Michigan Tech University
HU 2271: Level 1A - French Language & Culture
(Spring 2013)

Professor: Leyre Alegre-Figuero
E-mail: lalegref@mtu.edu
Time/Room: M W F 1:05-1:55 PM. Fisher Hall 0125
Office Hours: M W F 11:05-11:55 AM, or by appointment (Walker 333)

Before We Begin, You Should Know:

This course is intended for TRUE BEGINNERS of the French Language. This means that if you have had two, three, four or more years of French within the last five years you SHOULD NOT BE ENROLLED. Students with previous knowledge of French MUST take the MTU online placement exam prior to enrolling in an MTU language course. If you have enrolled in this class with prior background in French but have not taken the exam, you can register at:
http://www.mtu.edu/humanities/undergraduate/modern-languages/placement

Students with previous knowledge of French may earn up to 9 semester credits of French by taking the placement exam and successfully completing (with B or better) the appropriate validation course.

Course Description/Objectives
This course is the first sequence of Level I French at MTU and, lays the foundation for HU 2272. Its main goal is to strengthen the necessary skills to interact in everyday life situations and increase participants’ ability to negotiate a wide range of conversational situations. The class is taught in French, and promotes reading, writing, speaking and listening comprehension, while introducing students to the cultural richness and diversity of the French-speaking world. The course focuses on active language use, which involves interacting with other class participants and developing communicative strategies. This course covers chapter "Préliminaire" to chapter 6. By the end of the semester, you will be able to engage in a variety of topics of a concrete personal and social nature as well as abstract ones that involve supplying information about yourself and others, getting necessary information and combining learned elements to express opinions.

Learning a language takes concentrated time and effort. I recommend that you spend at least two hours per day working on the assignments for this class, as well as reviewing what you have learned, and study the new vocabulary and grammar. Your professor is committed to your success in this course! You are encouraged to meet with me during office hours or at another mutually convenient time for extra help or to assess your progress in the course. All assigned works are to be completed before coming to class.

Required materials:
Thompson & Phillips: Mais oui! (5th. edition)
Quia online Student Activities Manual (workbook and lab manual) for Mais oui 5th ed.

Recommended: -Pocket French/English dictionary (Larousse is recommended)

-Mais Oui! student website:


At the website you will find the audio files, vocabulary and grammar activities, flashcards, practice tests, and links to cultural resource materials.

Note: Additional material will be provided by me in class, or posted online on Canvas; there are also French films, dvds and videos, CD-ROMs and other resources in the language lab (Walker 143).

• In order to access the Online Workbook that accompanies Mais oui! an online account. Instructions will be provided to you on the first day of class.

  PLEASE NOTE: If you purchase a used copy of Mais oui!, without the required book code information, you may not have direct access to the online workbook. This will create problems for you.

  Most assignments must be completed through the ONLINE dashboard.

Grading Distribution and Scale:
Your grade in this class will be based on the following criteria:

1. Attendance and Participation 15%
2. In-class activities & quizzes 10%
3. ONLINE WORKBOOK activities/points 10%
4. Reflective Journals (5%) + In-class Writing Assignment (10%) 15%
5. 3 Exams 20%
6. Final exam 10%
7. Oral exam 15%
8. Cultural Assignment 5%

The grading scale used in this class is:

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Your final grade will be based on the following class requirements. PLEASE NOTE: All requirements must be completed to pass the course.

Plan on studying approximately 9 hours a week, three hours outside of class for each hour in class. Always check your ASSIGNMENT SCHEDULE (separate handout) for assignment due dates; it is your responsibility to make sure written work is handed in on time.
Attendance
Attendance in this class is mandatory. Regular attendance and punctuality are crucial to your success and will be reflected in your class participation grade. By enrolling in this course and receiving the syllabus you are agreeing to abide by the following rules:

- Up to 3 unexcused absences do not affect your participation grade.
- For each unexcused absence after 3, a student’s final participation grade in the course will be lowered 3.3%.
- Example: Student “X” finishes the term with a participation grade of 85% but has 6 unexcused absences (3 more than the allotted number).
- Participation grade of 85% - 9.9% = 75.1% final participation grade in the course

What is an excused absence?
An excused absence is one that is authorized in writing by a doctor, another instructor, a coach (for UNIVERSITY-SPONSORED events only), a program director, a supervisor, or the Dean of Students. An excused absence will not be assigned with a simple email message to me. No excused absence will be assigned for NON-UNIVERSITY-SPONSORED events.

NOTE 1: If you have flu-like symptoms with fever, stay home! Consult with a physician before returning to class with your note in writing.
NOTE 2: Only students who have excused absences are permitted to make up graded work. If you know in advance that you will not be able to attend class or complete a quiz or exam on the date specified, it is your responsibility to make prior arrangements with me to complete the required assignment or exam.
NOTE 3: IF YOU DO NOT NEED TO ATTEND THIS CLASS TO PASS THE QUIZZES AND EXAMS, YOU BELONG IN A MORE ADVANCED FRENCH CLASS.

1. Participation 15%

Class participation is a vital part of your language-learning experience and, along with attendance, important in this course.

Your participation will be assessed every day, although you will only receive an averaged grade every two weeks. This takes into consideration, but is not limited to:

1) your use of French
2) your willingness to participate and cooperate in pair and group work
3) your level of preparedness for class.
4) your respect and attitude towards the class and your peers
5) your attendance and punctuality

A great way to prepare to engage in French in class (particularly if you are more visually inclined) is to check out the course-wide content exercises available at the Mais Oui! Online Learning Center (OLC).
2. **In-Class activities & Quizzes** 10%

Included in this category are: quizzes and any other assignment given by your instructor. If you are absent from class, it is your responsibility to make up the missed work. If you miss class you should *always contact a fellow classmate* to discuss what has been done in class, in order to come prepared the next day. If you have missed a quiz or an in-class assignment, it will be your responsibility to contact your instructor to see when and how you will make up your missed work.

