

## **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 IV**

This class allows students with an interest in the language to get experience in more sophisticated levels of language. Points already covered in French III are studied in greater depth; new, more advanced points are presented. Students read and analyze literary as well as socially relevant texts. Most students taking this class continue their language study in college.

## **Course Goals and Objectives**

Further develop mastery of grammar.

Further develop four basic skills of listening, speaking, reading, and writing.  
Introduce students to unabridged literary texts, and develop analytical and interpretive skills.  
Broaden scope of knowledge and understanding of social and cultural context (Francophonie).  
Increase oral and written fluency.

Among the grammar points covered are the following:

- Passé Simple
- Compound Tenses other than Passe Compose
- Advanced irregular conjugations
- Idiomatic use of reflexive verbs
- Complete study of relative pronouns
- Subjunctive after conjunctions, Past Subjunctive
- Use of Infinitives
- Reported speech

## **Instructional Materials**

*French for Fluency* (grammar textbook)

Selected recordings, online French programs

Selected cultural and literary readings: short stories, newspaper articles, poetry

Literary texts chosen according to class interest. Readings from previous years include:

*La Farce de Maitre Pathelin*, fabliau du Moyen Age

Nouvelles et Contes (France, Monde Francophone)

Ionesco: *Rhinoceros*

Saint-Exupery : *Le Petit Prince*

Camus : *L'Etranger*

Movies selected from currently available titles.

## **Instructional Method and Key Assignments**

- Students participate in a variety of oral activities, from grammar drills to discussions of readings and unscripted dialogue.
- Students write responses to comprehension questions about the readings and practice expository writing in French. They also write creative pieces of varying lengths, including editing and revising.
- They share their responses during class discussions and read their other work to the class.
- They listen to recorded material and watch movies.
- They make several short oral presentations on cultural topics or on background information to their readings.
- They do grammar practice exercises as appropriate.

## **Assessment**

Regular testing to assess mastery of grammar (25%)

Written work (25%)

Oral presentations and daily oral participation (25%)

Final exam (25%)