

## FRANÇAIS 301: COMPOSITION FRANÇAISE

Automne 2007  
M/J, 11h-12h15  
Buckman 204

Prof. Elizabeth Lucia  
Rhodes Tower 521, x3292  
[luciae@rhodes.edu](mailto:luciae@rhodes.edu)  
Heures de bureau: L/Mer 11h-12,  
M 13h30-14h30, et sur rendez-vous

### COURSE DESCRIPTION AND GOALS

By the end of French 301 you should know how to write a well-organized and polished paper in French and to communicate confidently and competently on a variety of topics in French. You will develop your writing skills through reading, analysis, and practice of a variety of writing techniques. An important part of this process is self and peer review and frequent revision. Methods include work in our writing manual, grammar exercises, compositions, revisions, and peer editing. In conjunction with this you will improve your oral and aural skills by reviewing grammar, actively acquiring new vocabulary and ideas by reading an award-winning novel, and through independent oral and aural practice in and out of class. The course will be conducted in French, *bien sûr*!

### COURSE MATERIALS (available for purchase in the Rhodes Bookstore)

Loriot-Raymer, et al. *A vous d'écrire: Atelier de français*. Boston: McGraw-Hill, 1996.  
Carlut, Charles and Meiden, Walter. *French for Oral and Written Review*, Fifth Edition. Thomson Heinle, 1993.

Oresnna / *La Grammaire est une chanson douce*

Harper Collins Robert bilingual dictionary

(N.B. In addition to purchasing the bilingual dictionary, you will need to regularly consult a French/French dictionary (Robert or Larousse, for example) for course assignments and compositions. As these dictionaries are quite expensive, I encourage you to use the copies available at Barrett Library.)

### IMPORTANT NOTES ON THE 301 PROGRAM

**Participation.** This course demands careful preparation of assignments and active participation in class activities. Attendance is obligatory. Much of the work we will be doing in 301 involves your classmates. For instance, on days set aside for writing workshops, your presence and punctuality will be an integral part of the success of each member of the group. Thus, tardiness will lead to penalties to your oral performance grade. Please note: Every absence will lower your oral grade by 10% per missed class. After 4 absences in French 301, you will receive an F for oral work and you will be asked to withdraw from the course.

As 25% of your final grade is dependent on your participation, you will receive a daily participation grade. That grade will take into account your level of preparation for the class, the quality and regularity of your participation, and your commitment to speaking only French in the classroom. The following grading chart will guide you in your in-class work.

A=Volunteers frequently; plays an important role in class discussions; prepares assignments well; responds to questions about assigned material without hesitation and thoughtfully.

B=Volunteers somewhat frequently; plays an adequate role in class discussions; prepares assignments well;; responds to questions about assigned material without hesitation and thoughtfully.

C=Volunteers infrequently; is attentive; responds to questions about the assigned material only if asked.

D=Physically present in class, attentive, but does not participate.

F=Physically present; unprepared

0=Absent or sleeping.

**WRITING ASSIGNMENTS:** Aside from the guided writing exercises in our manual, you will be writing four compositions during the semester. Compositions are formal: they must be typed and double-spaced, including drafts. Handwritten accents are discouraged, as it leads to omission. Instruction for accents will be provided. Though the codes will slow you down at first, before you know it, you'll be typing in accents as if you had always known how.

**WRITING AS PROCESS:** Writing each composition will be a series of steps – revisions and reflections that will enrich your writing, ideas, and expression. I encourage you to see rewriting not as punishment or even as correction, as much as development. Please do work on a computer, in order to facilitate revisions. It is important to save each draft individually, in case you make changes that you later regret.

**PEER WORK STRATEGIES:** On days that drafts are due to share with your classmates, we will have *ateliers d'écriture* (writing workshops). During our ateliers you will be reading and critiquing your peers' work. You will need to bring several copies of your draft, depending on the size of the class. It is essential to keep in mind that this review process should be constructive and productive. You should not be afraid to offer suggestions, but please be respectful of your peers, as they should be to you.

**LATE WORK:** Since we will be dedicating substantial amounts of class time to our writing workshops, late or unfinished assignments cannot be tolerated. Drafts which do not meet the length requirement will be penalized as well. Any assignment turned in after the beginning of the class in which it is due will be penalized by one full letter grade for every day it is late. Having work done on time also means that you will need to have assignments printed and copied long enough before 11am that if you run out of ink in your printer, or the copy machine in the library is broken, that you'll have time to find another machine and still make it to class on time.

**WRITING LOG:** I will correct your drafts using a code, and you will need to rewrite them following my suggestions. As part of the revision process, you will be asked to keep a log of your errors for each draft/composition. Keeping track of common mistakes will help you avoid them in future assignments. I will check these logs periodically.

**GRAMMAR:** This course is designed to strengthen and refine your knowledge of French grammar. You are expected to review topics independently, leaving class time for clarification and practice. I have selected topics to review, but will tailor coverage to address specific items that are problematic for the group.

**QUIZZES:** You will take several quizzes on the days indicated in the syllabus. These will assess your progress in grammar and vocabulary acquisition covered during the previous week(s).

**READING:** In order to write well, it is vital to read. This semester, we will be reading Erik Orsenna's delightful 2001 novel *La grammaire est une chanson douce*. We will devote regular class time to discussing the book and its imaginative ways of representing language. To enrich those discussions, I will sometimes distribute questions to be prepared along with your reading. On other occasions, I will ask you to prepare such questions for your peers or to do a short presentation.

