Conversation and Composition
Summer 2017

Class code: FREN-UA 9030

Instructor Details: Valérie Berty
vb45@nyu.edu

Class Details: Conversation and Composition French
Monday through Friday, 11am-12:35pm
Room 505

Prerequisites: The prerequisite for this course is FREN-UA 12 (Intermediate French II) or FREN-UA 20 (Intensive Intermediate French) or assignment by the NYU placement test.

Class Description: This course is designed to give those of you who have already begun to deepen your understanding of the French language and French and francophone cultures the opportunity to complete your fifth semester of French by mastering a fuller range of vocabulary, structures, pronunciation, and cultural information. This class will thus prepare you to tackle the classes at the advanced level and eventually to delve into more specialized literature and civilization courses.

Desired Outcomes: Upon the successful completion of this course, you will have reviewed and expanded upon the vocabulary, grammatical structures, and communicative norms you have already studied to allow you to do the following in French:

- converse with ease when dealing with routine tasks and social situations,
- use vocabulary resources and a variety of grammatical structures to narrate past and present events in an original fashion,
- maintain spoken or written exchanges by asking questions and follow-up questions,
- read and interpret narratives, including more complex texts on topics of interest,
- present, orally and in writing, discourse on a variety of familiar topics,
- make use of circumlocution and self-correction when gaps in your knowledge of French or performance errors impeded spoken or written communication, and
- identify and discuss fundamental elements of Francophone cultures around the world.

Assessment Components:
- Participation (in French!) in and out of class: 10%
- In-class presentations (formal and informal): 20%
- Quizzes and other short assessments: 15%
- Regular written and online homework: 20%
- Midterm Exam (oral and written): 15%
- Final Exam (oral and written): 20%

Participation: As you can imagine, participation is of the utmost importance in a language class. 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.

Since participation, or “time-on-task” as it is sometimes called, is so important to your regular progress, it counts as part of your grade. 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.

**In-class presentations (formal and informal):** 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. All of these elements of oral performance will count as part of this component of your grade.

**Quizzes and other short assessments:** Along with a midterm exam and a final exam (discussed below), your professor will administer additional, smaller assessments in the form of informal and formal quizzes, special written exercises, essays, essay rewrites, etc., throughout the semester. These are important elements of how your professor assesses your performance in class. Regular smaller assessments such as these will allow you and your professor to keep a closer weekly and even daily eye on your progress, identifying both those areas in which you have mastered the material and those items that you need to review further.

**Regular written and homework:** Your homework grade is not based on how many of your homework answers are correct, but rather on how much effort you put into doing the assigned work on a regular basis. Mistakes are an essential part of learning anything new, including a new language...there is a reason why people say, “You learn from your mistakes.” You should think of your homework assignments as an opportunity to try to see how well you know what you’ve been studying and to pinpoint areas that you still need to work on.

You will have a wide variety of homework assignments – exercises from your workbook, from worksheets distributed in class and they are all counted as part of this component of your grade. For extra explanations and practice, go to: [http://www.laits.utexas.edu/fi/](http://www.laits.utexas.edu/fi/)

**Midterm and Final exams:** 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. As a result, your two big tests during the semester, both of which contain a written and an oral component, and both of which are cumulative, are unevenly weighted. The first is 15% of your final grade while the second is 20% of your final grade. Not only is this a more logical distribution of points, since you should know a lot more by the end of the semester than you do in the middle, but it also benefits those of you who are new to language study and might need a little more time before everything “clicks.”

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<th>Assessment Expectations</th>
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<tr>
<td>93% to 100% = A</td>
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<tr>
<td>90% to 92% = A-</td>
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<tr>
<td>88% to 89% = B+</td>
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<tr>
<td>83% to 87% = B</td>
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<td>80% to 82% = B-</td>
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<tr>
<td>78% to 79% = C+</td>
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<tr>
<td>73% to 77% = C</td>
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<tr>
<td>70% to 72% = C-</td>
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<tr>
<td>68% to 69% = D</td>
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NYU Paris aims to have grading standards and results in all its courses similar to those that prevail at Washington Square.

Please find below NYU’s Attendance Policy for students studying away at any 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. 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** – unexcused absences will be penalized with a two percent deduction from the student’s final course grade¹. Students are responsible for making up any work missed due to absence. Repeated absences in a course may result in failure.

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. Doctor’s notes will be expected for all medical-related absences.
- 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.

No late work will be accepted

New York University in Paris, as an academic community, is committed to free and open inquiry, to the creation of an intellectual and social environment that promotes this atmosphere, and to the upholding of 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 student's home school dean.

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

Other forms of 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.
- Using a translation device to “write” any part of an essay or other written assignment.

Required Texts
- Un roman à lire. A décider avec les étudiants.

Calendar

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<th>Week 1</th>
<th>Dossier 5 – Instants loisirs</th>
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<th>Week 2</th>
<th>Dossier 5 – Instants loisirs</th>
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<td>6/5 – 6/9</td>
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<th>Week 3</th>
<th>Dossier 6 – Le monde est à nous!</th>
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<tr>
<th>Week 4</th>
<th>Dossier 6 – Le monde est à nous!</th>
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<td>*No class 6/23</td>
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<th>Week 5</th>
<th>Dossier 7 – Alternatives</th>
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<th>Week 6</th>
<th>Dossier 7 – Alternatives</th>
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Classroom Etiquette
- No eating, drinking, or chewing gum in class.
- No cell phones in class.
- No laptop computers in class unless permission is expressly granted by your professors.

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2 NYU’s Expository Writing Department’s Statement on Plagiarism
3 NYU Statement on Plagiarism
4 NYU Statement on Plagiarism
NYU’s Department of French offers a wide range of undergraduate courses, in both New York and Paris, in all levels of French language, as well as in the literature, film, culture, and thought traditions of France and the Francophone world. The department is full of passionate and engaged students and scholars.

To answer to your question “Why Study French?” please see here: [http://french.as.nyu.edu/page/undergraduate](http://french.as.nyu.edu/page/undergraduate)

For information about studying at, and courses offered by, NYU Paris, please see here: [http://www.nyu.edu/global/global-academic-centers/paris.html](http://www.nyu.edu/global/global-academic-centers/paris.html)

If you would like to discuss which courses to take next or if you are interested in becoming a French Minor/Major, please speak with your instructor and/or get in touch with the Director of Undergraduate Studies by email (frenchinfo@nyu.edu).

For important announcements about deadlines, courses, as well as about intellectual life and opportunities in the French Department, please “like” the Undergraduate Facebook Page here: [http://french.as.nyu.edu/page/undergraduate](http://french.as.nyu.edu/page/undergraduate)