

FREN-UA 9105

Written Contemporary French

Instructor Information

- David UHRIG
- du7@nyu.edu
- Office Hours: Monday and Wednesday, after class

Course Information

- FREN-UA 9105-001
- Written Contemporary French
- This course is designed to help students to develop their vocabulary, further their mastery of grammar, and improve their ability to write informally and, more importantly, formally in French. There will be an emphasis on the understanding and production of sophisticated written French through a study of authentic documents such as newspaper articles and excerpts of longer works. There will also be considerable work on learning how best to proofread, edit, and rewrite written work.
- The prerequisite for this course is FREN-UA 30 (French Grammar and Composition). Please keep in mind that while you may have chosen this course based on your beliefs about your abilities in French or based on a placement score (NYU online language placement test : <http://www.nyu.edu/cas/flpexam/>), the final decision concerning your correct placement in a French course is up to your instructor and the Coordinator of Language Programs.
- Monday to Friday, from 9am to 10:35am, in room 601

Course Overview and Goals

Upon Completion of this Course, you will be able to:

- Parfaire votre maîtrise du français écrit pour suivre des cours de littérature, culture et civilisation
- Lire et comprendre les nuances des textes d'informations et des textes littéraires
- Organiser vos idées en français pour les communiquer clairement
- Développer votre style et vocabulaire
- Employer les points de grammaire suivants: tous les temps et modes, la concordance des temps, les pronoms relatifs, des liens logiques, des figures de style, etc.

Course Requirements

Class Participation

Keep in mind that when you are not in class, no matter what the reason, you are missing essential time spent in French. This has a negative impact on your progress and the participation component of your grade. In addition, two points will be deducted from your final grade for every unexcused absence.

Your participation grade does not depend simply on your being physically present in class. Class participation is measured in the following manner:

- Arriving to class on time (2 late arrivals permitted, after two deduct 5 per late arrival)
- Handing in assignments on time (5 points for second late assignment)
- Assignments must be turned in the appropriate Google Doc format using double space and large margins into our course management system's drop box, i.e. Google Drive via our Google Classroom; late assignments will result in an automatic 25-point deduction per day
- Finally, a good participation grade depends on participating (in French!) to the best of your ability and making a real effort to improve.

Written assignments and online homework / journal

You will have to **write short essays and essay rewrites**. Your written assignments grade is not based on how many mistakes you make but rather on how much effort you put into doing the assigned work on a regular basis. Mistakes are an essential part of learning a language.

When you turn in an essay, your instructor will read it and signal the type of errors; however, he or she will not provide you with the correct forms. When you get your essay back, you will then need to look over your instructor's comments and rewrite the essay, correcting the errors your instructor indicated and incorporating all the changes your instructor suggested. You will have to turn in both your first draft and your corrected draft. Not rewriting your essay or not correcting the errors indicated by your instructor will result in a 0 (zero).

Quizzes

The regular **quizzes** will allow you and your instructor to keep a closer eye on your progress, identifying both those areas in which you have mastered the material and those items that you need to review further.

Exams

The **midterm exam** (written comprehension / expression) will take place in March. The **final exam** (written comprehension / expression) is administered at the end of the semester. Tests should not be solely an indication of the average of where you have been during the semester;

they should also reflect the level of skill and knowledge you've achieved by the end of the course.

Grading of Assignments

The grade for this course will be determined according to the following formula:

Assignments/Activities	% of Final Grade
Class participation	10%
Online homework: short presentations + shared vocab lists + written questions	15%
Written assignments: compositions + essays (extra credit for journal)	20%
Quizzes	15%
Midterm exam	20%
Final exam	20%

Letter grades for the entire course will be assigned as follows:

Letter Grade	Description	%	Letter Grade	Description	%
A	Outstanding	93	C+	Above Average	78
A-	Excellent	90	C	Average	73
B+	Very Good	88	C-	Below Average	70
B	Good	83	D	Unsatisfactory	68
B-	Satisfactory	80	F	Fail	< 67

Course Schedule

Below is the ideal schedule for this semester. Changes or modifications may occur, for a variety of reasons. We will discuss any changes in due dates or assignments if the need arises. The chapters indicated in the textbook must be read prior to the class; you will need some time to look for the unknown vocabulary and to prepare the exercises. Keep a close record of your difficulties, they will be our major concern during the class.

