
Dr. Michèle Anderson
mieander@mtu.edu or andersm2@sbcglobal.net

Course location: Fisher 127
Course meets: MWF, 1:05 p.m. – 1:55 p.m.

Office: Walker 341
Office phone: 487-3260 Home phone: 483-0822
Dept. secretary phone: 487-2540
Office Hours: MWF 11:05 a.m. - Noon and by appointment

REQUIRED TEXTS:
Personnages, 3rd edition, Oates and Dubois, Houghton Mifflin, 2003

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND GOALS:
This is an intermediate-level course designed to reinforce proficiency in French grammar and vocabulary, and to build knowledge about French and Francophone cultures through literary readings and other activities. The course aims to refine communicative competence in all four skill areas (listening, speaking, reading and writing in French). In-class activities focus on active language use, which involves interacting meaningfully with other class participants and developing communicative strategies. The cultural and literary component of the course centers on the following regions: France, Québec, Tahiti, the Maghreb (North Africa).

GRADING:
Attendance and Participation, Lab 25%
Written Exams 40%
Oral exam and oral presentations 5%
Homework (20%), Compositions (10%) 30%

University Grading 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 %

ATTENDANCE:
Regular attendance and participation are essential for success in this course. Because class activities are based on the interaction between class participants, you are expected to attend all class meetings.
Three (3) unexcused absences are allowed, after which your Participation Grade will be lowered for each unexcused absence. Excused absences (such as those resulting from an official MTU activity) must be documented in advance (a note from another instructor or coach, a doctor’s note, etc.); and work, including exams, must be completed by a deadline given by the instructor. In the event of an unforeseen emergency or serious illness, it is your responsibility to contact your instructor promptly and to supply adequate documentation.

CLASS PARTICIPATION:
Participation includes attendance and promptness, preparation, and involvement in conversations, skits, role-playing and other in-class activities designed to help you make progress. (Please see above section on Attendance.) The class will be conducted in French, but do not be afraid to make mistakes in speaking French. Taking the “risk” in language is all-important. Occasionally you may need to ask a grammar question in English if necessary, but try to get in the habit of asking questions in French. Advance preparation BEFORE and OUTSIDE of class are important to participation IN class. Look at the programme (A calendar of assignments 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 due that
day and try some of the oral exercises, study the grammar structures and put new vocabulary and verb conjugations in a vocabulary notebook. *Then, when the material is presented, you should be able to grasp it more quickly. You are also strongly encouraged to participate in the French conversation group, "Le Café français." The time and place 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. 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. L’aime admirer les cahiers de vocabulaire!

WRITTEN EXAMS:
Chapter exams will be given after each unit of the course (see Web CT Calendar). The exams are achievement tests, enabling you to demonstrate the skills and information you have learned in each unit of the course. Each exam normally covers a chapter from Personnages, all cultural material discussed or assigned in class, and content of lab work.

ORAL EXAMS and PRESENTATIONS:
In addition to ongoing informal assessments of your speaking skills in French, oral exams will be administered. These exams will take the form of in-class individual or small group presentations or skits and at least one formal oral exam in the instructor’s office, including interviews and a dialogue situation.

HOMEWORK AND COMPOSITIONS:
Homework includes assignments from our textbook and/or workbook as well as other short writing assignments. Homework assignments will be checked or collected, on an unannounced basis, at the beginning of the class period unless the instructor announces otherwise. Compositions will provide an opportunity to use creatively skills you have learned. Please hand in assignments on due dates.

LAB:
In order to develop all four language skills, we will be using a variety of multimedia tools, including lab cassettes or CDs, videos, CD-ROMs, and websites. These include the CD program, Système D, which has an electronic dictionary, verb conjugations and other helps for writing compositions. It is installed on at least one of the lab computers. You are required to spend a minimum of ONE HOUR per week using such resources in the Language Lab (Walker 114). You will use log sheets to record your hours.

A note on the Placement Test: If you have not completed HU2272 (French IB) or the equivalent, e.g., if you are taking this course after 3 or 4 years of high school French, be sure you have taken the placement test. If you placed into this course immediately after high school, you may be eligible for free credits for previous work as long as you earn at least a C in this course. Contact Dr. Heidi Bostic, hibostic@mtu.edu if you need to take the placement test, which is now available online.

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, 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.