



Think Engage Create Communicate Apply

**Language, Literature and Communication
Fall Term 2013**

**COURSE INFORMATION SHEET
FIRST YEAR FRENCH**

Course:	FR 101	Instructor:	Karin Almquist
Credits:	5	Office:	451B Center
Prerequisite:	none	Telephone:	463-5140
Days/Times	MTWR 10-10:50 in CEN 451 F 10-10:50 in CEN 230	Office Hours:	M-F 11:00-12:00
Classroom:	CEN 230/CEN 451	E-mail addresses:	almquistk@lanecc.edu

IMPORTANT DATES:

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| 1. Holidays: | Veterans' Day (November 11)
Thanksgiving (November 28-29) |
| 2. Last day to drop a class for a full refund: | October 6, by midnight |
| 3. Last day to make schedule changes: | Friday, November 22 |
| 4. Final Exam: | Monday, Dec. 9, 10-11:50 in CEN 430 |

Remember! If you need to drop this class, be sure to do so officially online. You also have the option of changing to pass/no pass or "audit" if a credit class becomes too stressful.

TEXTBOOKS: Vis-à-Vis (Fifth Edition)
Workbook for Vis-à-Vis (5th Edition) - **ONLINE BY CODE**

RECOMMENDED: French-English/English-French Dictionary, 501 FRENCH VERBS

COURSE CONTENT AND LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

First-Year French is offered over three academic terms. FR 101 is the first course in a three-term sequence. These classes cannot be taken out of sequence. By the end of the sequence, you will have learned all of the basic structures of French necessary to express everyday needs, to communicate in general terms your ideas and feelings about yourself and the world, to refer to the past and future, and to better understand several French-speaking cultures.

In the process of learning about the perspectives, values and practices of these other cultures, you will gradually become more aware of your own cultural identity and beliefs. While learning to identify and reflect on cultural differences, you will cultivate a deeper understanding and respect of diverse viewpoints. As a result, you will become a better listener with a more open mind. You will also gain more of an awareness of what is culturally and socially appropriate, such as being able to differentiate between formal and familiar social registers--in both written and spoken French. This broadening of your experience and intercultural competence will help prepare you to succeed as a global citizen in an increasingly interconnected world.

To communicate effectively in French, you must first:

- 1) Accept that learning a new language is *a process* (ie. Similar to learning to read or ride a bike or play an instrument)
- 2) Embrace ambiguity (ie. The meaning of words, behaviors and gestures varies according to context. Develop an appreciation of *nuance*.)
- 3) Take risks along the way (ie. Try out a new word, experiment with a new expression or verb form, even when uncertain you're using it correctly.)
- 4) Understand and accept that you *will* make mistakes, and that you will often misunderstand the message and be misunderstood. (ie. Often, the most effective learning happens as a result of a mistake.)
- 5) Resolve to persist anyhow! This is all a natural part of the learning process and crucial to your success in learning a new language. As such, all five of these are equally important learning objectives in this course.

In FR 101, you will learn to communicate about school life, family, home, feelings, telling time and the date, talking about seasons and the weather, and countries and nationalities. You will learn to greet people, to express disagreement, to describe people, places, and things, and to ask questions to get specific information. You will also learn about the French sense of fashion, the Latin Quarter in Paris, French influence in the city of Montreal, how the French feel about sharing their living space, the value placed on family in Morocco, and finally, about the French impressionist painter Monet and his home in Giverny.

FORMAT: First-Year French is designed for people who have never tried to learn French before. The class is conducted in French to maximize your exposure to the language and to facilitate effective communication in the target language.

Because all language is grounded in culture, you will learn about the French language while learning about the diverse countries and cultures where it is spoken. This cultural content is presented mainly via short texts and videoblogs, which allow you to learn about the structure of French and new vocabulary *in context*.

At first the French you hear and use will be very simple and concrete (eg. Identifying objects in the classroom), with many visual cues (eg. Gesturing, miming, pictures, etc.) to help bridge the linguistic gap. Gradually you will find yourself understanding more and able to express yourself better.

Our classroom provides a safe environment in which students interact respectfully with diverse individuals and groups by cultivating active listening and an openness to alternative views. When writing, whether online or on paper, students must demonstrate an awareness and respect of their audience and of what is culturally and socially appropriate.

You will frequently work in groups or pairs so you will have the opportunity to speak frequently under a low amount of pressure. This will also give you opportunities to collaborate with your peers, to learn to negotiate meaning as you practice your speaking skills, to identify sources of misunderstanding when communication breaks down, and to demonstrate your knowledge or to ask for

more information. While at home or in the computer lab, you will listen to online recordings and record your own voice to develop your listening comprehension skills and practice pronunciation.

