HU 171, Fall 1999
Introduction à la langue et à la culture françaises

M-T-W-F 11h-12h (Sec. 2, 127 Fisher)
Dr. Diane Shoos, 343 Walker, 487-3262/2540, dshoos@mtu.edu
Heures de bureau: MTWF 12-12:30 (ou prenez rendez-vous)

Texte: Parallèles: Communication et Culture, and Cahier d'Activités
Allen et Fouletier-Smith, Prentice Hall, 1995

COURSE OBJECTIVES:
This course is designed to help you begin your exploration of French and Francophone language and cultures. It is a four-skills course which entails practicing both passive (reading and listening) and active (writing and speaking) language skills. You will acquire the basic skills necessary to use French in both oral and written communication. By the end of the term, you will be able to greet people, discuss the weather, the calendar, your daily routines, and give and understand directions. You will also become acquainted with the various cultures, nationalities, ethnic and social groups that make up the French-speaking world. During this quarter (and beyond) you will make continuous use of a variety of sources: your text, workbook and tapes, the videos and CD-ROM's that are in the language lab (Walker 114), the Web, and the French news (broadcast nightly, 7pm, SCOLA). Please also consult the Parallèles web site at: http://www.lamc.utexas.edu/pi/

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:

1) Active participation and attendance is a must. You will best learn a language when you are exposed to it on a daily basis.
2) Come to class prepared. Class time will be devoted to practicing the materials you have read and studied at home. Read the Dossier once through before we begin it in class, finish any assigned writing or listening work, and read the "Contextes" sections carefully. Preparing questions about the Dossier and knowing what is coming will greatly facilitate learning the materials.
3) At least one hour per week (10 hrs./quarter) in the lab is required. (see below)

Attendance and Participation
Every day I will circulate a sign-up sheet during the first minutes of class. Make sure you get this sheet and sign it. If you don't, you will be considered absent for that day, even if "you were there but I did not see you." For every day of class, you will get one point for attendance and one for participation. If you are late or unprepared, or if you are not actively involved in class, you will lose the participation point for that day. If you are doing other work, you will lose both points for that day. Three unexcused absences during the quarter will result in your grade being lowered by a full increment (A becomes B, C becomes D, B becomes C, etc.) Active Participation points will be awarded daily based on your eagerness to ask as well as to answer questions, in English at first, and to do so in French as much as possible. It is very important to come to class prepared, with lessons completed and with homework assignments, compositions, labs, or other assigned work ready to turn in at the beginning of the class period. Attendance at showings of French films or viewing French news broadcasts or other French language offerings on TV is strongly encouraged. If you are absent, even with a reasonable excuse, participation points can not be awarded for that day.
Quizzes:
There will be a quiz given for every chapter (Dossier) that we cover this quarter (1-5). Each quiz will cover material from the previous two weeks’ class materials and may vary in length. There will be a listening comprehension exercise and a written part that will include a short composition. Because of the nature of foreign language learning, these quizzes represent cumulative control of grammar, vocabulary and cultural items, even though I may appear to be testing only one verb, noun or other form. Also, because each quiz is cumulative, because of the amount of other work required throughout the quarter and because it is expected that all in the class will continue pursuing proficiency in the French language and culture long after the end of this quarter, there will be no “final” exam.

Once at midterm and once at the end of the quarter you will also take a brief oral quiz in my office with a partner.

There will be no make-ups unless you have a documented and verifiable excuse for being absent on the day of the test.

Devoirs: Other Assignments
These will include the "En Directe" 1 and 2 from each chapter, and may include compositions and other assignments such as oral and written tasks given daily in class and homework, such as (but not limited to) dialogues to learn, say and/or write, group work, interviews, paragraphs, essay questions, exercises from the book, etc.)

These should be completed on a separate sheet of paper. Make sure to write all sentences out fully. Since no late or make-up work will be accepted as a matter of course, you are responsible for your assignments even in the case of absence; be prepared, communicate with your classmates about work missed, and notify me in advance or as soon as possible of any illness-related or other problems. Attendance at and active participation in each class period is very important.

Assignments are planned activities that I may occasionally modify in response to the individual student’s and to class needs.

Language Lab:
To give you additional, and needed, listening practice, to develop your listening comprehension, speaking skills and cultural understanding, you will work in the language lab (114 Walker) for at least 1 hour per week (10 hrs/qtr). While there, you may watch French videos, listen to the cassette tapes that accompany the units and lessons in your text, or consult the French CD-ROM resource materials. We also have computerized study modules available in the lab, as well as French films and access to MTU Cable, where you may watch French news broadcasts according to the SCOLA schedule posted. Your workbook has follow-along exercises for the lab in addition to the written exercises referred to below. Remember to log your lab time so that you will be credited for the time you spend there. Your name, my name and the course and section number (HU171-2) should appear on all lab log sheets.
Workbook:
The Cahier d'activités that accompanies your text should be worked through one lesson at a time as we complete that lesson in class. There may be a number of minor items in the text that we will not cover in detail during class, but these will be dealt with in the workbook. All exercises for each of the five chapters we will cover this quarter should be completed in a timely manner, and I will check completion bi-weekly in class. Please do not hesitate to ask questions in class or during my office hours about material that you find puzzling.

I will collect all workbooks on quiz days to check completion of exercises.

Grading for short written devoirs and for cahier/labo work will be a 10-5-0 format:
10 pts = completed with few errors (check +)
5 pts = partially done and/or multiple errors (check)
0 pts = mostly not done, not turned in on due day, illegible, etc. (check -)

YOUR GRADE (La Note):

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Attendance and Participation</th>
<th>30%</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Quizzes</td>
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<td>Oral exams (2)</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<td>Language Lab</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<td>Workbook</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Assignments</td>
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A = 93-100%    C = 73-77%
AB = 88-92%    CD = 68-72%
B = 83-87%    D = 60-67%
BC = 78-82%    F = 0-59%

NOTE:
(MTU complies with all federal and state laws and regulations regarding discrimination, including the Americans with Disability Act of 1990 (ADA). If you have a disability and need a reasonable accommodation for equal access to education or services at MTU, please call Dr. Gloria Melton, Associate Dean of Students, (2212). For other concerns about discrimination, you may contact your advisor, department head, or the Affirmative Action Office (3310).)

---This syllabus subject to change at any time for pedagogical and/or unexpected circumstances. You will be notified of such changes if they take place.---