FRENCH I-A: HU 2271
Introduction à la langue française et à la culture francophone

Fall 2007
Walker 116
MWF 10:05-10:55 section R01
11:05-11:55 section R02
Dr. Diane Shoos
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Off. Hrs.: M & W 3:05-4
F 12:05-1
Other hours by appt.

CLASS MATERIALS: Mais oui! 3rd edition, Thompson and Phillips
In-text audio CD & multimedia CD-ROM
Workbook, Lab and Video Manual

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course provides an introduction to basic French grammar,
vocabulary, and idioms in order to acquaint students with the minimum essentials of oral and
written French and with various aspects of 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.

COURSE OBJECTIVES: The text and materials for this course use a communicative approach
that encourages you to start thinking in French and develop strategies for real-life situations. By
the end of the term, you will be able to:

• count in French
• identify and describe yourself and others and discuss where people are from
• identify family members and their relationships
• ask about people’s ages and physical characteristics
• talk about leisure activities
• inquire about and discuss lodging options
• use the telephone in French
• ask for, give, and receive street directions
• talk about future plans
• talk about studies and schedules
• express personal reactions
• talk about food and know what to say in a restaurant
• talk about what happened in the past
• describe the weather
• talk about your favorite pastimes in the present and in the past
• extend, accept and decline invitations

You will also become acquainted with the various cultures, nationalities, ethnic and social
groups that make up the French-speaking world.

During this term you will make extensive use of a variety of sources: your text, in-text
audio CD, and workbook and lab tapes; supplementary material provided by me in class; and the
dvds and videos, CD-ROM’s and other materials that are in the language lab (Walker 114).
Please also consult the Mais oui! web site:
www.hmco.com/languages/french/thompson/maisoui/3e/students/index/html
At the website you will find vocabulary and grammar activities, flashcards, practice tests, and links to cultural resource materials.

**STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES**

**Attendance and Participation**
If you must be absent because of illness, personal or family emergency, or a plant trip, interview or other official MTU business, please notify me in person or by email in advance or as soon as possible so that I may communicate directly with you about class activities and assignments. *Absences for reasons other than these are generally considered unexcused, but you should always discuss your absence with me.*

**Three (3) unexcused absences are allowed. Your final participation grade will be lowered by 5% for each additional unexcused absence.**

In addition to attending regularly, I ask that you come to class on time and prepared, i.e. with assigned pages read in advance and assignments complete, written out on a separate sheet of paper, and ready to use in class and/or to turn in. I also ask that you engage actively in class by answering or asking questions in French as much as possible and by volunteering during class activities, written and spoken. *Language learning involves taking risks and learning by making errors. The effort you demonstrate on a daily basis will be directly reflected in your participation grade for the course.*

Please, no food, gum or drink in class, and please keep your cell phone turned off.

**Unit Quizzes**
There will be a quiz at the end of every 1-2 chapters that we complete this term, for a total of 4 quizzes. Each quiz will include a listening comprehension exercise and a written section that incorporates a short composition. Although they may vary slightly in length, quizzes will typically require the full class period to complete. *Tentative dates of quizzes are on p. 3.*

**Because each quiz is already cumulative, there will be no final exam in this class.**

**Oral Quizzes:** Once at midterm and once at the end of the term you will also take a 15 minute oral quiz in my office with a partner so that I may track your progress in oral French and make more extensive individual recommendations

**Assignments**
Each Friday during class I will hand out a sheet listing assignments to be completed for class days the following week. Assignments will include the “A L’Écoute” and pronunciation exercises from your text (both found on the in-text CD), other exercises from the text; questions to write or answer, dialogues to learn, say and/or write; short compositions, exercises from the workbook, etc.

Written assignments should be completed on a separate sheet of paper. Please make sure to write all sentences out fully and if at all possible with a word processor. *In general, no extensions will be given for homework assignments except in cases of excused absences.*
Workbook/Laboratory Manual/Video Manual

The "étapes" or chapters in the first two sections of the “cahier” that accompanies your text—labeled the “Workbook” and “Laboratory Manual”—are standing assignments to be completed as assigned or independently as we work through each chapter. The tapes for the lab manual exercises are available only in the lab, i.e., these exercises are NOT on your student CD.

**I will collect workbook chapters no later than the class before the quiz.
**I will collect lab manual chapters the day of the quiz itself.
***Incomplete workbook and lab manual chapters will not be accepted.

If you prefer not to tear pages out of your cahier, please make a photocopy to hand in.
Workbook and lab pages should be stapled in separate sections and labeled with your name.

Grading for workbook/lab work and other short homework:
check + = complete with few errors
check = complete but with multiple errors
check - = many errors, not turned in on due day, illegible, etc.

We will screen the video and complete the exercises in the 3rd section of the cahier, the Video Manual, together in class.

Language Lab Requirement

To give you listening practice outside of class and to develop your speaking skills and cultural understanding, you are expected to work in the language lab (114 Walker) for at least 1 hour per week. While there you may do a variety of listening activities, including completing the lab exercises for the chapter or watching the video that accompanies your text. We also have computerized study modules available, as well as French films and access to MTU Cable, where you may watch French news broadcasts according to the SCOLA schedule posted. Remember to record your lab time and activity on the log sheets and turn them in at the lab so that you will be credited for the time you spend there. Your name, my name and the course and section number (HU 2271, section 1) should appear on all lab log sheets. I recommend that you make a duplicate copy of your log sheet for yourself so that you have your own record of your hours.

Although lab videos may not leave the lab, students may also get lab credit for watching subtitled French films that they screen on their own outside of the lab. Attendance at the weekly Café français (date, time and location t.b.a.) may also count towards lab time. Be sure to turn in a log sheet in the language lab in order to get credit for either of these activities.
QUIZ DATES (tentative)
Friday 9/28: Preliminary Chapter & Chapter 1
Monday 10/22: Chapter 2 & pp. 88-103 Chapter 3
Wednesday 11/14: pp. 104-127 Chapter 3 & Chapter 4
Friday 12/14: Chapters 5 & 6

GRADE COMPONENTS:
Attendance & Participation 20%
Unit Quizzes 40%
Oral exams (2) 10%
Workbook/Lab/Homework 20%
Lab Attendance 10%

GRADE SCALE:
A 93-100%  C  73-77%
AB 88-92%  CD  68-72%
B 83-87%  D  60-67%
BC 78-82%  F  0-59%

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

**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, Dean of Students, (2212). For other concerns about discrimination, you may contact your advisor, department head, or the Affirmative Action Office (3310).

Assignment for Friday, 9/7:
1. Re-read course introduction and write down any questions that you have
3. “A L’Ecoute” p. 3, Ex. 1-6 (in-text CD)
4. Read “Greetings, introductions & basic courtesy” and “Notes culturelles” pp. 4 &7; Complete Ex. A & B pp. 6-7