

Syllabus is tentative and subject to change.

## **Intermediate French Conversation**

**FREN 203 001 /3 Credit hrs / Spring 2012**

Instructor: Alain Antoine (Monsieur Antoine)

Office hours: Monday 9:30-10:30pm; Tuesday 12:30-1:30 pm; Wednesday 9:30-10:30

Email: aantoine@unm.edu

Course Objectives: This class is designed to facilitate 200-level French language study through practice in speaking. While learning about different aspects of French and Francophone culture, students will also be asked to participate in discussion groups, perform skits, play games, lead debates, defend topics, present news reports, read and write scripts to be acted out: in brief, things that allow you to speak French as much - and as well - as possible.

### **Requirements:**

#### **- Attendance 20 % Final Grade**

In French 203, the regular attendance and active participation of each student are essential. Since the class is based on student interaction and group activities, your absence will be felt sorely. After 2 absences, your attendance grade will be lowered by 4% per class. Course policy: Regular tardiness is unacceptable and disrespectful to the class. Please contact me if you have serious reasons to come in late.

#### **- Participation 20 % Final Grade**

Listening is undoubtedly a valuable part of oral communication, but the process is only complete if you respond. While no one will be intentionally put on the spot, you are expected to speak French exclusively in this class. You have only a few hours per week to practice in a French-only environment, so you should take advantage of this time. Besides speaking French and doing oral presentations, participation includes any contributions students make during class-time. Participation also means having a positive attitude and showing enthusiasm during activities, as well as support for your classmates. Homework of various sorts will be assigned, and will help you prepare for participation in class (5%). In addition, students will give news or cultural reports.

#### **- News report or cultural report 25% Final Grade**

Students will search the French and/or Francophone media and give, in their own words, the summary of a news or any other story (weather, famous people, artistic events, political events, sports events, films, etc. Whatever you find of interest, but no vulgarity; approximately 1 or maximum 2 minute long). Two students will take turns presenting at every class and the topic chosen will be the subject of a short discussion. Thus, every student will do at least three reports in the semester. A sign up sheet for the first series will be circulated.

Students who report must prepare a vocabulary list (in French) of a few words or expressions they have learned in preparing their report (no fewer than 3, no more than 10), and be ready to explain/demonstrate (NOT IN ENGLISH!) what they mean. Any visual aid is welcome but not compulsory, the focus being on language. Email your topic (one sentence) to the whole class a 2 days before your report, and email me the vocabulary list. Everyone will be expected to learn this vocabulary after it's been explained/demonstrated in class.

### - Skits and Dramatizations 15% Final Grade

Individually or in groups, students will either write their own skit or find an existing script, and produce a short play for the greatest pleasure of all. 3 to 5 minutes. To be performed after Spring break between March 23. and April 13. Models from the theater of Molière and others will be shown and can be used.

### - Final Presentation 20% Final Grade

In the last week(s) of the semester, students, in pairs or individually will do a 10-minute (minimum) oral presentation on a preferred topic. The presentation will demonstrate your skills in communication and can cover a whole range of expression from strictly academic to creatively fanciful. Students must see me about their idea and submit a written version (typed) of the presentation at least a week before the day of the presentation. If you prefer, you can also tape your presentation and show it to the class on the projector. Video cameras are available in the lab. This final presentation should be well-rehearsed and delivered with as much ease as you can muster under these stressful conditions!

Extra-credit up to 3% (100 % Attendance / French Club activities / Movie reports)

Qualified students with disabilities needing appropriate academic adjustments should contact me as soon as possible to ensure that your needs are met in a timely manner.

This is a "skeleton" syllabus; I will flesh it out in the coming weeks with thematic options

### DATES

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18 janvier      Introductions -- Read syllabus -- Sign up sheet for reports  
20 janvier      Autoportrait --

23 janvier      Première série de rapports actualités (2 personnes)  
25 janvier      rapports actualités & culture  
27 janvier      rapports actualités & culture

30 janvier      rapports actualités & culture  
1 février      rapports actualités & culture  
3 février      rapports actualités & culture

6 février      rapports actualités & culture  
8 février      rapports actualités & culture  
10 février      rapports actualités & culture

13 février      rapports actualités & culture  
15 février      rapports actualités & culture  
17 février      rapports actualités & culture

20 février      Deuxième série de rapports actualités & culture

22 février	rappports actualités & culture	
24 février	rappports actualités & culture	
27 février	rappports actualités & culture	
29 février	rappports actualités & culture	
2 mars	rappports actualités & culture	START PREPARING YOUR SKITS
5 mars	rappports actualités & culture	
7 mars	rappports actualités & culture	SIGN UP FOR YOUR SKITS
9 mars	rappports actualités & culture	

#### SPRING RECESS

19 mars	rappports actualités & culture	
21 mars	rappports actualités & culture	
23 mars	rappports actualités & culture	FIRST SKITS OR SCENES DUE
26 mars	<u>Troisième série de rappports actualités &amp; culture</u>	
28 mars	rappports actualités & culture	
30 mars	rappports actualités & culture	
2 avril	rappports actualités & culture	
4 avril	rappports actualités & culture	
6 avril	rappports actualités & culture	START PREPARING YOUR FINAL PRESENTATION (10 minutes)
9 avril	rappports actualités & culture	
11 avril	rappports actualités & culture	
13 avril	rappports actualités & culture	LAST SKITS OR SCENES
16 avril	rappports actualités & culture	
18 avril	rappports actualités & culture	
20 avril	rappports actualités & culture	
23 avril		
25 avril		
27 avril		
30 avril	Les présentations orales finales	
2 mai	Les présentations orales finales	
4 mai	Les présentations orales finales	

