

FREN 401 Advanced French Language

School of Asian & European Languages & Cultures

Trimester 1+ 2, 2008

30 points

STAFF

Course Co-ordinator

Myreille Pawliez

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Office hours: by prior arrangement

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Main Aims of the Course

FREN 401 is a full year 30-point fourth year language paper entirely taught and assessed in French which aims to approach educated native-like communicative competence in speaking, listening, reading, writing. It is the compulsory paper for BA (HONS) in French.

Building and expanding on FREN 315 & FREN 316 (or FREN 311), skills such as compréhension écrite, dissertation, bibliographie, résumé d'un texte écrit, résumé d'un texte oral, compréhension orale, expression orale and exposé are covered. Learning techniques are revised to improve autonomous learning and foster refined use of French. Grammatical revision is integrated in the teaching as needed. See 'Programme du cours' in the studyguide for details.

Objectives for the Course

At the end of the year, students should:

- have gained full autonomy in writing, reading, speaking and listening skills in French
- be aware of the subtleties in meaning of contemporary French
- be able to cope with any situation and any communicative interaction involving speakers of French, including more specialised fields
- have expanded their knowledge of French vocabulary and idiomatic expressions in areas studied
- have an excellent grammatical knowledge of standard French
- have reached excellent accuracy and fluency of oral and written expression in French
- have further developed their critical thinking and writing in French
- have a good knowledge of French cultural background
- be able to use French in a more idiomatic way
- be able to present a whole argument the French way in a written or oral form.

COURSE MATERIAL

Students are requested to acquire the FREN 401 studyguide from the French Programme Administrator (Alison Dixie, VZ level 6) for the first class of the year. The course covers four themes (famille, sida, religion & laïcité, drogue). The studyguide provides a list of recommended materials and guidelines for independent learning and includes learning notes and class exercises. Model answers may be given out at the end of the class.

For reference, students can consult grammar books, good monolingual French dictionaries (e.g. *Le Nouveau Petit Robert*, *Le Petit Larousse*), and *Pièges et difficultés de la langue française* (Jean Girodet, Bordas, 1988) in the French Library (VZ 605). Students should also use the multimedia materials available at the Language Learning Centre (VZ, level 0) and the resources at the Alliance

française.

EXPECTED WORKLOAD

In line with the Faculty workload guidelines, students are expected to do **12 hours** of study per week during the whole year. Besides attending the two scheduled classes each week, students are required to do preparation work before classes, to participate in class, to work regularly in an autonomous way (in a study group or/and on their own) and to complete all assignments and tests as requested. Students should also regularly read and listen to French in the Language Learning Centre (VZ, level 0) in their own time. There are computer/CD-ROM programmes in French for remedial and autonomous work (grammar, pronunciation, listening comprehension, reading) and a French spell-check, the videos *TV-France magazine* for listening comprehension practice and general cultural knowledge, as well as current issues of *Ça m'intéresse*. Students should also regularly use the resources available at the University Library, the French Library (VZ 605) and the Alliance française. A complete list of recommended material for the course is provided in the studyguide to help students to work autonomously.

CLASSES

Two hours a week:

Monday	12 noon – 12.50 pm	VZ 609 speaking
Wednesday	5.10pm – 6.00 pm	VZ 510 reading, writing, listening

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Further course information can be found on the course noticeboard (VZ level 5) or may be passed on in class. It is the responsibility of the student to keep up-to-date.

MANDATORY COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Full class attendance is expected. A minimum of 80% of class attendance and completion of all assignments and tests on due dates (see 'Assessment Dates' below) are required.

ASSESSMENT

As learning a foreign language is a cumulative process, all assignments are designed to encourage students to work regularly in class and on their own, to ensure that grammar, vocabulary, culture and skills are assimilated as the course progresses and to promote a communicative use of French. Student's attainment level in speaking, reading, writing and listening is assessed in summative tests at the end of the year. Refer to 'Programme' and 'Contrôle' in the studyguide and 'Assessment Dates' below for details.

Any problem regarding deadlines for assignments and tests should be discussed **as early as possible** with the course-coordinator. Extensions for assignments should be requested from the course-coordinator **as early as possible before the deadline**. (see 'Assessment Dates' below). Late assignments may be accepted to complete the requirements of the course but will be assigned a zero mark if no prior arrangement is made. Tests should be sat at the scheduled time (see 'Assessment Dates' below). Prior arrangement or a certificate is needed to be allowed to sit an alternative test and request should be addressed to the course-coordinator **as early as possible before the deadline or, if not foreseeable, within a week after the scheduled time**. Failure to sit a test is failing one of the course requirements.

Assessment Dates for 2008

- assignment exposé 15% date arranged in week 1 in class

• assignment	dissertation	15%	week 7	9 April
• assignment	compréhension écrite	5%	week 9	7 May
• assignment	compréhension orale	5%	week 12	28 May
• assignment	résumé texte écrit	10%	week 17	6 August
• assignment	résumé texte oral	10%	week 21	17 Sept
• test	compréhension orale	10%	week 21	17 Sept
• test	compréhension écrite	10%	week 22	24 Sept
• test	résumé texte écrit	10%	week 23	1 Oct
• test	expression orale	10%	week 24	6 Oct

PLAGIARISM

Copying work from another student or any other text or part of a text without proper acknowledgment is not permissible. While students are encouraged to work together in study groups and re-use some of the vocabulary and idiomatic phrases from French authentic texts, all assignments and tests must entirely be the student's own work. Students are not allowed to re-use whole clauses or sentences and must work **entirely** on their own. In case of difficulties, students should consult the course-coordinator. **Copying and plagiarism will result in a mark of zero for the whole work and may lead to disciplinary action for the student(s) involved.**

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES AND STUDENT EVALUATIONS

In the second week of lectures, staff will facilitate the election of a class representative. Student reps are a valuable means of communication between teaching staff and students. Each trimester student reps of SAELC courses will meet together with the Head of School. At the end of the course all students will be asked to fill out questionnaires prepared by the University's Teaching and Development Centre in order to evaluate individual lecturers' performance and/or the course as a whole.

GENERAL UNIVERSITY REQUIREMENTS, POLICIES AND STATUTES

Students should familiarise themselves with the University's policies and statutes, particularly the Assessment Statute, the Personal Courses of Study Statute, the Statute on Student Conduct and any statutes relating to the particular qualifications being studied; see the *Victoria University Calendar* available in hardcopy or under "about Victoria" on the Victoria homepage at:

http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about_victoria/calendar_intro.html

Information on the following topics is available electronically under "Course Outline General Information" at:

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/newspubs/universitypubs.aspx#general>

- Academic Grievances
- Student and Staff Conduct
- Meeting the Needs of Students with Impairments
- Student Support

SCHOOL CONTACTS

Coordinator for students with disabilities
Dr Richard Millington

Room vZ 613

Tel 463 5976

Coordinator for Pacific & Maori students

Dr Richard Millington

Room vZ 613

Tel 463 5976