

NYU Paris

FREN-UA 9101,

Spoken Contemporary French

Instructor Information

- Sarah Vaussier
- TBA

Course Information

- FREN-UA 9101-002
- Spoken Contemporary French
- This course is designed to help students to develop vocabulary, learn new idiomatic expressions, and improve fluency and pronunciation. The emphasis is on the understanding and production of contemporary spoken French through a study of authentic documents such as radio and television interviews, advertisements, and spontaneous oral productions.
- 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](#)), the final decision concerning your correct placement in a French course is up to your instructor and the Coordinator of Language Programs.
- Monday, Wednesday and Thursday 1pm – 2:15pm in room 608

Course Overview and Goals

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

- express themselves with ease as well as communicate with reasonable accuracy in familiar contexts,
- describe unpredictable situations, explain points in an idea or problem with reasonable precision and express thoughts on abstract or cultural topics such as music and films,
- exploit a basic repertoire of strategies to keep a conversation or discussion going, give comments on others' views during discussion, intervene to check and confirm detailed information,
- understand descriptions, viewpoints and arguments on most topics pertinent to your everyday life such as family, hobbies and interests, work, travel, and current events,

- identify unfamiliar words from the context on topics related to your field and interests, extrapolate the meaning of occasional unknown words from the context and deduce sentence meaning.

Course Requirements

Class Participation

Your participation grade does not depend simply on your being physically present in class. A good participation grade depends on having all your assignments completed before class, participating (in French!) to the best of your ability, and making a real effort to improve. 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.

Oral exercises

You will do an oral performance from a task seen in class.

Oral comprehensions

You will do transcript from an audio document.

In-class presentations

Throughout the semester you will be called upon to perform a variety of types of oral performance, from more simple tasks that require less preparation, such as writing and performing a dialogue in class or engaging in a role play with a partner, to more complex performances that will require much more formal preparation, such as an oral presentation or exposé done alone or with a partner.

Exams

The **midterm / final exams** consist of an audio comprehension and a dialogue / conversation with your instructor or a classmate. You will get constructive feedback on your French and your pronunciation. It is a good practice for the final oral exam.

To practice verb conjugation, review grammar rules and vocabulary, work on your oral comprehension and pronunciation and do self-correcting exercises:

[Français interactif, APPRENDRE LE FRANÇAIS \(niveau A2, B1\), Savoirs](#)

Grading of Assignments

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

Assignments/Activities	% of Final Grade
Class participation	10%
Oral production / interaction	15%
In-class presentations	20%
Oral comprehensions	15%
Midterm exam	20%
Final exam	20%

Letter Grades

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

Letter Grade	Points	Description
A	16-20	Outstanding
A-	15	Excellent
B+	14	Very Good
B	13	Good
B-	12	Satisfactory
C+	11	Above Average
C	10	Average
C-	9	Below Average
D+	8	Unsatisfactory
D	7	Low Pass
D-	6	Low Pass
F	5	Fail

Course Schedule

Week/Date	Topic
Sept. 3, 5, 6	Se présenter, Demander des informations Les études, Repérage temporel
Sept. 10, 12, 13	Parler des études Les études, Les temps du passé
Sept. 17, 19, 20	Parler du monde du travail Le travail, Exprimer le but
Sept. 24, 26, 27	Elaborer des titres de presse Les médias, La forme passive
Oct. 1, 3, 4	Parler de l'actualité, Rapporter des faits et des paroles L'information
Oct. 8, 10, 11	Raconter un fait divers Les catastrophes, les crimes, Les verbes de mouvement
Oct. 15, 17, 18	Parler de l'art, Décrire une oeuvre d'art Donner son opinion (1)
Oct. 22, 24, 25	Décrire une exposition Cause / consequence + Review for Midterm
Oct. 29, 31	Midterm Exam
Nov. 5, 7, 8, 9* *make-up class for nov. 1st	Critiquer une exposition Opposition / concession
Nov. 12, 14, 15	Parler du cinéma Structurer une histoire : faire un synopsis
Nov. 19, 21, 22	Faire une critique de film Donner son opinion (2)
Nov. 26, 28, 29	Raconter un voyage Faire des hypothèses

Week/Date	Topic
Dec. 3, 5, 6	Parler des voyages Exprimer la condition + Review for exam
Dec. 10-13	Final Exam

Course Materials

Suggested Textbooks & Materials

- *Les exercices de grammaire niveau B1*, édition Hachette
- Dictionnaire bilingue

Course Policies

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.