Students are expected to conduct themselves in the classroom in a manner that demonstrates respect for other students and their opinions, and that enhances a learning environment. **Cell phones** must be turned off or turned to inaudible modes and **laptops** put away while in class. Studying with other students is highly encouraged; however, graded activities are to be completed on your own. Remember that submitting work that you have not done personally is plagiarism and subject to penalties.

ATTENDANCE 1. During the first week of class, you must attend at least **50%** of the classes or you will be administratively dropped. Students missing more than **6 hours of class** during the term may not receive credit for the class.

2. If you choose to drop the class, be sure to do so officially. Students not attending but still enrolled at the end of the term must be assigned a grade which could be an “F.”

NOTE: *If you are having difficulty and are in need of academic support because of a documented disability, whether it be psychiatric, learning, physical, auditory, or sensory, you may be eligible for academic accommodations through Disability Services. Contact the Disability Services office at 463-5150 in Bldg. 1, Rm 218.*

In case of an emergency, call public safety: **463-8888**

I. WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS

You must turn in written assignments on the day they are due in order to receive credit. However, because everyone sometimes has conflicts with other assignments or can't make it to school on the due date because of illness, each student will receive **FIVE** “grace days.” This means that you may turn in an assignment one **CLASS** day after the due date by marking **G.D.** on the assignment. Once I have recorded your five grace days, I cannot accept any additional late work.

NOTE: you cannot use more than one grace day on any assignment. See the instructor regarding special circumstances.

A. The Online Workbook

1. Exercises are either graded automatically or require instructor evaluation. Some are voice recording exercises. You will need a microphone for these. Our language computer lab is equipped with microphones and available to you during open lab hours.

2. Submit your online workbook assignments by the due date. These are indicated both online and on your *programme*. Generally, the online workbook is due by midnight the day of a chapter exam.

3. The online workbook is worth 100 points (20 points per chapter). In order to receive the maximum credit for each lesson, all exercises must be completed. The instructor will grade and provide feedback on the open-ended exercises, so please take time to complete

these to the best of your ability.

B. Rédactions

1. For each lesson, you will have one short composition in French called a "*rédaction*". You will write sentences in French based on what we have studied in each chapter. This will give you a chance to try out your new knowledge and will permit your instructor to check your understanding of various structures and vocabulary. **Do not ask the tutor to help you write your first draft.** Your instructor needs to see what you know how to do so that he/she can best help you.
2. When I receive your *rédaction*, I will underline parts which need to be corrected and make comments as necessary. You will then make corrections to the best of your ability and turn the corrected set back to me. You will receive a correction sheet which explains the symbols used for correction. You can ask the tutor about corrections if you have questions.
3. Each corrected *rédaction* is worth 30 points maximum (10 points for form, 10 points for content and creativity and 10 points for corrections).
4. **NOTE: The grade for your *rédaction* is not recorded until the corrected copy is handed in.**

II. CHAPTER TESTS

1. Fall term you will have 4 chapter tests and a final. Each chapter test will be worth 50 points and the final will be worth 100 points. The final will include material from chapters one through five. These tests are taken in class. See the exam schedule for test dates.
2. Practice tests: Before each actual test, you will receive a practice test which will be similar but not identical to the actual test. The first section consists of listening comprehension exercises. The audioscripts to these will be available on Moodle. After completing the practice test, you will bring it to class to receive credit on the day of an exam. You will earn five points for each practice test, but only if it is *completely filled out* by the time class begins. The final practice test will be worth 10 points.
4. Missing a test: If you miss taking one of the chapter tests, I will automatically increase the total points allotted to the final exam by 50 points to replace the missed test. Since this places a greater emphasis on the final, I strongly recommend that you avoid missing any test.

III. ORAL PRESENTATION

Near the end of the term you will be able to test your speaking skills and gauge your progress. You and two classmates will sign-up together for a 5-8 minutes group presentation to be given in your instructor's office during weeks 8 or 9. You can write out your script ahead of time, but there will be no notes allowed during the presentation. The grading rubric listing assessment criteria will be posted on Moodle.

IV. ATTENDANCE

This is perhaps the most important factor of all. If you miss a class, you miss the opportunity to hear and speak French. In addition, you will not be as well prepared for the next class.

Because attendance is so important, **185 points** (we will miss two classes at Thanksgiving and one on Veteran's Day) of your final grade have been allotted to your presence in class. Each time you attend class for the full 50 minutes, you will receive 5 points. If you arrive late or leave early, points will be subtracted (1 point for each 10 minute period or part thereof).