**INDEPENDENT AURAL / ORAL WORK:** Listening to authentic examples of spoken French is important to developing your language skills. Thus you will be required to spend a total of 6 hours outside of class listening to French on your own. This can take the form of watching movies in the Language Center (or elsewhere), watching Internet-based streaming video, or attending the French table (up to 2 of the total 6 hours). Three of the 6 hours should be completed by midterm (October 11). The other three by December 4. I will provide you a log to keep track of your exposure to spoken French.

**CONVERSATION:** While there will be ample opportunity to speak French in 301, keep in mind that the focus of the class is composition. If you feel that you need practice speaking French, I urge you to consider signing up for French 306, a one-hour, one-credit conversation class lead by our Parisian T.A., Hortense de Meritens. I also strongly encourage you to join the French club and to attend the French table in the Rat.

**HONOR CODE:** The Honor System applies to all aspects of the course and all work should be pledged accordingly by signing your name under the words *Sur l'honneur*. In 301, you are not permitted to use a French spell-check program. All work should be your own, although you may come to me (or e-mail me) for help on relevant grammar and idiomatic expressions. Outside of class workshop sessions, you may not ask anyone else to check over work that is to be presented for a grade. The use of on-line translation sites is also a violation of the Honor Code, and is generally easily detected. You may ask our French Teaching Assistant (or another qualified person) for help ONLY with specific vocabulary, grammatical constructions, or idiomatic phrases that you cannot find in a good dictionary or grammar manual. If you seek outside help in this fashion, you must cite your <<reference>> and highlight any words or constructions that are not the product of your own knowledge and textual research.

## **PROGRAMME DU COURS (susceptible de changer légèrement)**

Jeudi 23/8      Présentation du cours

### **NOTRE MÉTHODE**

Mardi 28/8      *A vous* pp. 2-13 (Emploi du dictionnaire – ex A & C, pp. 11-12)  
CM pp. 228-232 (Les prépositions de lieu)

Jeudi 30/8      *A vous* pp. 13-17  
CM pp. 232-239 (Constructions verbales)

### **LE RÉCIT PERSONNEL**

Mardi 4/9      *A vous* pp. 131-135 (ex. A, p. 131); CM Ch 2 (Les adjectifs)

Jeudi 6/9      *A vous* pp. 136-139 (ex. Analyse, pp. 137-8)

Mardi 11/9      *A vous* pp. 139-145 (ex. Analyse, pp 144-5); CM Ch 3 (Les adverbs 32-35) et Ch 4 (Le présent 47-48); Take-home QUIZ

Jeudi 13/9      *A vous* pp. 146-152 (ex. Analyse, pp. 150-151);

Mardi 18/9      Atelier d'écriture (Brouillon 1, Composition 1, 2 ½ - 3 pages)

Jeudi 20/9      OR pp. 11-33

### **LE COMPTE RENDU CRITIQUE**

Mardi 25/9      Brouillon 2, Composition 1 (à rendre); CM Ch 6 (Les temps du passé 77-85)

Jeudi 27/9      *A vous* pp 183-189 (ex A, p. 183); CM Ch 3 (Le passé 85-88)

Mardi 2/10      *A vous* pp. 189-192 (ex. Analyse, p. 192); CM Ch 5 (63-76) Take-home QUIZ.

Jeudi 4/10      *A vous* pp 193-200 (ex. Analyse, p. 199)

Mardi 9/10      Atelier d'écriture (Brouillon 1, Composition 2); CM Ch 7 (92-101)

Jeudi 11/10      OR pp. 33-74

Mardi 16/10      *Jour férié: Les vacances d'automne*

### **L'ESSAI ARGUMENTATIF**

Jeudi 18/10      Brouillon 2, Composition 2 (à rendre); CM Ch 15 (216-221)

*A vous* pp 204-210 (résumez les points importants, ex. A, p. 205)

Mardi 23/10      *A vous* pp. 210-213 (ex. Analyse, p. 212); CM Ch 8 (Le participe passé 104-9)

Jeudi 25/10      *A vous* pp. 213-224 (ex. Analyse, p. 222); CM Ch 8 (Le participe présent 109-114)

Mardi 30/10      Atelier d'écriture (Brouillon 1, Composition 3)  
Take-home QUIZ à distribuer (CM 7, 8, 15)

Jeudi 1/11 OR 75-109; CM Ch 9 (C'est vs. il est 126-130)

Mardi 6/11 Brouillon 2, Composition 3; CM Ch 10 (Les relatifs 136-142)

**L'EXPLICATION DE TEXTE**

Jeudi 8/11 *A vous* pp. 157-163 (ex. A, B & C, pp. 158-9); CM Ch 11 (Le subjonctif 148-155)

Mardi 13/11 *A vous* pp. 163-166 (ex. Analyse, pp. 164-5); CM Ch 11 (156-162)

Jeudi 15/11 *A vous* pp 166-168 (ex. Analyse, p 168); Take-home QUIZ (CM 9, 10, 11)

Mardi 20/11 Atelier d'écriture (Brouillon 1, Composition 4 (guidelines *A vous* p. 180)

Jeudi 22/11 *Jour férié: Thanksgiving*

Mardi 27/11 *A vous* pp. 171-177 (ex. Analyse, p. 177); CM Ch 12 (L'article)

Jeudi 29/11 Brouillon 2, Composition 4; CM Ch 13 (Les noms indéfinis)

Mardi 4/12 OR 111-151

**Examen final écrit – Mercredi, le 12 décembre à 8h30**

**Copie finale de la Composition 4 à rendre à l'examen final écrit**