HU 3262 Francophone Cultures from Africa to the Keweenaw (Spring 2005)

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Office hours: Wed. 12:00–1:00, Fri. 1:00–2:00, and by appointment

Meeting place: Walker 108  
Meeting time: MWF 2:05–2:55

REQUIRED READING:
Additional short required texts will be made available throughout the semester.  
*available online (linked to the HU 3262 WebCT website)

RECOMMENDED READING:
Ross Steele, *The French Way* (Passport Books)

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES:
This course is an introduction to Francophone cultures, with particular emphasis on Africa and the Americas. We will study and discuss historical developments, colonialism, literary texts, art, architecture, music, and popular culture. The course will address cultural issues of particular importance today, including national identity, language, immigration, post-colonialism and globalization. Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Demonstrate a basic understanding of the geography and history of France and former French colonies throughout the world, and relate historical events to attitudes and conditions today
- Describe a variety of literary and artistic achievements in the French and Francophone worlds, and place them within a larger cultural context
- Identify and discuss a number of important contemporary issues in French and/or Francophone societies, such as globalization, immigration, and social inequalities
- Discuss the basic components of the following cultural aspects of French and certain Francophone societies: education, family, food, health care, holidays, political parties, public spaces, urban organization

COURSE SCHEDULE OVERVIEW and EXAM DATES:
Unit I (wks 1-2; France and French Colonialism) Monday, January 24  
Unit II (wks 3-6; Algeria and the Maghreb, Senegal and West Africa) Friday, February 18  
Unit III (wks 7-8; the Caribbean and Louisiana) Friday, March 4  
Unit IV (wks 9-11; Quebec and Michigan) Friday, April 1

FINAL PROJECT PAPER DUE:
Friday, April 22
GRADING CRITERIA and DESCRIPTIONS:
Exams 30%
Quizzes and critical responses 20%
Attendance and participation 20%
Final Project 30%

The final grade will be calculated according to the following scale:
A = 93-100 %  AB = 88-92%  B = 83-87%  BC = 78-82%  C = 73-77%  CD = 68-72%  D = 60-67%  F = 0-59%

EXAMS:
See the exam dates above. Exams will cover readings, lectures, class discussions, and other class activities such as videos and presentations.

QUIZZES and CRITICAL RESPONSES:
Quizzes will be given on an unannounced basis. Critical responses will be assigned as homework. They will each be based on a reading assignment or other class activity. They should be at least one double-spaced typed page (one-inch margins) in length. The aim of the Critical Response is dual: first, summarize the main points the author is making. Then, evaluate and respond to what you read. What interested you? What did you find difficult to understand? What more would you like to know about this topic? Be as specific as possible. Critical Responses are due at the beginning of class. NO Critical Responses will be accepted late. The 2 lowest quiz/critical response grades will be dropped.

ATTENDANCE and PARTICIPATION:
Attendance: Because success in this course is based on the interaction between class participants, unexcused absences will lower your grade. Three (3) unexcused absences are allowed, after which your Participation Grade will be lowered by 5% for each unexcused absence. There is a strict NO MAKE-UP policy for assigned work, including homework, quizzes, and exams. A grade of zero will be given for any such missed work. Excused absences (such as those resulting from an official MTU activity) must be documented in advance, and work, including exams, must be completed before the anticipated absence. In the event of an unforeseen emergency or serious illness, it is your responsibility to contact the instructor promptly, and to supply adequate documentation.
Participation: Participation includes attendance and promptness, preparation, and active involvement in class activities. Additionally, all students are required to contribute to the HU 3262 WebCT online discussion at least ONCE PER WEEK. (More details on using WebCT will be given in class.)

FINAL PROJECT:
Each student will complete a final project on some aspect of Francophone culture of particular interest to that student. The project will comprise both a written 8–10 page research paper and a class presentation. Students will submit a topic, then an outline, followed by a draft. Feedback will be provided on each of these stages of the project. Turning in these materials on time will determine a portion of the final project grade, as will students’ presence and feedback during all final project presentations in class. Further details about the final project will be provided in class.

NOTE:
MTU complies with all federal and state laws and regulations regarding discrimination, including the Americans with Disabilities 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, 487-2212. For other concerns about discrimination, you may contact your advisor, department chair, or the Affirmative Action Office (487-3310).

⇒ This syllabus is subject to modification at the discretion of the instructor, in response to student needs and abilities. ⇐