3. **Online Workbook activities** 10%

The work you complete in this category will serve as an important learning tool to practice grammatical functions and new vocabulary as well as to evaluate your reading and listening comprehension.

The manual consists of a workbook section that provides structured written practice of the materials covered in each chapter and a lab section that contains audio exercises. You will be given 2 attempts for each activity. After you complete the exercises the computer will give you a “score” and a feedback. For every chapter you will be given an average grade of all the assigned activities.

4. **Reflective Journals (5%) / In-Class Writing Assignment (10%)** 15%

During the semester you will keep a journal in which you will reflect on a variety of in-class topics as well as on your own personal interests. The purpose of this written communication process is to give you an enjoyable outlet in which to express your thoughts in French, while strengthening vocabulary and grammar structures studied. You will write one entry every week. Some entries will be on topics of your choice (friends, family, academic life, etc.) while other entries will be on specific topics related to material covered in class. All entries are to be completed in blue books or on stapled standard letter pages; and must be a minimum of 1 page in length (double space). The journal will be collected almost every Monday.

Your Reflective Journals will be graded for completion only, but full credit will only be assigned if the whole journal is in French only, comprehensible, and on topic. The topics will be posted on Canvas.

You will write four In-class Writing Assignments. Your instructor will assign each topic and students will be given 15 minutes to write in class. You must have a documented excuse to make up the in-class writing.

5. **Chapter Exams** 20%

There will be three exams in this course (Exam 1 will cover "chapitre préliminaire & 1, exam 2 will cover chapters 2&3, exam 3 will cover chapters 4&5). The final exam will cover all the chapters, with a big emphasis on chapter 6. *If you cannot be present for an exam, it is your responsibility to let me know BEFORE the exam, and to make arrangements with me to take it at a different time. Please remember: Make-ups are allowed ONLY FOR OFFICIALLY EXCUSED ABSENCES!*
6. **Final Exam** 10%

The final exam will be comprehensive and cumulative in nature. The final exam will include reading and written work. The questions will come from material covered in class and will require short and extended writing as well as an understanding of cultural material, grammatical functions and vocabulary covered in class.

7. **Oral Exam** 15%

This exam will be done in pairs, and take place in your regularly scheduled classroom. The exam will last approximately 8-10 minutes, and consists of a role-play with your partner. The conversation may include different tasks such as asking and answering questions, describing and/or responding to a situation etc. Sample topics will be provided. This exam will be worth 15% of your final grade.

8. **Cultural Assignment** 5%

There will be one culture assignment to help you further explore France’s or Francophone contemporary customs and cultural heritage. The assignment may be completed in English. Details pertaining to the assignment will be provided.

**Academic Honesty**

Students who cheat, plagiarize, or fabricate information as well as students who help others to do so can receive sanctions ranging from warning to special failing grade to expulsion from the University, depending on the severity of the offense. See the MTU Student Handbook or the Academic Integrity Policy: [www.admin.mtu.edu/usenate/proposal/02-18-02.htm](http://www.admin.mtu.edu/usenate/proposal/02-18-02.htm)

Student work products (exams, essays, projects, etc.) may be used for purposes of university program, or course assessment. All work used for assessment purposes will not include any individual student identification.

**HDMZ: Humanities Digital Media Zone and Modern Language Lab (Walker 113)**

The Language Lab is a valuable and important resource. Materials, such as videos, movies, grammar and vocabulary computer software, as well as French dictionaries are also located there. **Monitors** are available to help you locate materials and work with the equipment. **Lab hours are usually posted outside the door of Walker 113. Please note:** You are automatically charged a lab fee upon registration for a language class! Put this money to good use by taking full advantage of the state-of-the-art equipment and varied materials available there.

There are various procedures that need to be followed when using equipment or material in the lab. **Whenever you use the lab, be sure to sign in using the log sheets for this class. You can obtain a blank log sheet at the start of the summer session and use the same log sheet for the entire session. Simply fill in the log sheet with**
your name, language, instructor, class #, and lab usage information. After you fill in the log sheet, put the sheet into the basket by the folders. Blank log sheets are located in the back of the folder bin. The Modern Language folder is located at the consultant desk and is available for student use even when there is no consultant on duty.

Your reward! 😊

The payoff for all the work you will do in this class is one of the most exhilarating and gratifying: the expansion of mind and spirit. The study of language is not only about learning how our neighbors speak and act in their cultural settings, space and time. We also gain important insights into our own language and cultural ways of being. Through language and culture study we learn to live in a diverse community complexly woven of similarities, differences, connections, and relationships.

HU2271 also sets you on track to continue language study at the intermediate and upper levels, and toward the completion of a French Minor, the French International Minor, and/or the Certificate in Modern Languages and Area Studies, all of which are great additions to any professional portfolio or resume. More information on the Minors and Certificate is available at the Department of Modern Languages website at http://www.mtu.edu/humanities/undergraduate/modern-languages/

😊 Bonne chance avec le Français! 😊

IMPORTANT NOTES:
• 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 reasonable accommodation for equal access to education or services at MTU, please contact the Dean of Students Office at 487-2212. For all other concerns about discrimination, you may contact your advisor, department chair, or the Affirmative Action Office at 487-3310.
• This syllabus may be revised during the semester to accommodate the needs either of students or the instructor.