

SYLLABUS – Fall 2011

FRENCH 1A- BEGINNING FRENCH Section 1

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Office Hours:

M and W 9:50-10:35 A.M.

Classes begin the week of August 29

Section 1 – MTWR 9-9:50 A.M. in MRP 1002

Textbook

***Motifs* by Jansma and Kassen (Fifth Edition)**

As well as the textbook, we use oral activities created by the professor.

Our goal in this class: Chapters 1-5 (of *Motifs*)

Syllabus changes

The instructor reserves the right to alter this syllabus at any time should it be warranted by the demands of sound pedagogy. Changes to the syllabus will be announced in class.

Special needs - *Students with Disabilities*

In order to ensure equal access and opportunity to pursue their educational goals, CSUS Services to Students with Disabilities (SSWD) offers support services for students with visual, hearing, mobility impairments, specific learning disabilities, psychiatric disorders, and/or other types of disabilities. For more information call 916-278-7825.

If you have a documented disability and verification from SSWD, and wish to discuss academic accommodations, please contact me as soon as possible.

Catalog Description

The first semester of college French (Fren1A) corresponds to 2 semesters of high school French. This beginning course focuses on four elementary linguistic skills with emphasis on spoken language; the four basic language-learning skills are listening, speaking, reading, and writing. The relationship of the language to French and Francophone civilization and culture is given special attention. We therefore hone students' ability within a contemporary, cultural context so they can learn the language and some of the many cultural components which constitute a French way of life: social issues, family, art, music, film, history, geography, and more.

Course Objectives

We aim to develop the four language skills and to familiarize the student with the Francophone world. The course objectives are to provide instruction and practice toward competency in French oral and written communication.

The instructor will guide students through each part, gradually giving the students more autonomy to create on their own. The main communicative goals are as follows:

to present oneself and other persons, to greet others and answer greetings, to request and thank, to give and receive instructions, to count to 100+, to tell the date, to express likes/dislikes and agreement/disagreement, to construct negative sentences, to phrase simple questions, tell time, talk about the weather, discuss work, and invite people to do leisure activities.

In order to attain these communicative objectives, students will need to show their competency with the following grammatical and linguistic areas:

to use nouns and adjectives appropriately, to be fluent in regular and irregular present tense verbs, to use the near future construction, and to develop appropriate French

language pronunciation, rhythm, and articulation.

Students will develop skills to understand generally concepts in written and oral French, as well as the learned ability to write and speak the language on their own.

Important Guidelines and Expectations

a) Preparation

Class material is presented in French, and when necessary, in English. Both grammar and conversation are emphasized. In keeping with our views that language proficiency grows through the common courtesies and alliances that have anchored all language speaking communities, we expect students to show mutual respect for one another, participate actively in class, focus on class activities, and demonstrate a desire to learn. In order to participate successfully, students need to study the lesson before coming to class. You are encouraged to speak French immediately using the new material learned.

b) In-Class

We believe in active (not passive) language learning. Therefore, we emphasize using class time to practice as much spoken French as possible. This means not only speaking, but also listening; students should listen carefully to the instructor AND to other students. By listening closely to the French around us we can learn a lot about how to say things and how to interact in another language. Students will often break up into groups to work on written and oral exercises so that you actively learn grammar, vocabulary, and expressions.

c) Outside Class

Consistent practice of all of the skills reinforces and builds our understanding of the language. SO we NEED to practice outside class as well as in class. Language is a DAILY activity. Therefore, we expect you to do 30-60 minutes of French EVERY DAY - do not be afraid to make it pleasurable by supplementing exercises from the text and workbook with enjoyable activities - music, movies, reading a recipe - we are happy to provide ideas.

Method

Active participation of the student in class is required. Oral practice of the French language is essential to our becoming comfortable with the language and the culture. Part of your grade will depend on your participation in class. Oral participation will include: repeating the vocabulary and new expressions as modeled by your professor, readings, dialogues with partners and in groups, skits and debates, games, and songs. Students should also collaborate on portions of grammar lessons in group study.

Homework (The instructor will give homework assignments in class. It is your responsibility to find out about the homework from a classmate if you miss class.)

Daily Exercises

Outside class, in addition to preparing for each day's lesson, you are required to complete exercises for each chapter (these homework exercises are a minimum; do more exercises for more practice).

All work turned in late will be penalized.

GRADING

What you need to get a good grade:

Your overall effort and diligence in doing homework and participating in class will be taken into account

A - a very good, almost error-free understanding and knowledge of vocabulary, grammar,

sentence structure, and oral comprehension and proficiency (90-100 %);

B - a good understanding and knowledge of vocabulary, grammar, syntax, and good oral skills, but errors occur throughout homework and tests (80-89 %);

C - knowledge and ability at this level reflects some understanding and knowledge of most materials presented, but confusion exists in the overall understanding of most concepts presented (70-79%)

D - little understanding and knowledge of vocabulary, grammar, syntax, and oral comprehension and proficiency. (60-69%)

I - students who have to stop coming to classes and turning in work may get an incomplete, but in order to receive this grade they must complete a written contract with the instructor.

U - unofficial drops (equivalent to an F) are given to students who do not attend class or no longer attend class, turn in assignments, or take tests.

MAKE SURE YOU ARE ON THE CLASS LIST.

NO CLASS: September 5 (Labor Day), September 29, November 24 (Thanksgiving Holiday)

Grades will be based on the following:

***Assignment/Test/Exam
Dates***

FINAL

(Covers all material)

Dec. 16: 8-10 A.M.

Oral Project

(Details to follow)

Dec. 5-8

4 Tests

Sep. 19

Oct. 10

Oct. 31

Nov. 21

3 Compositions

"Moi"

"A la maison"

"Au café"

First Draft due: Sep. 28

First Draft due: Nov. 10

First Draft due: Dec. 1

5 Workbook exercises

Workbook 1 – due 9/15

Workbook 2 – due 9/28

Workbook 3 – due 10/18

Workbook 4 – due 11/1
Workbook 5 – due 11/15

**Preparation and
participation**

Homework exercises from textbook turned in on time
In-class assignments
Attendance in class