Bienvenue à…

HU2271 Level IA: French Language and Culture
Summer 2007 (MTWR, 11:05 a.m. – 12:20 p.m., Fisher 125)

Professeur: Michèle E. Anderson, Ph.D.
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Bureau: Walker 341 Office hours: M, 12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.; W, 10:00 a.m. – 10:50 a.m. (tentative) and by appointment
Email: mieander@mtu.edu (or: andersm2@sbcglobal.net)

[Please feel free to contact me by Email. I check my Email often. For a prompt response, send your message to both of my email addresses.]

Note: This first-semester, first-year course is for students who have not studied French before or who did not receive a placement score allowing them to take the second semester of this course or higher. If you feel you can handle a higher level of French for any reason, please see the instructor at the end of the second day of class or sooner. If you complete a higher level of French, such as HU2272, and receive at least a grade of C, you may receive placement credits for this course; thus, it is to your advantage to enroll in the higher-level course if you can. Please note, however, that the higher levels are not being offered in the summer at present.

Required Texts:


Mais oui! 3rd Edition. Workbook, Laboratory and Video Manual. Lab CDs and video for the Workbook assignments are available in the Language Lab, Walker 114. These are different from the student CD that comes with the book.

Your package should come with a supplementary Multi-media CD for extra practice (games, etc., not required, but try them out) and a dictionary. This Multi-media CD also has the video.

Note: The College Bookshelf on Shelden Ave. in Houghton may still have the books you need. There has been a slight delay in the order of these books in the Campus Bookstore, but they should arrive Monday, May 14, or Tues., May 15. There are a few copies of a substitute MAIS OUI text available (both text and workbook in one book) in the Campus Bookstore. I will explain this on the first day of class.

Course Description: Introduction to basic French grammar, vocabulary, and idioms designed to acquaint students with the minimum essentials of oral and written French and with various aspects of contemporary French-speaking cultures. This course will help you develop listening, speaking, reading and writing skills in French, while exploring Francophone cultures through authentic listening and reading materials. The communicative approach helps you think in French and develop strategies for real-life situations. Cultural and literary readings, as well as video clips, will challenge your critical thinking skills and offer insights into the Francophone world.

Course Objectives: The text and materials for the course emphasize a communicative approach, which encourages listening and speaking in practical conversational situations. Reading, writing, culture and basic grammar are also important elements of this course. By the end of the semester, you should be able to greet people; discuss the weather, the calendar, your daily routines, classes and university life; give and
understand directions; and order something to eat and drink in a café or restaurant. You should be able to ask questions and talk about the near future and events in the past. You should also be able to talk and write about some basic aspects of Francophone cultures. Make use of the audio and video resources in the lab (Walker 114) and on the Web. Visit the Mais Oui! web site: http://www.hmco.com/college/.

**Qu’est-ce qu’il faut faire? (What do you have to do?)**

Language learning is a challenging and rewarding experience! The keys to success are discipline, curiosity, open-mindedness, humor, the willingness to take risks, and above all, continuous practice. Since this summer class must cover a whole semester’s work in 7 weeks, be prepared to set aside **8 to 10 hours per week for study outside of class**, in addition to lab assignments. This will be a small class, so you will have the advantage of additional practice in class. I expect to be able to individualize the class more than usual, so come to my office during the first or second week and let me know how I can help you get the most from the class. I also plan to help students individually with pronunciation through lab recordings, should they need this. If you are especially interested in reading French, let me know.

Additionally, you are expected to:

- Attend regularly and participate actively in class. Try to speak French as much as possible, but don’t be afraid to ask a question. Others may benefit from your question.
- Come prepared to class. **Advance preparation** is the only way we can cover the material in the time allowed and make the best use of class time.
- Bring textbook, workbook, notebook for vocabulary and grammar, paper, pen, pencil to class every day. Bringing the dictionary is up to you. The text has a glossary of basic vocabulary in the back. For compositions I recommend you use a large dictionary in the library or lab.
- Keep up with your workbook and other homework and lab assignments, which are designed to reinforce the work we are doing in class. It is hard to catch up if you let yourself fall behind in a foreign language. Some of these may be optional so check the Web CT calendar for specific assignments. **Take advantage of grammar helps and mini-quizzes on the Web CT.**
- Be prepared to do work in groups, role-play, and give brief presentations in class.
- If you need extra help with assignments Email or visit the instructor, and/or visit the Language Lab. The lab assistant is available for free tutoring during lab hours. We have recruited a student who is advanced in French to work in the lab just for you this summer. Hours will be announced. If possible do 20-30 minutes of listening/speaking exercises with the Student CD or the lab CD each day rather than a long session all at once on only one day, or take a break after 30 minutes. You will have better concentration this way.
- Follow proper classroom etiquette as per MTU student handbook. Please keep cell phones turned off. No food, drink or gum allowed in class, unless you have a medical warrant. [Chewing gum will make it harder for you to pronounce French correctly!].

