CAS LF 112: Second-semester French

Prerequisite: LF111 or the equivalent
Credits: 4
Instructor: Hanadi SOBH (hsobh@bu.edu)
Schedule: 15 two-and-half hour session over 7.5 weeks
+ Methodology seminar (during orientation week)
+ 1 extra session (Expression Workshop)

Course materials

Course textbook: MARINEAU, Hélène. *Brochure pour CAS LF112*, to be purchased at our partner’s shop.

Blackboard: Course Blackboard site: http://learn.bu.edu
Students should check Blackboard for general course info, assignments, relevant documents, and announcements.

I. COURSE PRESENTATION

All Paris Internship Program French language are in essence embedded in the Program as a whole and are designed to work towards the goal of allowing students to perform at their best while living and working in Paris.

Our language course focuses, both at the oral and written communication levels, on creating tools:

- To communicate in everyday interactions, with a focus on colloquialisms and language used in varied situations in everyday life and in the workplace,
- To discover and discuss basic cross-cultural differences in connection with everyday life and the workplace.

This class is geared towards communication in French. It is conducted entirely in French to allow students to develop efficient and essential techniques of negotiation of meaning that will help them build confidence in their listening and speaking skills and consequently progress faster in their language acquisition.

II. COURSE OBJECTIVES AND OUTCOMES

Course objectives and methodology

This is a comprehensive second semester language course for beginners designed to promote communicative proficiency in four areas: speaking, listening, writing, and reading. We will target ACTL’S (The American council for the Teaching of Foreign Languages) World-Readiness standards with a focus on Communication, Cultures, Connections, Comparisons, and Communities to better understand how the French language skills learned in the classroom allow students to relate to their everyday life in Paris and to the French professional world.

We will work towards these course objectives through:

- Conversations and task-based activities in French (whole class, small groups, and pairs)
- Reading and listening activities (in-class and online)
- Creative writing workshops
- Theater performance workshops based on creative writing productions
- Cross-cultural activities and discussions
Outcomes
By the end of this course, students will be able to:

▪ understand sentences and frequently used expressions related to areas of most immediate relevance (e.g. very basic personal, family, and professional information, shopping, local geography, employment).
▪ communicate in simple and routine tasks requiring a simple and direct exchange of information on familiar and routine matters.
▪ describe in simple terms aspects of their background, immediate environment and matters in areas of immediate need.
▪ understand and explain basic cultural differences and behaviors and adapt to them.

III. ASSESSMENT AND GRADING

Quizzes: 30%
At the beginning of every other class there will be a quiz that will test students on their reading, writing and listening skills. These quizzes will cover material seen in the previous class. If a student is absent from a quiz, s/he receives an automatic grade of zero.

Written production: 30%
There will be a diversity of written assignments:

▪ Question of the day 10%: once a week, students will have to answer the Question of the day in a paragraph long text. The question will be related to the students’ study abroad experience. This regular work will be consigned in an online class diary. The sharing of individual texts with the class serves several objectives: 1) for students to see and evaluate their progress in their writing skills individually as well as a group; 2) for students to measure their progress in their understanding of cultural differences and their adaptation to their French environment.
▪ Creative writing workshop 20%: every other week, we will organize a 30-minute creative writing workshop. The workshop will always be the logical follow up of in-class activities and will teach students the basic techniques of thinking and writing a text in a foreign language. Students will go through progressive steps (choice of subject, lexical mind mapping around the subject, choice of a textual structure, organization of ideas, and writing) and will eventually produce the first draft of a text in class. This draft will be the basis of an assignment to be handed in and graded.

Oral production: 30%

▪ Question of the day 10 %: every other class, two students will present their response to the Question of the day and will discuss their answers with the class. Students will be evaluated on all aspects of their speaking skills during their presentation and interaction with the group.
▪ Performance of creative writing 20%: Every other week, we will organize a theatrical workshop during which students will practice their French phonetics and diction as well as rehearse their “scenes”. At the end of the workshop, students, individually or as a group, will perform their creative writing. Students will be evaluated on all aspects of their speaking skills during their performance.
Participation, effort, and progress: 10%
This grade takes into account the quality of students’ presence in class, energy, relevance of comments in class, regularity, effort and progress on the four target skills, and attendance and punctuality.
Students will be asked to use a rubric to self-evaluate their attendance, participation, and preparation mid-semester. The instructor will review the students’ self-assessment, assign an official grade, and provide students with feedback on the rubric so that they can make improvements where necessary.

Attendance Policy

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1 absence in class, a required activity or in-class presentation</th>
<th>=-1 point on your final grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>More than 3 unexcused absences</td>
<td>= F for the course</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unsubmitted written work Absence for a presentation or exam Plagiarism</td>
<td>= F (0 points) for the assignment in question</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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*Excused absences = absence for illness excused by the certificate of a French doctor or an internship interview

Documentation to be submitted to Renée the day following the absence.

