CAS FR 301 French Communication Skills (Four credits)
Instructor: Hanadi SOBH

Introduction
The goal of this course is to improve oral communication skills in French in both expression and comprehension using a combination of the following activities:

- Phonetics with exercises focusing on the pronunciation of vowels, consonants, intonation, rhythm
- Listening comprehension using songs, recorded dialogues and radio shows
- Speaking activities for daily, professional, and phone conversations
- Debates on movies and music
- Oral presentations on newspaper and magazine articles

Remember that speaking and being an active participant in class is essential to learning a language. This course will help students to not only feel confident with their oral communication skills in the classroom, but also in their internships and as an active member of French society. But improving the level French language is not the sole benefit of this course: students will learn about French society and culture through magazine and newspaper articles, through songs and movies, and, thanks to frequent debates, will be able to think critically and develop an informed opinion about what is happening in French society today.

Course Materials
FARHI, Emmanuelle, «Outils; pour le français professionnel» (2010)
L’Express, hebdomadaire
Pariscope ou l’Officiel des spectacles

Other optional works to be consulted will be handed out in a bibliography at the beginning of the semester.

Subjects Covered
Phonetics
- Introduction to phonetics - sounds [l] and [r]
- sounds [t] and [d], [i]
- sounds [é] and [è]
- sounds [i] and [u], “ill”, “ui” and “oi”
- accented syllables
- sounds [e] [eu]
- sounds [o] [ô] and [ou]
- Disappearing sounds
- Liaisons and connecting consonants

Daily Situations and vocabulary, debates
- How to introduce yourself
- The Telephone
• Accepting, refusing, apologizing, thanking
• The Office
• Listening Comprehension - the nightly news on TV

There will also be a movie outing as well as a list of songs to listen to. All will be subjects of in-class debates and presentations.

Grading
Because this course has communication skills as its focus, class participation is essential. Students must not be afraid to make mistakes, knowing that this is an unavoidable yet important part of language learning. The class ambiance is also directly connected to student participation, motivation and enthusiasm, and these qualities also bring richness to the language learning process.

Oral presentations are also an important part of the course, the first being a group presentation that involves the combination of a mini-survey of French citizens on certain current events and then the transformation of this data into a subject of debate. The goal of this exercise is first to learn to give one’s opinion, to justify it, and to be able to create interest in the subject in the audience. The second presentation is on an article in the weekly news magazine *L’Express*. The article must be of cultural interest to the class and, after the presentation, the student must lead a discussion.

Class participation  20%
Self-expression   10%
Phonetics    10%
Oral presentations  30% (15% each)
Midterm     15%
Final        15%

Selected Bibliography
Jacques Delcos, *Français des relations professionnelles; guide de conversation*, Didier
Alan Chamberlain, Ross Steele, *Guide pratique de la communication*, Didier
François Wioland, *Prononcer les mots du français*, Hachette
Monique Léon, *Exercices systématiques de prononciation française*, Hachette

*Culture et civilisation*
Odile Grand-Clément, *Savoir-vivre avec les Français* – Collection Outils, Hachette
Gérard Mermet, *Pour comprendre les Français*, Larousse Francoscopie, 2005
Pierre Saka, Yann Plougastel, *La chanson française et francophone*, Larousse, 1999
Marc Robine, Fred Hidalgo, *Il était une fois la chanson française : Des trouvères à nos jours*, Poche, 2006