



American University European Union Program Fall 2012

SYLLABUS *LIVING IN FRENCH* (FREN-224-001S)

This course will help you learn French by using your experiences from living in Brussels. Its primary objective is to build upon your previous French courses and improve your oral communication and aural comprehension skills. To accomplish this goal, you will use French to explore various aspects of life in Belgium and the experiences you encounter here.

Ideally, a student taking this course should have already mastered the basics of French grammar at least to the intermediate level. However, the course is open to beginners as well. In order to accommodate the differences in the students' background in French, the class is divided into three groups. One group is for more advanced students with a good background in French grammar. The second is for students with little or no background in French. The third is for students in between. A "test" will be given during the first week of the semester to place you in the level that is appropriate for you. You will receive one academic credit hour for this course.

Course Structure

This course is taught for AU's Brussels Center by the CLL Centre de Langues. This language school is associated with UCL and it is located on campus. This semester, CLL will send two professors to teach the course: one for students with some background in French, one for students with a less or no background. The course will normally meet on Monday evenings at CLL. The class normally begins at 17.00 and will end at about 18.30.

The primary purpose of this course is to improve your aural and oral comprehension skills. Instruction at all levels, including the beginning level, will take place only in French. The idea behind this approach is to immerse you in the French language so that you will learn in context the vocabulary you need for the situations you will encounter in Belgium. This approach is quite different from the one used in American classrooms where instruction at the beginning level is in English. Therefore, sometimes students with no background in French find it difficult to adapt to this method at first. However, this teaching method is quite common in Europe and it is an effective

way to acquire a language. We also hope that you will make the effort to meet Belgian students to practice the French that you learn in this manner.

Optional French Discussion Practice

For those students enrolled in the course who would like additional practice in using their French, Bénédicte Debray will offer weekly one-hour meetings for conversational practice. Normally, these meetings will take place during lunch, but they may also be held in the evenings if the Thursday schedule does not permit a meeting. These discussion sessions are entirely voluntary, and will not affect your final grade.

Course Requirements

Since the objective of this course is to improve your comprehension and oral expression skills, you will be graded on the basis of the progress that you make in these areas. Accordingly, your final grade will be based on two criteria:

- 1) **Attendance, Participation, and Conduct:** This course will only succeed in meeting its objectives if you attend class and actively participate in the classroom activities. You cannot expect to sit back and learn from this experience through passively watching others speak French. You must participate to learn. Therefore, attendance and participation is mandatory and will constitute 40% of your final grade.
- 2) **Final Examination:** You will have one final examination for the course on **Monday, 10 December**. This exam will test your improvement in fluidity, pronunciation, clarity of expression, vocabulary and knowledge of grammar as learned during the semester. It will constitute 60% of your final grade and will normally have both a written and an oral component.

Textbooks and Readings

Given the nature of the course, there is no textbook. However, you are required to read French periodicals in addition to any material given to you by your professor. Furthermore, you are required to watch francophone television and listen to francophone radio stations. It's fun and it's the only way you'll learn the language!



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COURSE PROTOCOL

In Europe, social norms emphasize deference and propriety to a greater degree than in the United States. As guests in a foreign country, it is our duty to adapt to European norms. Punctuality, proper dress and proper behavior are mandatory for all of our sessions with guest speakers. As for dress, remember that casual attire that would be considered acceptable in American classrooms is considered offensive during visits to institutions like the Court of Justice or in seminars with guest speakers whose positions warrant a higher degree of deference. You will be advised of the appropriate dress code prior to those seminars where proper dress is an issue, and you are expected to adapt accordingly.

While you may be in the habit of arriving late for classes in the U.S., it is a rude interruption for our guest speakers. **Never** arrive late for a class with a guest speaker. It goes without saying that it is forbidden to eat, drink, type on your computer, text message, or otherwise engage in any behavior that is disruptive and rude to our guest speakers. When an ambassador addresses the class, it is appropriate to stand when he or she enters and leaves the classroom. For all speakers, it is polite to thank them after they have answered your question and to thank them for coming if they speak with you informally after class. At all times, show respect and deference to our guest speakers, even if you disagree with everything that they are saying.

Most importantly, **ALL** of our speakers address the class under the **CHATHAM HOUSE RULE**. That is, you are free to use the information received from a speaker but neither the identity nor the affiliation of the speaker or any other participants in the seminar may be revealed. This means that you **MAY** talk about the views and opinions that you heard from a speaker; however, you may **NOT** reveal that speaker's name nor the position of the speaker who expressed those views and opinions. This is a flat-out prohibition in any contact that you have with anyone outside of the faculty and students of the European Union Program. This prohibition especially applies to any contacts you may have with journalists and bloggers. It applies to anything you write, including your own personal blogs. It applies to anything you say in any videos, webcasts, or podcasts. It even includes what you say in conversations with other speakers, internship supervisors, homestay families, friends, or anybody else who is not a professor or a student on this program. Failure to uphold the Chatham House Rule will be considered a disciplinary breach and will be subject to disciplinary action and potential disciplinary sanction.



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ACADEMIC INTEGRITY CODE STATEMENT

American University reminds you that:

Standards of academic conduct are set forth in the University's Academic Integrity Code which was mailed to your home before the beginning of this semester. By participating in this program, you have acknowledged your awareness of the Academic Integrity Code, and you are obliged to become familiar with your rights and responsibilities as defined by the Code. Violations of the Academic Integrity Code will be taken seriously, and disciplinary actions will ensue should violations occur. Please see the Director if you have any questions about the academic violations described in the Code in general or as they relate to particular requirements in this program.

Please remember that plagiarism is defined as the appropriation of an idea and/or words of another person and representing that idea and/or those words as your own. You are required to review American University's academic policies regarding plagiarism which can be found at the following web site:

www.american.edu/academics/integrity/index.htm

Finally, the European Union Program takes plagiarism and cheating seriously. In fact, this program has employed the procedures of the Academic Integrity Code to penalize students who have plagiarized and cheated on exams in the past. We will not hesitate to do so again in the event that plagiarism or cheating is discovered in the future.