CAS FR 304 *Travaux Pratiques*  Applied French Skills (Four credits)
Instructor: Elisabeth MONTFORT-SIEWERT

**Introduction**
This course has two objectives: perfecting French skills by improving the ease of expression and trying, both written and orally, to form ideas like a real French speaker thus facilitating student integration into the French culture and general well-being in France.

To speak another language and to live in another culture, calls for much patience and an open mind. Accept the moments of frustration and savor enthusiasm. Take the time to live each step of language learning - this is how language goals will best come to fruition.

The oral part of this course will focus primarily on the following three points:
- Daily communication (everyday situations, different language registers)
- Professional communication (internship interviews, résumés, cover letters)
- Phone communication (personal and professional calls)

Oral production will be reinforced during debates and classes of a more ludic nature.

Grammar will be presented from student sentences with recurrent errors and from reviews of grammatical concepts considered almost mastered. Certain grammar points will be considered mastered and cannot be included in the course. As we all know, what is most simple is often the most complex as well. It is thus essential that students test themselves on basic grammar points.

In the end, this course will help students progress and acquire the skills necessary for students to succeed in electives, as an intern, and as a fledgling member of French society.

**Course Materials**
FARHI, Emmanuelle. «*Outils pour le français professionnel*» (2008)

An optional bibliography will be handed out at the beginning of the semester

**Class Structure/Subjects**
The class planning is above all flexible and must be so in order to better meet the needs of the students and to be in synch with the real linguistic level of the class. In general, Tuesday classes will be oral-related, with professional role-playing, games and debates, while Thursday classes will focus on phonetics, written grammar and a quiz.
Grammar subjects covered:
- Questions (review of basic principles)
- The passé composé and the imperfect
- Relative pronouns
- Indirect discourse and tense agreement
- The conditional
- The subjunctive

Vocabulary and professional activities covered:
- Job interviews
- Office setting
- The cellphone - making calls, texting, giving directions
- Making professional phone calls

The course also includes a cultural aspect through diverse media (novels, audiovisual materials, press articles).

**Grading:**
Students will be graded on a number of factors. Class participation is of the utmost importance. Students should seize every occasion to speak, without worrying about making mistakes, and without worrying about being corrected. To participate actively also means being part of a group, and behaving in the best interest of classmates.

The three writing assignments are designed to improve writing proficiency (grammar, spelling, organization of thought). The aim is to have students become increasingly autonomous in self-correction as the weeks go by. Each assignment will focus on a different subject to allow for drilling certain grammatical notions and vocabulary usage. For each assignment, the professor will give objectives to meet and useful hints.

Besides being an enriching cultural and linguistic activity, the oral presentation is a chance for students to practice public speaking and to lead a discussion. Debates, almost a national sport in France, will also help students to discover a French cultural reality and to perfect their spontaneous communication skills.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Weight</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class participation</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oral presentation</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neighborhood presentation</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ile de France presentation</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midterm</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Compositions</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>