be available for students on Blackboard.

Teaching Methods:

During the class period students will work on the scenarios with the help of the instructor in order to understand the vocabulary and grammatical forms. Students will be expected to know/learn the vocabulary both in written and oral forms. Homework is based on clips or audio recordings and is done through a series of exercises covering the featured topics. Students will be given a series of questions and will need to develop their own answers for class periods. This will allow them to be familiarized with the topics and be ready to respond to the questions through class conversation.

Statement Concerning Christian Perspective

The topics that will be discussed in this class are important in the context of French culture. The philosophy of the course will be to help students discuss topics related to the French culture in a manner that would help witness to the Lord Jesus Christ and would help initiate friendship and mutual understanding in cross-cultural settings.

Course Goals

This course has two objectives. (1) The first objective is to create excellent conditions of immersion in the language and thus help students to significantly improve their fluency in the language. Assessment of performance will be based on oral evaluations, group discussions and exercises. This goal includes becoming fully able to recognize the vocabulary and forms found in each scenario (both in audio form and with the corresponding written text), becoming fully able to respond in French to specific questions pertaining to the given topics and becoming fully able to follow and enter into conversations about these topics. (2) The second objective is to help students improve their writing skills. Students will be required to work on a 2 page paper every 3 to 4 weeks. The instructor will guide students in this process. Each paper will represent 10% of the total grade (thus composition will represent 40% of the total grade). For the final exam students will write a 3 page summary report which will also be the basis their oral presentation.

Procedures:

The language of the course will be French. Since one of the goals of the course is to develop the students' listening comprehension and speaking skills, the professor will discuss the day's assignment with the students in French. English will be used by exception.

Required Tasks:

Required tasks will include: Listening to audio recordings dealing with significant topics related to French culture; oral participation in the class periods based on the audio recordings and written texts; testing on vocabulary and grammatical forms (both in written and oral). For the final exam, students will prepare an oral presentation on one

of the topics and will need to demonstrate their ability to answer questions pertaining to their presentation.

Texts:

Students will be using “Practice Makes Perfect French Conversation” by Eliane Kurbekov, McGraw Hill, 2012 (ISBN 978-0-07-177087-3).

Competencies:

1. Understanding French in culturally relevant scenarios (40%).

Students will be tested in the following areas: pronunciation ; abbreviations in informal speech ; idioms ; trap words.

2. Analysis and application in practice of speech 40%

Students will be tested through dialogues in the following areas: Meeting people; making conversation and making plans; discussing leisure activities; watching sports events; celebrating and having fun; accomplishments; making comparisons; asking for help; departures.

3. Synthesis 20%

Written report (10%) and Oral Presentation (10%). The written report will be due on for the final exam. The oral presentation will be given during final exam. It will be based on the written report prepared by the student. Each presentation will deal with one of the topics covered during the course. The entire presentation should not last more than 15 minutes for each student.

Grading and grading percentage:

Class Participation 30%

Two page paper 1,2,3,4 10% each (40% of the total grade average)

Final presentation and written report 20%

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

Regular attendance is expected. Chronic tardiness is a vice, disruptive to the class and to the educational process in general. A student who misses a class for **any** reason, excused or unexcused is still responsible for **all** material covered in class, including assignments, announcements and syllabus revision. Unless due to illness, no student may pass who misses more than 20% of the classes in any course. That is 7 class periods in this course.

Course calendar: next 3 pages.