

## **Syllabi for French classes**

In all French classes students learn grammar skills through a variety of oral and written activities. Most of the class work is oral. Students have a written assignment to complete every night except the night before a test, when the homework consists in reviewing.

A typical class period includes the following:

- correction of the previous night's homework
- oral practice of last grammar point studied or of vocabulary and/or
- presentation of new material with oral practice
- short reading, discussion of cultural topic, word game

All oral drills and activities are tailored to the class and often draw on students' lives and experiences for examples. The class also makes extensive use of role-playing. Students sometimes work in pairs on dialogues or other linguistic tasks (writing and deciphering a riddle, responding to each other's letters...)

In order to keep up, it is very important that students do the homework daily. Students must correct the assignments during daily class corrections in order to get full credit. Late homework receives half credit until the day before the test, no credit after that date. Homework done on time but not corrected properly in class receives partial or no credit, but can usually be redone for partial credit. Students who are absent for one or more days can work out a schedule to make up homework without penalization.

Homework is collected daily and returned to the students a day or two before the test so they can review it and ask for clarifications if necessary. Students are encouraged to keep a homework portfolio until the final exam.

Homework usually is a handout prepared by the teacher or a composition often focusing on a specific grammar point or the use of thematic vocabulary. In addition, at each level, there are several more long term projects involving some research as well as a graphic and oral presentation of the findings. The due dates for longer projects are determined in collaboration with the students to ensure minimal conflict with important assignments in other classes.

Students take a written test at the end of each lesson. The time necessary to complete a lesson varies. Oral assessment is ongoing.

## **French II**

Second year introductory course in French language and culture.

### **Course goals and objectives**

Continued acquisition of basic grammar structures after review of material covered in French I. Development of the four skills of listening, speaking, reading, and writing at a more advanced level.

Awareness of cultural and social context.

Acquisition of more extensive vocabulary and idioms, both thematic and general.

At the end of French II students should have mastered the following points:

- Conjugation of common irregular verbs in present tense
- Conjugation in Passe Compose: irregular past participles, reflexive verbs, ETRE verbs
- Use of definite and partitive articles
- Irregular adjectives
- Negative phrases
- Reflexive verbs, including basic idiomatic ones.
- Use of direct and indirect object pronouns in present, passé compose, imperative
- Relative pronouns QUI and QUE
- Prepositions of location

They should be able to do the following :

- Ask for and give directions.
- Order and talk about food.
- Make complete portraits.
- Talk about daily activities.
- Make simple oral and written declarative statements in present and past tenses.
- Engage in unscripted dialogue.
- Use thematic vocabulary (food, body/health, house...) as well as basic general idioms.

## **Assignments**

Daily written homework assignments are designed by the teacher; each class starts with the correction of the previous night's assignment.

Compositions: Students write short paragraphs directly related to grammar points and others on personal or general topics, as well as creative ones. Students are expected to revise these after receiving the teacher's feedback. They read the final draft to the class.

Projects: My ideal house; others to be determined.

## **Instructional Materials**

*Discovering French, Nouveau! Bleu, Level 1, Level 2, High School* McDougal Littell

Realia

Variety of additional texts: children's books, easy readers, cultural readings

Movies

## **Assessment**

Regular testing to assess mastery of grammar points and vocabulary (30% semester grade)

Written assignments (homework, special projects) (20% semester grade)

Oral grade based on effort and quality of participation (25% semester grade)

Comprehensive final exam (25% semester grade)