HU 3273: French Composition and Conversation
Spring 2011

Dr. Diane Shoos
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Office: Walker 328
Office phone: 487-3247
Office hours: T/Th 12:25-12:55, 3:30-4:30 & by appt.

Classroom: Walker 109
Class meetings: T/Th 2:05-3:20

Required Texts and Materials:
- A good French/English or French/French dictionary
- A notebook for taking notes during class and film screenings
- Handouts provided by the instructor

Course Description and Goals:
This is an intermediate-level course designed to reinforce proficiency in French grammar, vocabulary and idioms and to build knowledge about French and Francophone cultures. The course aims to refine communicative competence in all four skill areas in French, but emphasis will be on writing and speaking. In-class activities focus on active language use, which involves developing communication strategies and interacting meaningfully with other class participants. The cultural component of the course centers on Senegal, Martinique, Switzerland, Strasbourg (northeastern France), and Haiti, and incorporates literary and/or films selections from each region. Your professor is committed to facilitating your success in this course. You are encouraged to meet with her for extra help or to assess your progress.

Attendance:
Because success in this course is based on the interaction between class participants, you are expected to attend all class meetings and volunteer and participate actively during class activities. Please note that late arrivals will affect your attendance and participation grade. Keep in mind that attendance is checked daily. More than 2 absences during the semester without a valid excuse will result in no credit for attendance. YOU CANNOT PASS THE CLASS IF YOU MISS MORE THAN 5 CLASS SESSIONS. Excused absences such as those due to a plant or interview trip or official MTU activity must be documented and assignments completed prior to the anticipated absence or by a deadline given by your 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 to the Office of Student Affairs.

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 making appropriate progress. In order to earn a good 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. **Please, NO food, drink or gum in class.** Your classmates and I appreciate your full attention; you need to be present not just physically but mentally. **Electronic devices** such as laptops, cell phones, Blackberries, iPods, PDAs, etc. **must be turned off** in the classroom.

**Written Exams and Quizzes:**
Chapter exams will be given after each unit of the course (Chapters 6-10 in *Personnages*). 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* and all additional material, including literary selections and/or films, discussed or assigned in class. Exams are designed to assess your knowledge of vocabulary and idioms, grammatical structures, cultural information and the selected films and literary selections. In addition, there may be 1-2 brief quizzes on this material during each unit.

**Oral Presentations:**
In addition to ongoing informal assessment of your speaking skills in French through your daily participation in class and short role plays or skits, you will give two 5-10 minute oral presentations in class, including one group presentation in the first half of the semester and one individual presentation in the second half. These presentations are opportunities to collaborate with your classmates, practice your oral skills in French, and demonstrate what you are learning about culture and language.

**Homework:**
Homework will include assignments from the textbook and student audio CDs and the standing assignments in the Quia electronic Student Activities Manual described below as well as other short writing assignments. Assignments will be detailed on a weekly assignment sheet that I hand out and also post to the class list on Thursdays. Homework assignments will be checked or collected, on an unannounced basis, during the class period and graded based on completion (Credit/No Credit, with partial credit given for work that is partially completed.) Please do any assignments on a separate piece of loose-leaf paper (i.e. not in the textbook). We will correct most assigned exercises in class so that you can have immediate feedback on your work. For assignments that are only checked but not collected, please let me know if you have questions or would like more feedback. **No late homework will be accepted except in cases of excused absences.** A grade of zero will be assigned for any missing homework.

**Compositions:**
In this class you will write 2 longer compositions that will provide an opportunity to use skills that you have learned in a creative way. These are formal writing assignments that 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. **No late compositions will be accepted.** A grade of zero will be assigned for any missing compositions.
Electronic Student Activities Manual:
Your copy of Personnages should have come bundled with a book key code for the Quia electronic Student Activities Manual that is required for class. I will provide a course key number which, together with your individual card number, will provide access to a website with writing and lab exercises (Radio Francophone interviews) for each chapter. These exercises are standing assignments that must be completed by the specified due date prior to the exam date for each unit, unless. NO credit will be given for workbook or lab scores below 50%.

Opportunities for Additional Practice: HDMZ and Café français
In order to all four language skills, you are encourages to spend a minimum of one hour per week using resources in the Humanities Digital Media Zone on the first floor of Walker. You may work with consultants in the lab to practice French conversation, watch dvds, listen to CDs, consult websites, etc. See the lab schedule at: http://www.bu.mtu.edu/bu_dept/facilities/consultant_schedule.php
In addition, you are strongly encouraged to participate in the on-campus informal French conversation group “Le Café français” held most Thursdays from 5-6 P.M. in Walker (check for email announcements). Neither lab attendance nor the conversation group is required for this class; these are opportunities for you to get more practice.

Grading:
Written Exams 45%
Homework 10%
Quia exercises 10%
Compositions 10%
Attendance & Participation 15%
Oral presentations 10%

Grading 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, (487-2212). For other concerns about discrimination, you may contact your advisor, department head, or the Affirmative Action Office (487-3310).
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 issues should consult their instructor or a coach in the Humanities Multiliteracies Center (Walker 107).

Emploi du temps (provisoire)

**Semaines 1-3 (du 11 au 1er janvier)**
Révision; *Personnages* Chapitre 6; Film, *Faat Kine*
*Examen:* mardi le 1er février

**Semaines 4-6 (du 5 au 21 février)**
*Personnages* Chapitre 7; Film, *Rue Cases-nègres*
*Examen:* mardi le 22 février

**Semaines 7-9 (du 26 février au 18 mars)**
*Personnages* Chapitre 8
*Examen:* mercredi le 22 mars

**Semaines 9-11 (du 20 mars au 3 avril)**
*Personnages* Chapitre 9; *Diversité*
*Examen:* mardi le 5 avril

**Semaines 12-14 (du 8 au 22 avril)**
*Personnages* Chapitre 9; *Diversité*
*Examen:* mardi le 21 avril

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**Devoirs pour jeudi le 13 janvier:**

1. Chapitre 6 Lecture, pp. 183-185,
2. Vocabulaire, pp. 186-187, Activités 1-3
3. A l’Écoute 1, pp. 188-189, Act. 4-5 (utilisez le CD du manuel)
4. Employez l’Internet pour chercher des renseignements supplémentaires sur un aspect du Sénégal qui vous intéresse et préparez pour les présenter en classe