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## FREN 201-01, Elementary French, Fall 2006

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**FRENCH 201**  
Fall 2006

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*Office hours:* Mon. and Weds., 2-3 pm;  
Fri. 11 am – 12 noon, and by appointment.  
*Please drop by my office anytime if you need to see me – chances are I will be there!*

**COURSE GOALS:** This course will be taught in French **and you are expected to speak only French in the classroom.** In this course you will:

- Improve your communication skills in French
- Review and broaden the grammar and vocabulary attained in elementary French
- Expand your French listening, reading, and writing skills
- Broaden your knowledge of French and Francophone culture through readings, cultural activities and in-class discussions

### **COURSE MATERIALS**

- Thompson/Hirsch. *Ensuite*. 4<sup>th</sup> edition Available in the campus bookstore.
- Workbook and lab manual to accompany *Ensuite*. Available in the campus bookstore.
- Audio CDs to accompany *Ensuite*. Available in the campus bookstore.
- Occasional photocopies, grammatical explanations and exercises to be distributed in class. These constitute an important part of the course materials and may contain information not included in the book, so you should be careful not to lose them. Please plan to keep them organized in a folder or binder: *don't throw anything away until after the final exam!*

**GRADING:** Final grades will be based on the following percentages:

Oral participation (2 lowest grades dropped)	15%
Oral interview, in-class oral presentations	10%
Homework, essays & cultural activities	20%
Quizzes (unannounced, 1 lowest dropped)	10%
Three tests	30%
Final exam (comprehensive)	15%

### **COURSE WORK – PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING GUIDELINES CAREFULLY**

**Overview:** A language class is different from many college courses in that you are expected to complete daily short assignments. These assignments may seem repetitive to you, but it is precisely this repetition, both written and oral, that helps you learn. Although I am not an easy grader, I can give you three simple guidelines for succeeding in my class:

(1) **Come to class every day.** Even if you don't feel prepared, haven't done the homework, are sleepy, haven't showered, etc., it is always far better to be there. Being absent hurts your grade far more than coming to class unprepared.

(2) **Do your homework every day,** or spend some time studying vocabulary and grammar, or talking in French with your conversation partner. Repetition will get you there! You should plan to spend a minimum of 7-8 hours per week on out-of class preparation and studying for this course, in addition to the 4 hours per week that you will spend in class. This includes 1 hour per week of conversation time with your partner (see below), plus at least 1 ½ hours of homework and studying associated with each class session. It's a good idea to spread this time out over the course of the week rather than cramming it all into a few days. Establish a regular study schedule for French.

**(3) Do not fall behind** – it will be almost impossible to catch up. We will be moving fast, at the rate of approximately one chapter per week, and it can be all too easy to be left in the dust.

The good news is that “all-nighters” are not necessary or advisable in French 201. Succeeding in this class in an ongoing process.

**Absences:** Absences from classes will result in a 0 in oral classwork for that day. In addition, if there is a quiz (many quizzes will be unannounced), you will receive a zero on it. More than **4** absences will lower your oral grade by **10%** for each class missed. After 8 absences in 201, you will receive an F for oral work and will be asked to withdraw from the class.

### **Oral participation:**

- Oral participation grades will be based upon quality of oral participation in class, which will take place in French, both in small groups and in whole-class activities. Using English in class will lower your grade. Once in a while, however, I may announce that we can speak English in order to clarify a point.
- Please come to class **on time** and ready to focus. Visit the bathroom before you come to class: leaving and returning in the middle of class distracts the professor and the other students.
- Absences from class will result in a “0” in oral participation for the day.
- Your two lowest oral participation grades will be dropped.
- The following grading chart can guide you in your in-class work:  
**A** = Volunteers frequently; plays an important role in class discussions; prepares assignments well; responds to questions about assignments without hesitation  
**B** = Volunteers somewhat frequently; plays an adequate role in class discussions; prepares assignments well; responds to questions about assigned material without hesitation  
**C** = Volunteers infrequently; prepares assignments with little care; responds to questions about assigned material as if minimal time had been spent preparing it before class  
**D** = Physically present in class but does not participate  
**F** = Wastes the class’s time or distracts other students; arrives late or leaves in the middle of class  
**0** = Absent or sleeping!

**Homework** will include grammar and listening exercises from the workbook and lab manual, assigned cultural activities, and essays or short writing assignments.

I will hand out a weekly calendar summarizing the homework assignments for that week, and will collect all written homeworks in class every **Friday**. However, please keep in mind that your preparedness for class (and therefore your oral in-class grade) depends on your keeping current with the homework. Frequently, I will expect you to prepare a reading or study a grammar point before class.

Written assignments are to be turned in at the beginning of class the day they are due. Work turned in after that will be given a lower grade. If you are ill or must be absent, send the paper to class or to my office (211 Buckman Hall) via a friend (not through campus mail) **at or before** the beginning of class.

In addition to the normally assigned daily written work, your homework will include the following:

**1) Conversations with a partner.** Starting August 28, you will be expected to find a partner in the class with whom to meet and converse in French on a regular basis (**at least twice weekly, for 30 minutes each time**). Topics of conversation are entirely up to you, although you should make it a point to incorporate the vocabulary, culture items and/or grammar patterns we are studying in the chapter that week. Practicing with your partner means that speaking French about real issues can become as natural, and as second-nature an activity as possible. This will improve your pronunciation and allow you to slowly build up your confidence and fluency. **Keep a log of your meetings** (times and what you discussed). I will collect these logs approximately every 2 weeks.

**2) Cultural activities.** This semester, you are asked to do three one-hour cultural activities of your choice. Each of these activities counts for one homework grade.

Possible activities are: listening to French **songs** (CDs, tapes and lyrics available in the LRC); watching **French films in the original** from our LRC collection; keeping current with the **French news** by reading a newspaper or getting the **news in French** on the net at « [www.yahoo.fr](http://www.yahoo.fr) »; exploring **French Web sites** and/or attending the weekly **French Table** (every Thursday 5:30-6:30 pm, in the Rat, the “smoking” section). The French club (CAFÉ club) also organizes weekly activities which will be announced in class. Some of these may count as a culture activities: please check with me first.

You must spend at least one hour on each of the three culture activities to earn full credit.

Films obviously take over an hour but count as one activity.

Culture activities may involve your going to the Language Resource Center (LRC) in Buckman 200. **LRC hours:** Mon. 8:30am - 5pm, Tues.-Thurs., 8:30am-9pm, Fri. 8:30am-5pm, Sun. 5pm-9pm.

You will turn in a short paragraph (in French) describing each cultural activity you did. Due dates for these activities appear on your course calendar, although you can always choose to plan ahead and complete them early!

### **Tests and Quizzes**

Expect approximately one short quiz per week. Quizzes may or may not be announced. Your lowest quiz grade will be dropped.

In addition to the final, there will be three tests during the semester. Tests check your listening comprehension skills (*partie aurale*) and your ability to show you have mastered relevant vocabulary, grammar, and cultural items (*partie écrite*). **Preparation for these tests is an on-going process.** The best approach is to be present when you are in class, to ask questions if you do not understand, to do the homework, to practice speaking with your partner, and to participate in class discussions and activities. Also do not hesitate to make an appointment with me if you need extra help.

**The Honor Code:** All work done for a grade in this course is to be your own. *This means that compositions and homework are not to be “checked over” or corrected by anyone else.* Before you turn in an assignment, write the French pledge: “**Sur l’honneur**” and sign your name. If you have any questions about how the rules of the Honor Code system apply to this course, do not hesitate to ask me.

**JE VOUS SOUHAITE UN EXCELLENT SEMESTRE!**