

FREN 1001
Georgia Tech Lorraine

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is designed as an introductory course for students with no prior French instruction. The syllabus will cover units 1-7 of **PROMENADES**: the basics of oral and written communication and an introduction to French and Francophone cultures. No false beginners admitted to this course. Credit Hours: 3. Prerequisite: None.

TEXT: Mitchell, James G.; Mitschke, Cherie; and Tano, Cheryl. **PROMENADES**, *Second Edition*, Vista Higher Learning, 2014.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

At the end of this course, a student should be able to do the following:

1. Respond to simple questions on the most common features of daily life.
2. Convey minimal meaning to interlocutors experienced in dealing with foreigners by using isolated words, lists of words, memorized phrases and some personalized recombinations of words and phrases.
3. Satisfy a limited number of immediate needs [1-3 adapted from ACTFL Proficiency Guidelines--Speaking (revised 1999), in ACTFL OPI Interview Tester Training Manual, 1999].
4. Identify (and respond to) basic information in French on various written supports, including the Internet.
5. Appreciate French and Francophone culture's diversity.

ML PERFORMANCE GOAL #1: PROFESSIONAL COMMUNICATION	
ML Learning Outcome 1 : Demonstrate oral and aural proficiency in the target language	FREN 1001: Students will demonstrate oral proficiency at the Novice-High level on the ACTFL scale
ML Learning Outcome 2: Demonstrate effective presentation skills in the target language	FREN 1001: Students will demonstrate the ability to present in class for 2 minutes on an everyday topic
ML Learning Outcome 3: Demonstrate writing proficiency in the target language	FREN 1001: Students will produce a variety of short (1/2- page) essays at the Novice High level on the ACTFL scale
ML Learning Outcome 4: Demonstrate proficiency in	FREN 1001: Students will demonstrate global comprehension of short authentic texts related

comprehension of authentic written texts in the target language	to very familiar topics
ML PERFORMANCE GOAL #2: INTERCULTURAL SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE	
ML Learning Outcome 5: Demonstrate in-depth knowledge of a <i>specific</i> target-language country or region	n/a at this level
ML Learning Outcome 6: Demonstrate the ability to analyze an issue from target-culture perspective(s)	Students will present in groups topics and activities at the Novice High level on the ACTFL scale
ML Learning Outcome 7: Demonstrate critical reflection on cultural complexity and context	n/a at this level

COURSE EVALUATION

- Class participation & course preparation: 25%
- Midterm -- Exam#1 : 25 %
- Exam#2: 15 %
- Final exam: 35 %

COURSE POLICIES:

Office hours

Do not hesitate to come and see me as often as you want! You can also take an appointment if the office hours are not convenient to you, or just drop by. Especially, come as soon as you feel you have any problem and/or need help with anything .I will also be happy to help you as much as I can with your homework assignments or any issue pertaining to the course, the French program at Georgia Tech Lorraine, or queries on France and Francophone cultures. When I am not in my office, the best way to reach me is to email me.

Attendance, Academic Honesty

Your presence and active participation in class are essential. Daily class attendance is required. Please be on time too. Two unexcused absences allowed (an excused absence has to be documented by a letter from doctor or Dean). Cell phones off in class.

This course complies with GT Academic Honor Code: please see www.honor.gatech.edu. I am interested in your work, and not in that of a friend or material copied from the internet or any other source. Any form of cheating (be it on a test or any other assignment) is discouraged and will affect your grade.

Organization

The work on each of the chapters is task-oriented. Prepare these tasks well in advance. You need at least an hour to prepare for each class session. Read the pages assigned for each day thoroughly. You will have not only to know the material but also to apply it. Use

your dictionary (-ies) to look up for words and their constructions with prepositions used and/or irregular stems (a good dictionary will give you constructions, stems and examples of sentences). Take a study partner and work with her/him, especially on oral activities and presentations.

STUDY TIPS

1. Never miss class. Use every opportunity to speak, hear and read French. Keep on trying to keep a conversation going. Be willing to take risks, trying out the new structures and vocabulary you are learning. Students who play it safe (stick to the simple, reliable forms instead of trying new ones) will only hold themselves back. There is no disgrace goofing with something you didn't know; but progress comes from learning from it and doing better next time.

2. Make a constant effort to participate in each class. As you are novice speakers, you should not be afraid to make mistakes. They are a necessary part of the learning process. Never fear to ask for help: often the same thing puzzling you is confusing others too. Get help fast when you need it; do not let larger problems develop.

3. Do not fall behind in your work. Be organized: do your homework in time. 'Catching up' is extremely difficult in a language course. Success depends largely on regular contact with the material (In practicing a skill, four 15 minute-study periods with full concentration may work better for you than one-hour sessions). Don't be satisfied with knowing the material. Be sure to practice enough times to be able to perform it with relative ease and fluency. Tests examine not only what you know, but how well you know it and how quickly you can put it into use.

4. Watch yourself as a learner: try to determine what type of material helps you learn best and what doesn't. Avoid translation at all costs: you want to develop skills in French, and it doubles your processing time. It is more useful to develop the ability to paraphrase (circumlocute).

5. Design your own learning aids: flashcards, charts, lists, repertories, website, etc. This will help you memorize and recycle the material. Take advantage of cognates while building your vocabulary. Put tricky points on cards to carry with you and take advantage of those mentally idle moments in your day (walking, standing in line, eating breakfast, etc.) to practice the language. Memorize not only vocabulary, but useful formulas you can rely on to get things done.

6. Assume that grammar and syntax do mean something. In Romance languages, among others, place, form and endings of words can make a huge difference in meaning, and have for hundreds of years. Use the hand-outs.

7. Practice out loud. Read the material and learn the spelling of the words. Use the website's suggestions to improve on your speaking and listening abilities.

Some of these suggestions come from the *Middlebury College Summer Language School Handbook*, 1997, the *Wake Forest University Romance Languages Home Page* and the following individuals: Kara Rabitt, Joan McRae, Lucile Duperron. Also see Joan Rubin & Irene Thompson, *How to be a More Successful Language Learner*, Heinle & Heinle, 1982, or H. Douglas Brown, *A Practical Guide to Language Learning*, McGraw Hill, 1989). I am indebted to Dr. Christophe Ippolitto and Lionel Gall for their advice on this course.

FRENCH 1001
ELEMENTARY FRENCH I: SCHEDULE

Promenades program / Specific outcomes for units 1-7 are the following:

- Introducing yourself
- Greeting and saying goodbye
- Learning courtesy expressions
- Talking about yourself and others
- Spelling your name
- Asking and telling time and date
- Describing your university and classroom
- Exchanging information about courses of study
- Asking and responding to simple questions
- Talking about your family and friends
- Describing yourself, other people, and things
- Saying how old you and others are
- Talking about things that belong to you and others
- Ordering food and beverage at a café
- Talking about places and activities around town
- Expressing actions in the near future
- Expressing quantity
- Talking about pastimes, weekend activities, and sports
- Talking about the seasons and weather
- Planning activities
- Talking about and describing clothing preferences in a store
- Talking about how much things cost
- Negotiating and paying for items you buy
- Saying and describing what you bought
- Talking about your vacation plans
- Describing a hotel
- Talking to hotel personnel
- Telling where you went
- Talking about people and places you are familiar with