



Boston University Study Abroad
Paris

CAS LF 212: Fourth-semester French

Prerequisite:	LF112-LF211 or the equivalent
Credits:	4
Instructor:	Elisabeth MONTFORT-SIEWERT (siewert@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: MONTFORT-SIEWERT, Elisabeth. *Brochure pour CAS LF212*, 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 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

Upon completing four semesters of French, students will have reached the intermediate Mid level proficiency in four skills : speaking, listening, writing, and reading as defined by ACTFL, the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages.

We will target ACTL'S 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

The course addresses the four communicative skills (oral, listening, reading, writing). In order to develop and strengthen their communicative skills, students will work with a broad range of interactive materials, including articles, films, videos and songs.

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- understand the main points of clear standard speech on familiar matters (work, school, leisure) and the main point of many radio and TV programs.
- communicate tasks requiring a direct exchange of information on familiar and routine matters, enter into conversation on topics that are familiar or pertinent for everyday life
- describe aspects of their background, immediate environment and matters in areas of immediate need and describe events, feelings and wishes.
- understand and explain cultural differences and behaviors and adapt to them.

III. ASSESSMENT AND GRADING

Quizzes & Final exam: 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, he/she receives an automatic grade of zero.

Written production: 30%

There will be a diversity of written assignments:

- **Question of the week 10%:** once a week, students will have to answer the *Question of the week* 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. Two principal objectives for students 1) to see and evaluate their progress in their writing skills 2) 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 minutes creative writing workshop. The workshop will always be the logical follow up of in-class activities. Students will go through progressive steps (choice of subject, lexical mind mapping around the subject, choice 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 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 answer 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.

Attendance Policy

1 absence in class, a required activity or in-class presentation	=-1 point on your final grade
More than 3 unexcused absences	= F for the course
Unsubmitted written work Absence for a presentation or exam Plagiarism	= F (0 points) for the assignment in question

*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)

FINAL GRADE FOR THE COURSE		GRADES FOR INDIVIDUAL COMPONENTS/ASSIGNMENTS							
93-100 : A	77-79,5 : C+	A+ = 97	B+/A- = 89,5	C+/B- = 79,5	D+/C- = 69,5				
90-92,5 : A-	73-76,5 : C	A/A+ = 96	B+ = 88	C+ = 78	D+ = 68				
87-89,5 : B+	70-72,5 : C-	A = 95	B/B+ = 86,5	C/C+ = 76,5	D/D+ = 66,5				
83-86,5 : B	69-60 : D	A/A- = 92,5	B = 85	C = 75	D = 65				
80-82,5 : B-	59,5-0 : F	A- = 91	B/B- = 82,5	C/C- = 72,5	D/D- = 62,5				
		A-/B+ = 89,5	B- = 81	C- = 71	D- = 61				
			B-/C+ = 79,5	C-/D+ = 69,5	F = 55				

IV. COURSE OUTLINE

The following schedule is tentative and may be changed as a function of students' needs and interests.

Week	Classwork	Goals	Graded assignments
Week 1	Course presentation Unit 1: <i>Ce qui m'intéresse le plus chez les autres c'est moi.</i>	- Introduce oneself and others - Spell names - Exchange personal information - Exchange phone numbers, - Starting an interaction in France and in the US	- Quiz 1 - Question of the week 1
Week 2	Unit 2: <i>Un week-end à deux en France.</i>	- Understand information (website, flyers, interviews...) - Justify a choice and prepare a weekend. - Make a to-do list. - Make a reservation - Change a reservation - Take a phone message - Professional Vs. Private life in France and in the US	- Quiz 2 - Question of the week 2 - Creative writing 1 - Performance of creative writing 1
Week 3	Unit 3: <i>Bons baisers de... (Ma carte postale)</i>	- Discuss likes and dislikes about the weekend. - Describe an experience, a monument, an event. - Express cause and consequence - Small talk at the office in France and in the US	- Quiz 3 - Question of the week 3 - Creative writing 2
Week 4	Unit 4: <i>Pôle emploi.</i>	- Exchange biographical information - Describe and explain in details a professional experience - Show the best of oneself - Act and speak professional during a job interview - Suggest, accept, or refuse an invitation or a proposition. - How different is a French resume from an American one?	- Quiz 4 - Question of the week 4 - Performance of creative writing 2
Week 5	Unit 5: <i>Il était une fois.</i>	- Understand and recount a story, a conversation and a press article. - American conversation vs. French debate	- Quiz 5 - Question of the week 5 - Creative writing 3
Week 6	Unit 6: <i>Avec des si et des mais...</i>	- Express hopes and expectations for internship in France and for ameliorations in Paris - Make hypotheses - Suggest ideas - Being smart in France vs. in the US	- Quiz 6 - Question of the week 6 - Performance of creative writing 3
Week 7	Unit 7: <i>Cachez cette publicité !</i>	- Analyze a French advertisement - Express your opinion - Create an advertisement for a product or a concept - What does "correct" mean in France vs in the US?	- Quiz 7 - Question of the week 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 Robert de la langue française

Le dictionnaire visuel, La Martinière références

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>