# Spoken Contemporary French

**Class code**  
FREN-UA101

**Instructor Details**  
Elizabeth MOLKOU, Ph.D  
em152@nyu.edu  
Office hours: everyday after class

**Class Details**  
Spoken Contemporary French  
Monday to Friday 11:00-12:45  
Room tbc

**Prerequisites**  
Prerequisites for NYU students: Conversation and Composition (FREN-UA 30)

**Class description**  
Helps the student to develop vocabulary, improve pronunciation, and learn new idiomatic expressions. Introduction to corrective phonetics and emphasis on understanding contemporary French through a study of such authentic documents as radio and television interviews, advertisements, and spontaneous oral productions.

**Desired Outcomes**  
Students are provided with numerous opportunities to express themselves in a variety of oral situations (role play, oral presentation, debate etc.). We will focus on the distinctions between spoken and written styles. There is an emphasis on accuracy and fluency of usage in the spoken language.

**Grading Policy**  
NYU in Paris aims to have grading standards and results in all its courses similar to those that prevail at Washington Square.
Attendance Policy

Here is NYU’s Attendance Policy for students studying away at a Global Academic Center:

**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 affect students’ semester grades.** Students are responsible for making up any work missed due to absence. Repeated absences in a course may result in failure.

**Beginning Fall 2014, at all Global Academic Centers, unexcused absences will be penalized with a two percent deduction from the student’s final course grade.**

Other guidelines specific to NYUParis include:

- **Attendance to class and all course-related events, even outside of regularly scheduled course times, is expected and mandatory.** Some class outings/make-up classes take place on Fridays.
- **Under no circumstances will non-University-related travel constitute an excused absence from class.** DO NOT book travel until you have received and carefully studied the syllabus of each of your classes.
- **If you are not sick enough to go to the doctor, you are well enough to go to class.**

No tests, quizzes, or exams will be made up. A missed test, quiz, or exam will result in a zero. Questions about this policy should be directed to the Academic Affairs team, not your professor.

Late Submission of Work

No late work accepted.

Plagiarism Policy

New York University in Paris, as an academic community, is committed to free and open inquiry, to creating an intellectual and social environment that promotes this, and to upholding the highest standards of personal and academic integrity.

All NYUP students have the responsibility to uphold these stated objectives. As a member of this community, you accept the responsibility for upholding and maintaining these standards, which include refraining from all forms of plagiarism and cheating as detailed below.

Cases of plagiarism at NYUParis will be brought to the attention of NYUParis academic administration as well as the implicated student’s home school Dean.

**PLAGIARISM:** a form of fraud, presenting someone else’s work as though it were your own.

- A sequence of words from another writer who you have not quoted and referenced in footnotes.
- A paraphrased passage from another writer’s work that you have not cited.
- Facts or ideas gathered and reported by someone else.
- Another student’s work that you claim as your own.
- A paper that is purchased or “researched” for money
- A paper that is downloaded free of charge from the Internet

**CHEATING**

- Copying from another student’s exam or quiz
- Giving or receiving unauthorized assistance (crib sheets, internet, etc.) during an exam or quiz
- Having someone take your exam
- Accessing an exam or quiz in an unauthorized fashion prior to its administration
- Collaborating with other students or unauthorized persons on a take home exam
- Using the same written material for two courses without the express permission of both instructors

Fabricating or falsifying data

---

1 NYU’s “Policies and procedures for students studying away at a Global Academic Center”

2 NYU’s Expository Writing Department’s Statement on Plagiarism

3 NYU Statement on Plagiarism

4 NYU Statement on Plagiarism
Assessment Components

Role plays, quizzes and class participation: 25%
Oral presentation: 25%
Midterm exam: 25%
Final exam: 25%

Week 1
Paris et sa banlieue
Méthodologie de l’exposé oral
Raconter une histoire personnelle – demander des précisions – expliquer - justifier
Les syllabes accentuées

Week 2
Immigration et identité
Parler de ce qui va se passer – annoncer un programme – faire des prévisions – donner des consignes
Liaisons obligatoires et enchaînements consonantiques
Exposé 1

Week 3
Cinéma
Donner des conseils – suggérer - dissuader
Liaisons facultatives
Exposé 2

Week 4
Gastronomie et globalisation
Exprimer une opinion – donner son avis – réagir à une opinion - argumenter
Examen midterm
Enchaînements vocaliques
Exposé 3
Week 5
Exceptions françaises
Enchaînements vocaliques
Exposé 4

Week 6
Ecologie et société
Synthèse
Examen final
Débats

Required Text(s)
No required textbook.

Classroom Etiquette
- No eating in class.
- No cell phones in class.
- No laptop computers in class unless permission is expressly given by your professors.
- Leaving class to go to the bathroom or yawning in class is considered rude in France.

Required Co-curricular Activities
On a final note, keep in mind that learning a language is learning to do something (e.g., speak, read, write, and listen), not learning about something. Successfully learning to do something requires regular practice, not last minute, frantic study. You couldn’t become a good basketball player by reading about basketball every so often, then reading a whole lot the night before a game, and then stepping out onto the court for the first time the day of the game. The same holds true for language. To do well, you need to practice every day; you need to train your mouth and your mind to speak and think differently. That can’t be done in one all-night cram session!

Your instructor
Elizabeth Molkou received her Ph.D. in French from McGill University in Canada. She currently teaches French language, civilization, and literature at the Institut d'Etudes Politiques ("Sciences Po") and New York University in France, as well as French language for the Stanford Program in Paris. She also leads creative writing workshops. Her research interests include autobiographical theory, autofiction in contemporary French literature, and the representation of Paris in contemporary fiction. In 2010, she published Identités juives et autofiction : de la Shoah à la post-modernité at Editions Universitaires Européennes.