Tardiness
• The professor reserves the right to not admit a tardy student to class or to count a tardy arrival as either a half or whole unexcused absence.
• Late arrivals to class will impact the class participation grade.
• Late submission of written work will entail a penalty on the assignment grade

Written work submitted more than a week late will not receive credit (grade =F).

Plagiarism - Official BU policy
All students are responsible for having read the Boston University statement on plagiarism, which is available in the Academic Conduct Code. Students are advised that the penalty against students on a Boston University program for cheating on the examinations or for plagiarism may be ‘expulsion from the program or the University or such other penalty as may be recommended by the Committee on Student Academic Conduct, subject to approval by the dean’. Read the full Academic Conduct Code online at http://www.bu.edu/academics/policies/academic-conduct-code/

Grading conversion (out of 100)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FINAL GRADE FOR THE COURSE</th>
<th>GRADES FOR INIVIDUAL COMPONENTS/ASSIGNMENTS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>93-100 : A</td>
<td>B+/A- = 89,5 C+/B- = 79,5 D+/ C- = 69,5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>90-92,5 : A-</td>
<td>A+ = 97 B+ = 88 C+ = 78 D+ = 68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>87-89,5 : B+</td>
<td>A+ = 96 B/B+ = 86,5 C/C+ = 76,5 D/D+ = 66,5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>83-86,5 : B</td>
<td>A = 95 B = 85 C = 75 D = 65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80-82,5 : B-</td>
<td>A/ = 92,5 B/B- = 82,5 C/C- = 72,5 D/D- = 62,5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>77-79,5 : C+</td>
<td>A- = 91 B- = 81 C- = 71 D- = 61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>73-76,5 : C</td>
<td>A-/B+ = 89,5 B-/C+ = 79,5 C-/D+ = 69,5 F = 55</td>
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# IV. COURSE OUTLINE

The following schedule is tentative and may be changed according to students’ needs and interests.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Classwork</th>
<th>Goals</th>
<th>Graded assignments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Week 1 | Course presentation    | - Introduce oneself and others  
- Spell names  
- Exchange basic personal information  
- Exchange phone numbers, ask prices  
- Starting an interaction in France and in the US | - Quiz 1  
- Question of the day 1 |
|       | Unit 1: *Faites votre portrait* |                                                                      |                                         |
| Week 2 | Unit 2: *En ville*     | - Localize objects at the office  
- Give and ask directions  
- Make a reservation  
- Change a reservation  
- Take a phone message at the office  
- Professional Vs. Private life in France and in the US | - Quiz 2  
- Question of the day 2  
- Creative writing 1  
- Performance of creative writing 1 |
| Week 3 | Unit 3: *Métro-boulot-dodo* | - Describe one’s routine  
- Discuss likes and dislikes  
- Suggest, accept, or refuse and invitation  
- Express cause and consequence  
- Small talk at the office in France and in the US | - Quiz 3  
- Question of the day 3  
- Creative writing 2 |
| Week 4 | Unit 4: *Que s’est-il passé ?* | - Exchange biographical information  
- Describe one’s professional experience  
- How different is a French resume from and American one? | - Quiz 4  
- Question of the day 4  
- Performance of creative writing 2 |
| Week 5 | Unit 5: *C’était mieux avant?* | - Describe habits in the past  
- Explain in details a professional experience  
- Prepare for a job interview  
- Being smart in France vs. in the US | - Quiz 5  
- Question of the day 5  
- Creative writing 3 |
| Week 6 | Unit 6: *Avec des si et des mais...* | - Express hopes and expectations for internship in France  
- Make hypotheses  
- Suggest ideas at work  
- American conversation vs. French debate | - Quiz 6  
- Question of the day 6  
- Performance of creative writing 3 |
| Week 7 | Unit 7: *J’ai une idée!* | - Describe the complexity of a product  
- Create an advertisement for a product  
- What is good customer service in France vs. in the US? | - Quiz 7  
- Question of the day 7  
- Creative writing and performance 4 |

**FINAL EXAM**
V. ADDITIONAL BIBLIOGRAPHY

Online French-English Dictionaries:
http://www.wordreference.com/
http://www.linguee.fr

French dictionaries
Le Petit Larousse illustré
Le Petit Robert de la langue française

Online grammar exercises:
http://www.lepointdufle.net/p/grammaire.htm

Online conjugation exercises:
http://www.lepointdufle.net/p/verbes.htm

Online vocabulary exercises:
http://www.lepointdufle.net/p/vocabulaire-themes.htm

Online phonetics exercises:
http://www.lepointdufle.net/p/phonetique.htm

Online listening activities:
http://www.lepointdufle.net/p/comprehensionaudio.htm#premier