HU 2272: Level I-B French Language and Culture

Fall 2011
Course location: Fisher 127
Course meeting time: MWF 12:05-12:55

Dr. Diane Shoos
Office: 328 Walker;
Office phone: 487-3247
dshoos@mtu.edu
Off. Hrs.: MWF 3:05-4:00
and by appointment

REQUIRED MATERIALS:
Mais Oui! 4th edition, with student in-text CD, Thompson and Phillips
Quia online Student Activities Manual for Mais Oui 4th ed. I will distribute registration instructions for the SAM. You will access the online activities with the book key that came packaged with your copy of Mais Oui! 4th edition
A loose leaf notebook where you keep all assignments
Recommended: French-English dictionary

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND GOALS:
This course is designed to continue to develop basic proficiency in speaking, listening, reading, and writing French, as well as to foster knowledge of French and Francophone cultures. The course focuses on active language use, which involves interacting with other class participants and developing communication strategies. By the end of the course, with reasonable effort, you will be able to handle routine situations of a concrete personal and social nature that involve supplying information about: travel and transportation; human relationships; memories; everyday routines; future hopes and plans; hypothetical situations; current events.

During the term you will want to take advantage of the Mais Oui! website where you will find vocabulary and grammar activities, flashcards, practice tests, and links to cultural resource: http://college.cengage.com/languages/french/thompson/maisouil4e/student_home.html

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 studying the new vocabulary and grammar. Your professor is committed facilitating 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. IF YOU ARE HAVING DIFFICULTIES, DON'T WAIT TO SEE ME!

GRADING CRITERIA (see descriptions on the next page):
Attendance & Participation 20%
Unit Quizzes 40%
Oral exams (2) 10%
Homework/Student Activities Manual 20%
Compositions (2, worth 5% each) 10%

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 AND PARTICIPATION:

Because success in this course is based on the interaction between class participants, absences will lower your grade. You need to be in class every day to practice the skills that we are learning, to develop listening comprehension, learn vocabulary, discuss readings, and practice conversation in French. I will take attendance very day.

Excused absences (such as those resulting from an official MTU activity or interview) must be documented in advance. In the event of a serious illness or unforeseen emergency, it is your responsibility to contact your instructor promptly and to supply adequate documentation. Please note that a simple email or verbal communication does NOT qualify as an excused absence. An officially excused absence is one that is authorized in writing (by a doctor, another instructor, a coach, program director, supervisor, or the Dean of Student). If you ever have a problem that prevents you from attending class, please let me know right away. If you miss class, you are responsible for completing any work that is due.

A maximum of three (3) absences are allowed without penalty. Save your absences for illness or emergencies. Your final participation grade will be lowered by 5 points for each additional absence. YOU CANNOT PASS THE CLASS IF YOU MISS MORE THAN 6 SESSIONS.

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 and by volunteering during class activities, written and spoken. The effort you demonstrate on a daily basis will be directly reflected in your participation grade for the course.

Please, NO food or gum in class. ELECTRONIC DEVICES such as laptops, cell phones, iPods, iPads, etc. MUST BE TURNED OFF in the classroom, unless arrangements are made in advance with the professor.

WRITTEN EXAMS and QUIZZES
There will be an exam at the end of every 1-2 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.

Each Friday there will be a dictée in class. 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 dictées I will help you with verb tenses, etc. As we go on they will become more difficult. Dictées 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.

ORAL EXAMS:
So that I may assess your progress in oral French and make more extensive individual comments, twice during the term (once at mid-term and once at the end of the term) 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:**
Before each week I will hand out print copies and post to the class email list the assignments to be completed for the following week.

Homework provides practice 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, writing short paragraphs, and exercises from the Quia online workbook. Assignments will be used in class and/or checked or collected on an unannounced basis. For this reason, I ask that you **complete your homework on looseleaf (not bound) paper.** Please make sure to write all sentences out fully and if at all possible with a word processing program. **In general, no extensions will be given for homework assignments except in the case of serious illness or emergency. A grade of zero will be given for any missing assignments.**

**COMPOSITIONS:**
You will write 2 compositions during the semester. Compositions provide an opportunity to use skills that you have learned in a creative way. The subject and a detailed format will be given several days in advance. You will submit a typed, double-spaced complete first draft of each composition and receive feedback before submitting the final draft so that you will have the opportunity to improve your work. The first draft counts as a homework assignment; the final version counts for 5% of your grade. If you like you may submit your composition to bonpatron.com and the writing assistant will help you identify common spelling, grammar, and expression problems in French. Print out the summary of errors and attach it to your composition.

**QUIA ELECTRONIC STUDENT ACTIVITIES MANUAL:**
Your copy of *Mais Oui!* should have come bundled with a book key code for the Quia electronic Student Activities Manual that is required for class. If you purchased a used copy that does not include this book key you will have to purchase the key separately. I will provide a course key number which, together with your individual book number, will provide access to a website with writing and lab exercises for each chapter. Assignments that you submit online on the Quia website must be completed before the beginning of class the day that they are due. **ALL of the exercises, written and lab, for the chapter must be completed by the designated date before the exam for that unit. Exercises will be graded on a credit (70% or better)/ no credit (less than 70%) basis.**

**OPPORTUNITIES FOR EXTRA CREDIT: HDMZ and Café français**
In order to improve all four language skills, you are encouraged to spend a minimum of **one hour per week** using resources in the Humanities Digital Media Zone on the first floor of Walker (Room 120). You may work with consultants in the lab to practice French conversation, watch dvds or French news broadcasts on SCOLA, listen to CDs, consult websites, etc. See the lab schedule at:
http://www.hu.mtu.edu/hu_dept/facilities/consultant_schedule.php for hours and to see when the French consultants are on duty.

In addition, you are strongly encouraged to participate in the on-campus informal French conversation group “Le Café français” held in the HDMZ in Walker at a time to be announced. **Neither lab attendance nor the conversation group is required for this class; these are opportunities for you to get more practice and to receive extra credit for participation.**

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

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HU 2272 ASSIGNMENTS
SEMAINE 1

**mercredi le 31 août:**
1. Re-read course introduction and write down any questions that you have
2. REVIEW all “Structures” sections Chapters 1-3
3. Write 2 paragraphs in French that describe yourself and your family.

**vendredi le 2 septembre:** NO CLASS (Assignments t.b.a Wed. for Wed. 9/7)
- Complete online placement exam in HDMZ (see lab consultant at desk) before class on Wednesday
- Register for Quia online Student Activities Manual