**Course Evaluation:**

25% Attendance and oral participation  
40% Chapter tests and quizzes  
25% Homework (including workbook)  
10% Oral exams and presentations

Grades will be assigned according to the following scale:

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A note on attendance, participation and preparation:
Since this class is rather intensive, daily attendance and participation are required and necessary for success in the 7-week term. Try to get to know at least one person in the class whom you can call on the phone for speaking practice or with whom you can practice dialogue situations outside of class. Try not to miss any classes. Your grade will be seriously affected if you miss class without an official excuse (a doctor’s note, an instructor’s note, or a note or email from the Dean of Students). THERE ARE NO MAKE-UPS FOR MISSED QUIZZES OR EXAMS when your absence is unexcused. If you know that you will be away or will miss class (with a good excuse), it is your responsibility to inform me IN ADVANCE and to complete the required assignments. Unexcused absences are grounds for failure in class participation. If, for an extreme reason, you do not wish to be called on in class, let me know before the class so I can give you partial credit for passive participation (It is better to attend and at least listen than to cut the class for lack of preparation.) Otherwise I make an effort to call on every student. If you consistently arrive late for class, you will lose participation credit.

French is spoken in the classroom. This also applies to group activities. My expectation is that, when called upon for a response in class, you will have prepared the assignments and readings for that day and can make a reasonably good attempt at response in French. Do not be afraid to make mistakes; taking the “risk” in language is all-important.

Advance preparation and WEB CT
Advance preparation BEFORE and OUTSIDE of class are important to participation IN class. Access the WEB CT by going to www.mtu.edu and then type in the URL: courses.mtu.edu. Log in with your husky mail username and password. Look at the calendar of assignments on the WEB CT and prepare the pages for that day in advance. Click on the date to go to the assignment. This does not mean you are expected to master material before it has been presented in class, but you should familiar with the lesson we are going to do that day. Read through it and try a few items in at least some of the textbook exercises. Then, when the material is presented, you should be able to grasp it more quickly. The video, lab audio, student CD and reading materials should help you expand your vocabulary and cultural knowledge. Try the Mais Oui Web site and the multi-media CD for extra practice and variety. Take advantage of grammar helps and self-correcting mini-quizzes on the Web CT. Check your MTU email daily for messages on updates. (You can also compile Web CT calendar entries and print off the assignments for a specific time period.)

Cahier de vocabulaire
Keep a vocabulary notebook with all the new words you learn. You may wish to have a separate notebook or a separate section for verb conjugations. Add a little to it each day and use the notebook to quiz yourself on meanings and conjugations. If you like to draw cartoons or add photos or pictures to the notebook, labeled in French, this is a good way to avoid English translation and think in French. Bring the notebook to class. *J’aime admirer les cahiers de vocabulaire!*

Devoirs (Assignments)
Hand in assignments on time to be sure you receive feedback before the tests. Due dates are meant to help you do some French every day so that you may absorb it more easily. Don’t try to do all assignments the night before a test. Please do all assignments, quizzes and tests in blue or black ink. You may need a pencil occasionally to make corrections during class. Accents count as part of spelling. Textbook assignments should all be done in ink on lined paper, using both sides but skipping lines and leaving margins where appropriate.
Revisions
You may not realize it right away, but by the end of the course you will see that REVISION helps you avoid making the same errors in the future. Homework grades – Excellent (++), très bien (+), and a check (OK) – are self-explanatory. If your paper is marked with NC (unsatisfactory/no credit), the assignment must be revised. You may also revise any other assignments if it helps you. Definitely do corrections on tests (if you have less than an A) and hand these in with the test as soon as possible. All major tests should be returned to the instructor. For tests and sentence or paragraph exercises, write your corrections in ink on a separate sheet of paper and hand in with the original paper. Submit your assignments and/or revisions at the beginning of class unless I say we will go over it in class. In that case, hand it in at the end of class. Also, please do not ask, “Do I have any missing assignments?” It is your responsibility to keep on target with assignments (by following calendar of assignments, being attentive in class, or following up on our list-serv communication by Email.) DO contact me if you need help with any assignment or if you need to re-negotiate a deadline. (Credit is given for your revisions/corrections. This can sometimes make a difference: if your grade is borderline, and you have consistently done corrections, you will receive the higher grade or extra homework points.)

Language Lab
The Language Lab is located in Walker 114 (Turn left from front entrance and take the left hallway on the first floor, first room on right. Please be patient with the remodeling in Walker this summer.) Consult with the coaches on duty there to acquaint you with lab procedures so you can receive lab credit. Lab exercises will help you prepare for oral presentations and for quizzes and tests. Lab hours should be posted on the door of the Lab. I will also post them on the Web CT. Please note: You are automatically charged a lab fee upon registration for a language class! Put this money to good use by taking full advantage of the equipment and varied materials, including audio tapes, videos, French TV, and computer software.

NOTES:
If you face circumstances that could affect your performance in this class, please see me ASAP so that we can make appropriate re-arrangements.
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 reasonable accommodation for equal access to education or services at MTU, please call the Office of Student Affairs at 487-2212. For all other concerns about discrimination, you may contact your advisor, department chair, or the Affirmative Action Office at 487-3310.
The syllabus and course schedule may be revised during the semester to accommodate the needs of either the students or the instructor.