HU 2271: Level 1-A French Language and Culture

Fall 2010
Course Location: Fisher 125/Walker 116
Course Meeting Time: MWF 4:05-4:55

Dr. Melanie Barbier
Office: 332 Walker
Office phone: 7-3252
mlhiltun@mtu.edu
Office Hrs: Tuesday 11-12
and by appointment


COURSE DESCRIPTION AND GOALS:

This course is designed to develop basic proficiency in speaking, listening, reading and writing French, as well as to foster knowledge of French and Francophone cultures. We will also place special emphasis on the beginnings of conversational French. The course focuses on active language use, which involves interacting with me and your classmates to develop communicative strategies.

By the end of the course, with reasonable effort, you will be able to:
- Handle routine situations of concrete personal and social nature; supplying information about yourself and others
- Get necessary information by asking questions about people and things
- Navigate a simple survival situation such as ordering food
- Compose phrases and dialogue using learned elements of the French language

During this term you will make use of a variety of Materials: 1) textbook; 2) student audio CD; 3) online workbook and lab manual; 4) DVDs and videos; 5) Materials found in the language lab; 6) Mais Oui student website:
http://college.cengage.com/languages/french/thompson/maison/4e/student_home.html
7) in class materials provided by me.

Learning a language takes concentrated time and effort! I recommend that you spend at least one hour per day working on the assignments for this class, as well as reviewing what you have learned, and study the new vocabulary and grammar. I am committed to your success in this course. You are encouraged to meet with me during my office hours or at any other mutually convenient time for extra help or to assess your progress in the course.
ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION:

Success in this course depends on in class interaction; therefore unexcused absences will lower your grade. Attendance is required. Students who miss more than two classes without university-approved excuses will lower their final grade by half a grade; those who miss more than three will lower their grade by a full grade. There will be no passing grade for students who miss more than 6 classes without university-approved excuses. Excessive tardiness will also result in a grade reduction.

- A simple email note or a verbal communication does NOT qualify as an officially excused absence. What is an officially excused absence?  One that is authorized in writing by a doctor, another instructor, a coach, a program director, a supervisor, or the Dean of Students.

- If you have flu-like symptoms with fever, stay home!! Consult with a physician before returning to class with your note in writing.

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, 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. Even if it makes you feel silly or uncomfortable it is the ONLY way to speak French. The effort you demonstrate on a daily basis will be directly reflected in your participation grade for the course.

Please NO food, drink or gum in class. ALL ELECTRONIC DEVICES such as laptops, cell phones, Blackberries, iPods, PDA, etc. MUST BE TURNED OFF in the classroom! Unless otherwise pre-approved by me.

EXAMS:

WRITTEN EXAMS
There will be an exam at the end of every 2 chapters that we complete this term, for a total of 4 exams. Each Exam will include a listening comprehension exercise and a written section that incorporates a short composition. Exams will typically require the full class period to complete. Because each exam is already cumulative, there will be NO final exam in this class.

ORAL EXAMS
There will be a total of two oral exams during the term; one at mid-term and another at the semester's end. During the oral exam, pairs of students will meet with the instructor outside of class for a brief (15 minute) oral exam.

THERE IS A STRICT NO MAKE-UP POLICY FOR ALL EXAMS. WRITTEN AND ORAL, EXCEPT IN THE CASE OF SERIOUS ILLNESS OR EMERGENCY. A GRADE OF ZERO WILL BE GIVEN FOR ANY MISSED EXAMS.
HOMEWORK AND ASSIGNMENTS:

Each Friday during class I will hand out print copy and post to the blackboard/class email list the assignments to be completed for class days in the following week.

Homework provides practices with concepts that build on each other throughout the semester; it is part of the daily effort of learning a language. Homework includes written assignments from our text, listening activities on the student CD, and workbook and lab manual assignments. Assignments will be used in class and/or checked or collected on an unannounced basis. Please make sure to write all sentences out fully and if at all possible with a word processing program.

Every Friday there will be a dictée. A dictée is the way the French learn grammar. I will recite a paragraph in French and you will have to write, as best as you can, what I say. For the first few dictés I will help you with the punctuation and verb tense. As we go on they will become more difficult. The dictée will be graded on a credit/no credit basis. The only way to receive a "no credit" grade is to not complete it. These dictées will serve as a benchmark of your progress throughout the course.

QUIA ELECTRONIC STUDENT ACTIVITIES MANUAL:

You textbook includes a "book key" that, along with a course code that I will supply, enables you to access the electronic Student Activities Manual that coordinates with our text. The manual consists of a workbook section that provides structured written practices of the materials introduced in the corresponding chapters and a lab section that contains audio exercises such as pronunciation practice and a variety of listening comprehension tasks. Assignments that you submit online on the Quia website must be completed before the beginning of class the day that they are due. Regardless of whether it was previously assigned, all of the exercises in the electronic student activities manual (workbook and lab) for each chapter should be completed by the final day we spend on that chapter, as indicated on the assignment sheet.

COMPOSITIONS:

You will write 2 compositions during the semester. The subject and a detailed format will be given several days in advance. One point will be subtracted for each day your work is late. Compositions must be typed, double-spaced and spell-checked. You may use Bon Patron after writing your composition. Submit it to bonpatron.com, and the writing assistant will help identify common spelling, grammar and expression problems in French. Print out the summary of errors and attach it to your composition.

JOURNALS:

Every other week, you will write maximum a page about yourself, the weather, and other topics, using the vocabulary learned in class. After I read your journal, I expect you to go back and correct it as much as you can. You may ask a tutor or me for help. Journals will be graded on a credit/no credit basis.
EXTRA CREDIT

LANGUAGE LAB:
To give you listening practice outside of class and to develop your speaking skills and cultural understanding, I strongly recommend that you work in the language lab (114 Walker) for at least one hour per week. While there you may do a variety of listening activities, including watching the video that accompanies your text or another introductory French program such as French in Action. We also have access to MTU cable, where you may watch French news broadcasts according to the SCOLA schedule posted, as well as a large collection of subtitled French films. You will receive 10 extra credit points for each, movie, French tv news broadcast, or Mais Oui activity done while in the language lab. You may accrue a maximum of 100 extra credit points.

GRADE COMPONENTS:
Attendance & Participation 100pts
Unit Quizzes 400pts
Oral exams (2 worth 50pts each) 100pts
Homework/Student Activities Manual/dictée 200pts
Compositions (2, worth 50pts each) 100pts
Journal 100pts
TOTAL POINTS: 1000pts

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 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, (2212). For other concerns about discrimination you may contact your advisory, department head, or the Affirmative Action Office (3310).

****Academic Integrity
Taking the work of others and passing it off as your own is academic theft and will be punishable by failing the assignment/course or dismissal from school. Cases of plagiarism will be turned over to the Dean of Students’ Office. See details about Michigan Tech’s Academic Integrity definitions, policies, and enforcement procedures at http://www.sa.mtu.edu/dean/judicial/aliculate/ and http://www.studentaffairs.mtu.edu/dean/judicial/policies/academic_integrity.html.