Students who miss more than 6 class hours should not expect to receive credit in the class unless those absences are excused by the instructor.

V. CLASS PARTICIPATION

Besides being present in class, it is essential that you prepare for each lesson in advance (study *before* coming to class, and if something is still unclear, prepare questions to ask your instructor in class.) This way, you will be prepared to participate in oral activities during class time. Since you are grouped at tables and often work in pairs, you will want to support each other's efforts to learn to speak another language. Communicating in a new language takes a lot of practice and encouragement!

You can earn up to 100 points for class participation (in French of course!). It is not the accuracy of your efforts that count but the attempts you make to try out your new language skills. Let's create an atmosphere where everyone benefits to the maximum by hearing and using French all the time.

VI. LAB

Class will meet once a week in our language computer lab (CEN 451) for lab. These sessions are worth 15 points, calculated separately from your attendance grade during the rest of the week. During each session you will be doing the following types of activities:

A. Pronunciation

You will learn the phonetic alphabet, practice distinguishing differences between vowel sounds and accents, and identify words and practice saying sentences aloud using these sounds.

B. Comprehension

You and a classmate will read a dialog in French. Student usually read it twice so as to change roles. Following the dialog, you and your partner will ask each other questions (on the hand outs) to check how well you've understood.

On alternating weeks, you will watch the *Vis-à-Vis* videoblog for the chapter you are studying and complete a brief comprehension exercise.

C. Communication

Each week in lab you will have the opportunity to express yourself orally to improve your spoken French. These communicative exercises will follow either the dialogs, the videoblog, or an internet activity.

D. Language Software Programs and Surfing the Net

To reinforce what you are learning in each chapter, your instructor will assign additional practice exercises and activities online and using our software programs, "Tell Me More" and "Rosetta Stone."

LAB GRADING POLICY

1. You will be evaluated on your participation and attendance only. How well you speak is not what is important for your lab experience, but rather being present and staying on task.
2. Be sure to fill out your attendance card with the date of your session and how many minutes you were present and leave it with the instructor at the end of the session. Your instructor will assign the points.
3. You will receive **15 points** for each lab session (**Total = 135 points for 9 sessions**). If you do not complete the lab session during the designated time period, there will be a few opportunities to do “drop-in” sessions with a tutor (CEN 451D) to make up points, ***as long as it is done the week following the missed lab***. You will only receive **12** points for make-up lab sessions. Make sure the tutor initials your lab card and the date of your lab make-up as well as the number of points earned.

COURSE OUTLINE

COURSE: FIRST YEAR FRENCH**COURSE NUMBER:** FR 101**COURSE CREDITS:** 5**COURSE HOURS/WEEK****LECTURE:** 5**LAB:** 0

COURSE DESCRIPTION: The first course in a three-term sequence designed for students with no prior language study. Introduction to French in the context of French-speaking cultures, with an emphasis on oral communication (listening and speaking) and some reading and writing. Students learn basic grammar structures, vocabulary, and cultural information. Computer lab work required.

COURSE OBJECTIVES: UPON COMPLETION OF THIS COURSE THE STUDENT WILL BE ABLE TO:

- A. Differentiate between formal and familiar social registers (*Vous* vs. *tu*)
- B. Identify and describe people, places and things.
- C. Express actions with *-er*, *-ir*, and *-re* verbs.
- D. Express disagreement using *ne...pas*.
- E. Get information by asking “yes/no” questions (*Est-ce que*) and interrogative expressions (*Où, quand, comment*, etc.)
- F. Refer to a specific place or person.
- G. Express sensations and feelings using the verb *avoir*.
- H. Express possession using the verb *avoir* and possessive adjectives.
- I. Indicate the absence of something (*pas de...*).
- J. Talk about plans, family and destinations.
- K. Express what one is doing or making with the verb *faire*.
- L. Speak about the near future using the verb construction “*aller* + infinitive”
- M. Talk about the weather
- N. Give the location of people and objects using prepositions of place (*dans, entre, sur, sous*, etc.)
- O. Gain and understanding of Francophone cultures of North America.

PREREQUISITES: NONE

COURSE CONTENT OUTLINE BY MAJOR TOPICS

- I. Greetings, Numbers, Date, Alphabet
- II Academic subjects, classroom vocab. and campus locations
- III Countries, nationalities, leisure activities, places
- IV Clothes, colors, positions
- V Physical descriptions and personality traits
- VI Bedroom, Questions, Date
- VII Family, House

VIII Seasons, Weather

IX French Universities, Fashion, Student Housing, Quebec