	Date	Topics (15%)	Assignments (20%)	Pts	Readings (15 %)
1	June 4, 5, 6, 7	Se rencontrer et se raconter De l'oral et l'écrit: l'anecdote	Relater un événement en faisant ressortir son caractère extraordinaire	25	L'Interculturel (TV 5 Monde)
2	June 10, 11, 12, 13, 14	Le Présent et la Présence	Ecrire une présentation vivante d'œuvre d'art et la présenter à l'oral	75	Peintres et peinture (Chapitre 1)
		La Place des Adjectifs	Décrire un endroit parisien en prenant le point de vue d'un complet étranger	50	Portrait de ville (Chapitre 16)
3	June 17, 18, 19, 20, 21	La Place des Pronoms	Décrire les gestes, comportements et attitudes des gens	50	Jean-Michel Ribes <i>Musée haut, musée bas</i>
		Le Conditionnel	Faire l'adaptation théâtrale d'un texte littéraire (<i>team work</i>)	25	André Malraux, <i>La Condition humaine</i> (Chapitre 7)
4	June 24, 25, 26, 27, 28	Le Discours Indirect au passé	Rapporter fidèlement des points de vue différents (<i>team work</i>)	25	La Presse Quotidienne Française
		Les Pronoms Relatifs simples et composés	Débattre et exposer ses idées en mettant en avant ses idées (<i>team work</i>)	25	LCP (La Chaîne Parlementaire) <i>L'Avenir des villes</i>
5	July 1, 2, 3, 4, 5	L'Opposition et la Concession	Ecrire la critique d'un spectacle que vous avez vu récemment	75	Blog <i>La Mélancolie des dragons</i>
		Organiser un discours Les Mots de Liaison	Ecrire une introduction en style académique selon un plan choisi	50	Journal Ouest- France (Photocopie)
6	July 8, 9, 10, 11, 12	Adverbes et phrases adverbiales	Rendre compte d'une opinion qui n'est pas la vôtre AVANT de prendre position	75	Journal Libération (Chapitre 17)
		Le Subjonctif et la Nuance	Evaluer différentes options contradictoires pour répondre à une question (<i>team work</i>)	25	Alain Robbe- Grillet, Djinn (Chapitre 26)


Recommended Study Habits

Participants will be expected to put in approximately 14 hours of work per week. The remaining class period consists of class activities and lecture to provide information about the topic of the week, sometimes supplemented with online lectures. To be successful in studying for this class, keep in mind the following four items:

- Make use of short bursts of study time. Don't block out extended periods of time for studying. Research has shown that cramming is not a good method for retention or long-term learning. Space your studying out over several days and you'll do much better.
- Be active in note taking while reading. Making notes that summarize the chapter, rather than trying to record everything the author says, is a good way to reinforce concepts in class, learn content, and be successful.
- While doing your grammar exercises, keep in mind that you will be tested on your ability to do the same kind of exercises, if not the exact same ones. Make sure you understand each word, write the new words down in your dedicated French notebook, and rewrite the complete sentences even if you are just asked to fill in the blanks.
- Focus on your writing. This class has intensive writing requirements. Keep in mind the following when you are writing: do not think in English before you begin writing but do create an outline in French before you begin to write.

