HU2272  Level IB French Language and Culture  
Spring 2007 (MWF, 10:05 a.m. – 10:55 a.m., Fisher 125) 

Professeur: Michèle E. Anderson, Ph.D.  
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[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 second-semester, first-year course is the continuation of HU 2271. You should have 
completed HU 2271 or placed into this course with a satisfactory score on the placement exam. 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 HU 3271, and receive at least a 
grade of C, you may receive placement credits for this course and possibly for HU 2271 if you haven’t 
taken it yet; thus, it is to your advantage to enroll in the higher-level course if you can. Depending on the 
degree requirements of your major, such placement credit may count as free elective credit. If you are 
taking UN 1003, World Cultures along with French, see the Web site at www.hu.mtu.edu/~kbschlen. 

Required Texts:  
Mais oui! 3rd Edition. Thompson and Phillips. Student Text with student CD. This is the latest edition of the 
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. 

Course Description: Introduction to basic French grammar, vocabulary, and idioms designed to 
aquaint students with the minimum essentials of oral and written French and with various aspects of 
contemporary French-speaking cultures. This course will help you continue to 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: Reading, writing, culture and basic grammar are important elements of this 
course. By the end of the semester, you should be able to form simple and complex sentences and 
questions (oral and written) for a variety of situations and topics, building on what you have already 
learned – such as inviting and responding to invitations; asking for information; making suggestions and 
giving advice; talking about the present, past and future; talking about travel and friendships; expressing 
thanks and good wishes; giving and responding to compliments; expressing obligation, regret, opinions 
and desires. 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. Be
prepared to set aside 6 to 9 hours per week for study outside of class, in addition to lab assignments.

In order to succeed in the course make your best effort to do the following:

- 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 and a dictionary, if you have one, to class every day.
- Keep up with your course assignments 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.
- 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. Some of the lab assistants are available for free tutoring during lab hours. Try to visit the lab during their work hours to benefit from this. Postings in the lab indicate the hours of assistants who know French. Be respectful and supportive of one another.
- 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 meets only three times a week, the in-class listening and speaking practice in French are very important for learning the language. In addition, **at least one hour of lab is required per week**. 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 (a study partner). **Try not to miss any classes. Your grade will be seriously affected if you miss more than three classes without an official excuse** (a doctor’s note, an instructor’s note, or a note 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.

**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 BEFORE and OUTSIDE of class are important to participation IN class. Look at the programme (A calendar of assignments will be posted on Web CT) and prepare the pages for that day in advance.** 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. Do any required exercises and try a few items in at least some of the other textbook exercises. Then, when the material is presented, you should be able to grasp it more quickly.

Try to attend the Café français (Campus Café, Wadsworth Hall) for extra listening and speaking practice with students from other classes and native speakers of French. Even if you can only stop by for part of the hour, please come and share some conversation and perhaps a snack – or just listen. Times will be announced in class.

**Cahier de vocabulaire**

Keep a vocabulary notebook with all the new words you learn. You may wish to have a separate section for verb conjugations and grammar notes. 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 in blue or black ink. Accents count as part of spelling. 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. *Textbook assignments should all be done in ink on lined paper, using both sides but skipping lines and leaving margins where appropriate.*

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.* 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. *DO contact me if you need help with any assignment or if you need to re-negotiate a deadline.*

**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. Lab exercises will help you prepare for oral presentations and tests. *Lab hours are posted on the door of the Lab.* Monitors and “Coaches” (tutors) will be available to help you. A chart on the wall of the lab should indicate at what times a French-speaking student is working. Try to do your lab work at that time and practice French whenever possible. *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 Dr. Gloria Melton, Dean of Students, 487-2212. For other concerns about discrimination, you may contact your advisor, department chair, or the Affirmative Action Office (487-3310).

The syllabus and course schedule may be revised during the semester to accommodate the needs of either the students or the instructor.