

# NYU Paris

## FREN-UA 9105,

### Written Contemporary French

#### Instructor Information

- David Uhrig
- TBA

#### Course Information

- FREN-UA 9105-002
- 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. This syllabus may be subject to changes.
- 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, Tuesday and Thursday 1pm – 2:15pm in room 601

#### Course Overview and Goals

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

- parfaire leur maîtrise du français écrit pour suivre des cours de littérature, culture et civilisation,
- lire et comprendre les nuances des textes littéraires et des textes d'informations,
- organiser leurs idées en français pour les communiquer clairement,
- développer leur style et vocabulaire.
- employer les points de grammaire suivants: tous les temps et modes, la concordance des temps, les pronoms relatifs, les liens logiques, figures de style, etc.).

# 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.

## 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 October. 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:

| <b>Assignments/Activities</b>         | <b>% of Final Grade</b> |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Class participation                   | 10%                     |
| Written assignments + online homework | 15%                     |
| Compositions / essays or journal      | 20%                     |
| Quizzes                               | 15%                     |
| Midterm exam                          | 20%                     |
| Final exam                            | 20%                     |

## Letter Grades

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

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

## Course Schedule

| Week/Date        | Topic   |  |
|------------------|---|--|
| Sept. 3, 4, 6    | Présentation du cours - révision / approfondissement : Le Présent | <b>Peintres et peinture</b>                                  |
| Sept. 10, 11, 13 | Le Passé Composé  | <b>Albert Camus, <i>L'Étranger</i></b>                       |
| Sept. 17, 18, 20 | L'Imparfait   | <b>Jacques Prévert, <i>Contes pour enfants pas sages</i></b> |
| Sept. 24, 25, 27 | Le Plus-que-Parfait   | <b>Roger Vailland, <i>Un jeune homme seul</i></b>            |
| Oct. 1, 2, 4     | Le Passé simple et le Passé antérieur                             | <b>Claire Etcherelli, <i>Elise ou la vraie vie</i></b>       |
| Oct. 8, 9, 11    | Le Futur et le Futur Antérieur                                    | <b>Journal <i>Libération</i></b>                             |
| Oct. 15, 16, 18  | Le Conditionnel Présent et passé                                  | <b>André Malraux, <i>La Condition humaine</i></b>            |
| Oct. 22, 23, 25  | <b>Révisions + Midterm</b>  | <b>Midterm</b>   |
| Oct. 29, 30      | La négation   | <b>Journal <i>Regards</i></b>                                |
| Nov. 5, 6, 8, 9* | Les Pronoms Personnels  | <b>Communication publicitaire</b>                            |
| Nov. 12, 13, 15  | Les Pronoms Relatifs  | <b>Joseph Zobel, <i>Le Retour de Mamzelle Annette</i></b>    |
| Nov. 19, 20, 22  | Le Passif   | <b>Journal <i>La Voix du Nord</i></b>                        |
| Nov. 26, 27, 29  | Le Subjonctif Présent<br>Le Subjonctif Passé                      | <b>Alain Robbe-Grillet, <i>Djinn</i></b>                     |
| Dec. 3, 4, 6     | <b>Révisions</b>  | <b>Révisions</b>   |
| Dec. 10-13       | <b>Examen final</b>   | <b>Examen final</b>  |

# Course Materials

## Required Textbooks & Materials

- *French Grammar in Context*, 4<sup>th</sup> edition Margaret Jubb and Annie Rouxeville, Routledge, 2014 [ISBN 978-0-415-70668-1]
- 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
- Un petit carnet réservé à l'écriture libre et créative (journal!)
- Un cahier pour noter le vocabulaire et faire les exercices de grammaire

## 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](http://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](mailto: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.