HU 3271: Level II-A French Language, Literature and Culture (Autumn 2009)

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Course location: Walker 109  
Course meeting time: 11:05-12:20 TR  
Office Hours: Mondays and Wednesdays 3-4pm and by appointment

REQUIRED TEXTS:
Personnages: Cahier d'Activités

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, Algeria, Morocco, and Tunisia. Your professor is committed to your success in this course! You are encouraged to meet with her during office hours or at another mutually convenient time for extra help or to assess your progress in the course. Office hours are times when I am always available to meet with students, so please feel free to take advantage of them and stop by to talk to me. If you have any questions, or if there is something that I could do that would help you learn, please ask or make a suggestion.

PREREQUISITE COURSE: HU2272 or Language Placement: French II.

GRADING:
Written Exams (5 exams, one after each chapter) 40%  
Homework 20%  
Attendance, Participation 20%  
Compositions 10%  
Oral Exams and Skits 10%

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%

WRITTEN EXAMS:  
Chapter exams will be given after each unit of the course (see Exam Dates in the schedule below). The exams are achievement tests, allowing you to demonstrate the skills that you have learned in each unit of the course. Each exam normally covers a chapter from Personnages, all cultural material assigned or discussed in class, and all assigned readings from Personnages and Diversité.

ORAL EXAMS AND SKITS:  
In addition to ongoing informal assessments of your speaking skills in French, oral exams will be administered. These exams will take the form of conversation exams with a partner in my office at mid-semester. You will also perform skits in small groups for the class near the end of the semester. These oral activities are opportunities for you to work with your classmates, practice your oral skills in French, and come up with a creative way to synthesize what you are learning about culture, language, and literature. The skits must teach the class something about French language, literature, or culture. They may be inspired by something that you have learned in class; you may also select a topic that you want to learn more about on your own.
HOMEWORK:
Completing all assignments and active class participation is crucial for success in this course. Homework includes assignments from our textbook and workbook, review sheets and other handouts, and short writing assignments. Homework assignments will be checked or collected, on an unannounced basis, at the BEGINNING of the class period only. They will be graded based on completion (Credit/No Credit, with partial credit given for work that is partially completed.) Please do the short writing assignments from Personnages or Diversité on a separate sheet of paper, since I may want to collect them. The workbook exercises may be written in the workbook. Grammar exercises in Personnages may either be written in your textbook or on a separate sheet of paper. For assignments that are only checked but not collected, please let me know if you have questions or would like more feedback. (We will usually correct most of the exercises in class so that you can have immediate feedback on your work.) If more handouts or short assignments would be beneficial for you, let me know. NO LATE HOMEWORK WILL BE ACCEPTED.

COMPOSITIONS:
Compositions provide an opportunity to use skills that you have learned in a creative way. These are formal writing assignments which must be typed and double spaced. You will have the opportunity to revise your compositions to improve your work after receiving feedback from your professor. If you have any questions about homework, compositions, exams, or skits, I encourage you to ask them in class or during my office hours. NO LATE COMPOSITIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED.

ATTENDANCE:
Because success in this course is based on the interaction between class participants, you are expected to attend all class meetings. You will earn a participation grade for each day that you attend class. Two (2) absences are allowed, after which you will receive a zero for each day that you are absent. If you miss class, you are responsible for completing any work that is due that day and submitting it on time. You are also responsible for finding out about any homework, compositions, or oral exams that may have been assigned and explained in class that day, and completing this work on time. If you are not in class on the day that I return the first draft of your composition, you are responsible for making sure that you have the draft in time to complete the final version with the benefit of my feedback. Please exchange contact information with at least two students in this class, so that you can get in touch with someone if you miss class. There is a strict NO MAKE-UP policy for all assigned work, including in-class activities, homework, compositions, 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 all work must be completed prior to the anticipated absence. In the event of an unforeseen emergency or serious illness, it is your responsibility to contact your instructor promptly, and to supply adequate documentation to the Office of Student Affairs (Administration Building 170).

CLASS PARTICIPATION:
Participation includes attendance and promptness, preparation, and involvement in conversations, skits, role-playing and other in-class activities designed to assess that you are maintaining appropriate progress. (Please see above section on Attendance.) In order to earn a good class participation grade, you need to come to class on time every day, be prepared, participate enthusiastically in all of the activities, and speak French in class. Your class participation grade will reflect both class attendance and your active contribution to the class. Class attendance, preparation, participation, and completing all assignments on time are essential for success in this course.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR ADDITIONAL PRACTICE: LAB AND CAFÉ FRANÇAIS:
In order to develop all four language skills, you are encouraged to spend at least ONE HOUR per week using resources in the language lab (Walker 114). You may work with consultants in the lab to practice French conversation, watch videos, listen to CDs, consult websites, etc. In addition, you are encouraged to participate regularly in the French conversation group, “Le Café Français.” Students who are interested in meeting regularly for informal conversation should let me know so that we can find a time for “Café français.” Neither the lab nor the conversation group is required for this class; these are opportunities for you to get more practice.
ACADEMIC INTEGRITY: MTU’s Academic Integrity Policy defines plagiarism as “knowingly copying another’s work and calling it one’s own or not giving proper credit or citation.” The penalties for plagiarism and other forms of cheating range from a warning to a failing grade to expulsion from the University. Students who have any questions about the issue should consult their instructor or a coach in the Writing Center.

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).

EMPLOI DU TEMPS (provisoire) [Tentative schedule]

Semaines 1 à 3 [du 1er au 17 septembre]
Personnages chapitre préliminaire & chapitre 1 PARIS
EXAMEN: jeudi le 17 septembre

Semaines 4 à 6 [du 22 septembre au 8 octobre]
Personnages chapitre 2 LE QUÉBEC
EXAMEN: jeudi le 8 octobre

Semaines 7 à 9 [du 13 octobre au 22 octobre]
Personnages chapitre 3 TAHITI
EXAMEN: jeudi le 22 octobre

Semaines 9 à 11 [du 27 octobre au 10 novembre]
Personnages chapitre 4 LYON
EXAMEN: mardi le 10 novembre

Semaines 11 à 12 [du 12 novembre au 19 novembre]
Personnages chapitre 5 LE MAGHREB

Vacances (Fête de l’Action de Grâce) du 23 novembre au 29 novembre.

Semaine 13 [du 30 novembre au 3 décembre]
Personnages chapitre 5 LE MAGHREB
EXAMEN: jeudi le 3 décembre

Semaine 14 [du 8 au 10 décembre]: La dernière semaine du cours, vous allez préparer et présenter vos sketches en classe. Il n’y aura pas d’examen écrit final.

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