# Written Contemporary French - Spring 2018

**Class Code**  
FREN-UA 9105-001

**Instructor**  
David UHRIG  
du7@nyu.edu  
Office hours: Monday and Wednesday, after class

**Class details**  
Monday to Friday  
9:00am - 10:35am  
Room 601

**Prerequisites**  
The prerequisite for this course is FREN-UA 30 (Conversation and Composition), assignment by the NYU placement test (http://www.nyu.edu/cas/flpexam/), or approval of the Academic Coordinator.

**Class description**  
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. This syllabus may be subject to changes.

**Required Texts**  
At the bookstore (Librairie Eyrolles)  

**Optional Text**  
Not at the bookstore downstairs:  

**Material**  
- Un cahier dédié à ce cours (pour noter le vocabulaire, faire les Exercices en classe, etc.)  
- Bilingual dictionary (e.g. *Oxford Hachette French Dictionary* or *Robert & Collins* or else) or/and unilingual (e.g. *Le Petit Robert*) – very good apps for smartphones

**Assessment**  
- Participation (in French !) in and out of class  
  10%  
- Compositions and essays or journal  
  20%  
- Quizzes and other short assessments  
  15%  
- Regular written and online homework  
  15%  
- Midterm Exam (written comp. / expression)  
  20%  
- Final Exam (written compre. /expression)  
  20%
No late work will be accepted.

**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.

**Grammar 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, etc., throughout the semester. These are important elements of how your professor assesses your performance in class.

**Regular written and online homework / journal:** Your homework 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 and into rewriting and editing your written work. 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.

**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.

**Grades**
NYU Paris aims to have grading standards and results in all its courses similar to those that prevail at NYU New York.

- 93% to 100% = A
- 90% to 92% = A-
- 88% to 89% = B+
- 83% to 87% = B
- 80% to 82% = B-
- 78% to 79% = C+
- 73% to 77% = C
- 70% to 72% = C-
- 68% to 69% = D

**Students with disabilities**
Academic accommodations are available for students with documented disabilities. Please contact the Moses Center for Students with Disabilities [http://www.nyu.edu/students/communities-and-groups/students-with-disabilities.html](http://www.nyu.edu/students/communities-and-groups/students-with-disabilities.html) for further information.

**Attendance**
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. 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 grade\(^1\). 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.

### Calendar

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>May 29</td>
<td>Présentation du cours, Narration et écriture</td>
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<td>May 30</td>
<td>Présent et Présence, Les Adjectifs</td>
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<td>May 31</td>
<td>Le Passé Composé, Le Passé Simple</td>
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<td>Jun. 1</td>
<td>L’Imparfait</td>
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<td>Jun. 4</td>
<td>Le Plus-que-Parfait, Le Passif</td>
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<td>Jun. 5</td>
<td>Roger Vailland, <em>Un jeune homme seul</em></td>
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<td>Jun. 6</td>
<td>Midterm exam, Le Conditionnel et le Futur</td>
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<td>Jun. 7</td>
<td>Le Discours Indirect, Les Pronoms Relatifs</td>
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<td>Jun. 8</td>
<td>Albert Camus, <em>L’Etranger</em></td>
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<td>Jun. 9</td>
<td>Claire Etcherelli, <em>Elise ou la vraie vie</em></td>
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<td>Jun. 10</td>
<td>Jacques Prévert, <em>Contes pour enfants pas sages</em></td>
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<td>Jun. 11</td>
<td>Le Subjonctif Présent, Les Conjonctions</td>
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<td>Jun. 12</td>
<td>Alain Robbe-Grillet, <em>Djinn</em></td>
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<td>Jun. 13</td>
<td>Journal <em>La Voix du Nord</em></td>
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<td>Jun. 14</td>
<td>Joseph Zobel, <em>Le Retour de Mamzelle Annette</em></td>
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<td>Jun. 15</td>
<td>Journal <em>Label France</em></td>
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<td>Jun. 18</td>
<td>Midterm exam, Le Conditionnel et le Futur</td>
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<td>Jun. 19</td>
<td>Le Discours Indirect, Les Pronoms Relatifs</td>
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<td>Jun. 20</td>
<td><em>André Malraux, La Condition humaine</em></td>
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<td>Jun. 21</td>
<td><em>Joseph Zobel, Le Retour de Mamzelle Annette</em></td>
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<td>Jun. 22</td>
<td>Journal <em>Label France</em></td>
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<td>Jun. 25</td>
<td><em>Alain Robbe-Grillet, Djinn</em></td>
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<td>Jun. 26</td>
<td>Journal <em>Le Nouvel Observateur</em></td>
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<td>Jun. 27</td>
<td><em>Final Exam</em></td>
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<td>Jul. 2</td>
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\(^1\)NYU’s “Policies and procedures for students studying away at a Global Academic Center”
Plagiarism

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.

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.

Your instructor

David Uhrig completed his PhD in French Literature at the University Paris 7-Diderot. He has recently published the early journalistic writings of the French literary theorist, Maurice Blanchot, in *Chroniques politiques des années trente*, Editions Gallimard, 2017, 560 pages. 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.

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2 NYU's Expository Writing Department's Statement on Plagiarism
3 NYU Statement on Plagiarism
4 NYU Statement on Plagiarism