2015

FREN 302-01 Finding Your French Voice

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French 302: Finding Your French Voice
Fall 2015

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Office hours: M 3-5 & by appt.
Class meetings: WF 3:00 to 4:15
Room: Alter 103

Course Description: This course focuses on developing both your ability and your confidence in aural and oral French, expanding your vocabulary, and reinforcing your grasp of French grammar and reading. It is a threshold course for the major and minor and will prepare you for further advanced study in French. We will draw from a wide range of media – including film, journalism, art, and literature – to form the basis for our daily discussions and activities. Additional emphasis will be placed on pronunciation.

Course Objectives: You can expect to have achieved greater proficiency in the following skills upon successful completion of this course:
1. Understand clear, standard spoken French and develop strategies for filling in gaps in comprehension.
2. Utilize both conversational and presentational modes of speaking.
3. Understand the message conveyed by French media of different forms.
4. Be able to ask and answer questions on a wide variety of topics.
5. Be able to describe people, places, and things, and narrate a sequence of events.

Required Materials:
1. You are expected to have, or to have access to, a Netflix streaming account. In this course, we will watch six films, five of which are currently available streaming on Netflix. Although group screenings of the films may be organized, you will need to have the ability to review various scenes from the films at home in order to prepare class assignments.
2. We will read one novel. Make sure that you purchase this specific edition so that we will all have the same page numbers: Grégoire Delacourt, La liste de mes envies (Paris: JC Lattès, 2012).
3. The ability to play and to record sound and video in standard formats.

Films:
1. Haute Cuisine (Christian Vincent, 2012)
2. Le scaphandre et le papillon (Julian Schnabel, 2007)
3. Le placard (Francis Veber, 2001)
4. Renoir (Gilles Bourdos, 2012)
5. Tomboy (Céline Sciamma, 2011)
6. La haine (Mathieu Kassovitz, 1995) [not on NF, but it is on reserve, on Amazon and on Hulu]
Evaluation: The exact measure of your hard work will be...
Participation = 30%
Weekly vocab quizzes = 15%
Midterm = 10%
Actualité presentation = 15%
Film project = 15%
Final exam = 15%

As this is a conversation-driven course, you will be graded on your listening and speaking skills. It is essential that you demonstrate clear improvement throughout the course. Whatever your level is at the outset, it should be markedly higher by the conclusion.

Absences & Participation: You are expected to attend each class meeting, mostly because we miss you when you’re absent, but also because it affects your grade. I understand that things happen, so you have **two** free unexcused absences. Note: emailing me with an “excuse” does not make an excused absence make. Absences are considered excused only in the case of a documented serious illness, a death in the immediate family, religious observance, or participation in a university-sponsored event (sports, field trip, etc.). Each absence beyond the first two will result in a deduction of 2 points from the final grade.

Participation is key! You cannot expect to improve if you do not engage with your fellow students or with me. Come to class each day with interesting things to say – and then say them! When your classmates say something, respond! Disagree (politely)! As an added way of urging you to join the conversation, you will receive a daily grade for having participated and having spoken French.

Safe Space: In this course we will deal with many pressing concerns in society, and many topics about which you and others will likely feel very strongly. Please express yourself. However, please also show respect for others and their ideas, and do not use your classmates’ thoughts against them in or out of the classroom. If you are concerned about anything that was said in class and/or by a classmate, please come to me immediately.

Use of French: At this level in your French studies, it is important that you use French for all course-related activities. This includes, but is not limited to: speaking in class, writing for class, emailing me, and whining. You are graded on this, too, as a part of your participation.
**Vocabulary:** Each week you will have a list of vocabulary words to memorize. Every Friday, there will be a short quiz on the new words.

**Exams:** You will have a midterm and a final. Both will include exercises relating to the vocabulary, as well as open-ended responses dealing with the films and readings, potentially to include *what was said in class about each film, reading, etc.* It is, therefore, critical that you take good notes about your classmates’ thoughts and opinions.

**Make-up policy:** There are no make-ups for quizzes, exams, or presentations, except in the case of excused absences [see above].

**Phones & Electronics:**

unless instructed to bring and use a device for an in-class activity, these need to be shut off/silenced (vibrate doesn’t count – we can all hear it) and put away. You will be marked absent if I observe you using one. Take notes the old-fashioned, and better, way: on paper with a pen or pencil.

**Academic Honesty:** You should be aware of the University policy on academic honesty, excerpted here from the University Catalog. This policy applies to all courses in the Department of Modern Languages.

“All work submitted for academic evaluation must be the student’s own. Certainly, the activities of other scholars will influence all students. However, the direct and unattributed use of another’s efforts is prohibited as is the use of any work untruthfully submitted as one’s own. Penalties for violations of this policy may include one or more of the following: a zero for that assignment or test, an “F” in the course, and expulsion from the University.”

*Use of translation programs and websites is considered a violation of academic honesty.*
Course Calendar

August
W 26: Introductions; Diagnostic test
F 28: Engaging a conversation, registers, topics, etiquette; Research tools, resource tour

September
W 02: Film (Haute cuisine); how to discuss a film, vocabulary, etc.
F 04: Film (Haute cuisine)
W 09: Actualités
F 11: Actualités
W 16: Film (Le scaphandre et le papillon)
F 18: Film (Le scaphandre et le papillon)
W 23: Actualités
F 25: Actualités
W 30: Film (Le placard)

October
F 02: Film (Le placard)
W 07: Midterm
F 09: NO CLASS – Fall break
W 14: Actualités
F 16: Actualités
W 21: Film (Renoir)
F 23: Film (Renoir)
W 28: Actualités
F 30: Actualités

November
W 04: La liste de mes envies, pp. 11-54
F 06: La liste de mes envies, pp. 55-98
W 11: La liste de mes envies, pp. 99-143
F 13: La liste de mes envies, pp. 144-186
W 18: Film (Tomboy)
F 20: Film (Tomboy)
W 25: NO CLASS – Thanksgiving
F 27: NO CLASS – Thanksgiving

**December**
W 02: Film *(La haine)*
F 04: Film *(La haine)*

W 09: Film presentations
F 11: Film presentations

M 14: Study day

Friday, 18 = Final exam, 2:00 – 3:50

*Note: this calendar is subject to modification depending upon our progress and any unforeseen interruptions, such as by severe weather.*