Course Materials

Required Textbooks & Softwares

- *French Grammar in Context*, 4th edition Margaret Jubb and Annie Rouxville, Routledge, 2014 [ISBN 978-0-415-70668-1] (available at the bookstore downstairs)
- Bilingual dictionary and unilingual (e.g. *Word Reference*) – very good apps for smartphones
- You will need to access to our online class via your Gmail Account: mobile apps are also available for iOS and Android; it will allow you to regularly submit your homework 
- You will be asked to use the Google Docs word processor for all your written assignments; it will allow us to collaborate in real-time

Other Required Materials

- Un petit cahier ou carnet personnalisé, réservé à l'écriture libre et créative (un "extra credit" sera accordé à ce journal) – 1h/semaine

Course Policies

Social Media Policy

- You are not to engage in sending or receiving text messages or any other form of social media during the class period. This includes a prohibition on sending images, video or audio from class via social media. This includes live streaming of a lecture, class discussion, meeting with professor or any other class-related event. Smartphones or other types of mobile devices will not be allowed out during class periods unless explicitly stated by the instructor.

Attendance and Tardiness

- Study abroad at Global Academic Centers is an academically intensive and immersive experience in which students from a wide range of backgrounds exchange ideas in discussion-based seminars. Learning in such an environment depends on the active participation of all students. And since classes typically meet once or twice a week, even a single absence can cause a student to miss a significant portion of a course. To ensure the integrity of this academic experience, class attendance at the centers is mandatory, and unexcused absences will be penalized with a two percent deduction from the student's final course grade for every week's worth of classes missed. Students are responsible for making up any work missed due to absence. Repeated absences in a course may result in harsher penalties including failure.
- Unexcused absences affect students' grades: unexcused absences will be penalized with a 2% deduction from the students' final course grade.
- Absences are excused only for illness, religious observance, and emergencies.

Illness: For a single absence, students may be required to provide a doctor's note, at the discretion of the Associate Director of Academics. In the case of two consecutive absences, students must provide a doctor's note. Exams, quizzes, and presentations will not be made up without a doctor's note.

Religious Observance: Students observing a religious holiday during regularly scheduled class time are entitled to miss class without any penalty to their grade. This is for the holiday only and does not include the days of travel that may come before and/or after the holiday. Students must notify their instructor and the Academic Office in writing via email one week in advance before being absent for this purpose. If exams, quizzes, and presentations are scheduled on a holiday a student will observe, the Associate Director, in coordination with the instructor, will reschedule them.

Please note: if you are unable to attend class, you are required to email your professors directly to notify them.

Late Assignment

Late submission or work will be accepted only with justifiable reasons of health or family emergency.

Academic Honesty/Plagiarism

At NYU, a commitment to excellence, fairness, honesty, and respect within and outside the classroom is essential to maintaining the integrity of our community.

Plagiarism: *presenting others' work without adequate acknowledgement of its source, as though it were one's own. Plagiarism is a form of fraud. We all stand on the shoulders of others, and we must give credit to the creators of the works that we incorporate into products that we call our own. Some examples of plagiarism:*

- *a sequence of words incorporated without quotation marks*
- *an unacknowledged passage paraphrased from another's work*
- *the use of ideas, sound recordings, computer data or images created by others as though it were one's own*
- *submitting evaluations of group members' work for an assigned group project which misrepresent the work that was performed by another group member*
- *altering or forging academic documents, including but not limited to admissions materials, academic records, grade reports, add/drop forms, course registration forms, etc.*

For further information, students are encouraged to check www.nyu.edu/about/policies-guidelines-compliance/policies-and-guidelines/academic-integrity-for-students-at-nyu.html

Disability Disclosure Statement

Academic accommodations are available for students with disabilities. Please contact the Moses Center for Students with Disabilities (212-998-4980 or mosescsd@nyu.edu) for further information. Students who are requesting academic accommodations are advised to reach out to the Moses Center as early as possible in the semester for assistance.

Your instructor

David Ubrig completed his PhD in French Literature and Semiotics at the University Paris 7-Diderot. He also holds a M.A. in Philosophy. He taught French language, communication, culture and literature in the U.S. (University of Massachusetts Boston), in France (University of Paris-Nord and American University of Paris) as well as in the U.K. (University of Leicester) before joining NYU-Paris in 2012. He has recently published the early political writings of the French literary theorist, Maurice Blanchot, in *Chroniques politiques des années trente*, Editions Gallimard, 2017, 560 pages.