

French Cultural Experience – Fall 2023

Course number : 01:420:297

Tuesday 7:30-8:50 pm

Instructor : Wenjing Yu

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Office Hours : Tuesday 3:30pm to 5pm

AB-4172 & by appointment

Course Objectives:

As a conversation course, this French cultural experience course (based on French & Francophone related topics) is designed to develop oral comprehension and expression; however, some occasional reading and reporting may also allow students to improve their written comprehension and expression. The chosen topics serve as an introduction to specific linguistic objectives, and to cultural notions. This course offers an opportunity to develop cultural knowledge while practicing conversation skills.

Specific skills targeted in this course.

Main Language used: French

Reinforcement and enrichment of vocabulary in formal and informal French

Intensive practice of reading, speaking and listening skills

Practice of written presentational skills

Culture :

Deepening of students' general French and Francophone culture on various subjects (geography, history, film, music, media).

Introduction to cultural topics and contemporary issues

Topics and materials studied : Traditional and Contemporary music in French-Speaking cultures; Linguistic diversity and Multilingualism in French-speaking countries and regions; Argot and Verlan; Francophone literatures and Arts; Sports; relationships between France and the world...

Grading

Attendance (30%)

- Students are expected to arrive on time for class and to attend all classes. If a student must miss a class for a valid reason (illness, personal or family emergency, religious observance, or participation in recognized curricular or extracurricular activities), they must inform the instructor by using the reporting system. Two unjustified absences will result in a lower grade for participation, more than five absences without documentation will result in a final grade of F for the course.

Active participation and Engagement (in class and discussion forum): (40%)

- This course is intended to be a collaborative experience, and the various assignments required of students will all be discussed (these assignments are therefore integrated into the participation grade). Students are therefore expected to actively contribute to the course, especially after the weekly individual presentations. More generally, students are encouraged to view this course as a space for free speech, and to interact with the instructor and each other without fear of making mistakes or voicing opinions.

Presentation in French: (30%)

- Every week, one student will do a presentation on a chosen topic related to French & francophone culture (in English or French, according to level of proficiency). You should consult and confirm your presentation topic and date with the instructor in advance. Presentations must contain materials in French (with subtitles if necessary) and must last about 10 minutes. The form as well as the topic of the presentation are quite free, if it fits within the framework of this course. Students are expected to reference all sources and materials they used to prepare presentations.

The presentation is going to be followed by a discussion in class on the subject and a more general theme.

Grading scale :

A = 90-100 ; B+= 85-89; B = 80-84; C+= 75-79; C = 70-74; D = 60-69
F = below 60

Course organization and assignments:

Students will be notified on a week-to-week basis if there are materials to be viewed for the next class on Canvas. The same applies to the written assignments related to these materials. These written assignments will be neither systematic nor too time consuming in order not to overload students (who already have oral presentations to prepare), they must be typed in Times New Roman, font 12, with double line spacing (do not forget the accents that are part of the French spelling).

Class policies and etiquette

Late work will not be accepted, the given assignments are due at the beginning of the class period. If you are absent on a day an assignment is due, make arrangements to return it early, or send it by e-mail before the beginning of the class period on the assigned date.

Respect your classmates and your instructor : racist, sexist, homophobic or crude remarks on religion, cultural beliefs etc, will not be tolerated, as well as any form of discrimination. Cell phones, text-messaging devices and MP3 must be turned-off and stowed during class. Computers may be used to take notes, but e-mail, Facebook and other social networking sites are prohibited. Students who text during class, leave regularly to use cellphones, or act in disruptive manner will see their participation grades suffer. If you need to receive an important phone during a class period, let me know in advance.

Academic integrity

Students are asked to follow standard practices of academic integrity and to thereby avoid practices such as plagiarism or cheating. For more information, please go to « Academic integrity at Rutgers » (<http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu>).