CIEE Paris, France

Course title: French Language - Beginning I
Course code: FREN 1001 PAFR
Programs offering course: Paris Open Campus Block, Paris OC Modified University of Wisconsin Madison
Open Campus Track: Language, Literature, and Culture
Language of instruction: French
U.S. semester credits: 3
Contact hours: 60
Term: Spring Block I 2020

Course Description

This beginning grammar course aims to cover grammar basics while consolidating students' knowledge of principal tenses (present, past, and future), interrogation, negation, and pronouns. It will also allow them to deepen their understanding of elementary points, such as the masculine and feminine in adjectives and nouns, articles, expression of quantity, as well as demonstrative and possessive adjectives (elements that are absolutely essential to all communication). Lastly, this course will enrich students' vocabulary, which is equally indispensable at this stage of their learning.

Learning Objectives

By completing this course, students will:

In this course, students will carry out important work on verbs – the heart of sentences and essential elements to be mastered in the development of communicative capacity. They will also learn to master basic grammatical elements, which are critical to understanding one’s interlocutor. In addition, they will practice grammar in both written and oral forms, so as to develop practical communicative competences. At the end of the course, students will be capable of communicating and exchanging with a native speaker on simple, practical subjects regarding everyday life.

Course Prerequisites
None

Methods of Instruction

Learning a foreign language requires to process the meaning of words and sentences, to compare its structure with that of one’s own language and to interact with native speakers. We will start by discovering the sounds and writing of French, and go through basics like numbers, essential nouns, adjectives and verbs. Memorizing and being able to practice through “micro-systems” like conjugations is important and prepares the way for strong academic skills.

Assessment and Final Grade

1. First Assignment: Spelling & Pronunciation 10%
2. Midterm 15%
3. Vocabulary Test 15%
4. Creative Writing (with peer review) 15%
5. Final Exam 15%
6. Class Participation 30%
   TOTAL 100%

Course Requirements

First Assignment: Spelling & Pronunciation

With this first assignment, students will make sure they master the basics of French spelling and pronunciation through classroom vocabulary.

Students are expected to do regular work and memorize new elements both in speaking (such as pronunciation) and writing (spelling and grammatical marks). An active participation in class is essential to develop a good grasp of the bases of French grammar and communication.

Midterm

This test evaluates the student’s grasp of vocabulary and numbers covered in the first half of the block. It also includes oral comprehension and oral production components.
Vocabulary Test

This second test is a written test about essential French vocabulary covered in class (nouns with their gender, masculine or feminine).

Creative Writing (with peer review)

This writing exercise, articulated around the expression of specific personal tastes, takes its inspiration from a literary work which is introduced in class. It then proceeds through vocabulary search and vocabulary building as well as a peer review. After two drafts, students come up with a final version which in turn results in an in-class oral activity. The overall purpose of this multifaceted activity is to create a sense of continuity and progression throughout the block and allow students, even at this level, to appropriate the language.

Final Exam

This exam is cumulative, covering material from the entire block. Oral understanding, grammar, spelling and vocabulary will be evaluated.

Class Participation

Participation is valued as meaningful contribution in the digital and tangible classroom, utilizing the resources and materials presented to students as part of the course. Meaningful contribution requires students to be prepared in advance of each class session and to have regular attendance. Students must clearly demonstrate they have engaged with the materials as directed, for example, through classroom discussions, online discussion boards, peer-to-peer feedback (after presentations), interaction with guest speakers, and attentiveness on co-curricular and outside-of-classroom activities.

Important: collective and individual reflection on language learning, based on video materials, discussions in class and small written productions in English, is part of class participation and is graded as such. All students in the group are expected and encouraged to engage in an actual and conscious learning of the language, inside and outside the class, in order to succeed and move on to the next appropriate language level.
Attendance

Regular class attendance is required throughout the program, and all absences will result in a lower participation grade for any affected CIEE course. Due to the intensive schedules for Open Campus and Short Term programs, absences that constitute more than 10% of the total course will result in a written warning.

Students who transfer from one CIEE class to another during the add/drop period will not be considered absent from the first session(s) of their new class, provided they were marked present for the first session(s) of their original class. Otherwise, the absence(s) from the original class carry over to the new class and count against the grade in that class.

For CIEE classes, excessively tardy (over 15 minutes late) students must be marked absent.

Attendance policies also apply to any required co-curricular class excursion or event, as well as to any required field placement. Students may not miss placement/work hours at an internship or service learning site unless approved in advance by the Academic Director and placement supervisor. All students must complete all of the requisite 100 minimum work hours on site at the internship or service learning placement to be eligible for academic credit.

Students who miss class for personal travel, including unforeseen delays that arise as a result of personal travel, will be marked as absent. No make-up or re-sit opportunity will be provided.

Attendance policies also apply to any required class excursion, with the exception that some class excursions cannot accommodate any tardiness, and students risk being marked as absent if they fail to be present at the appointed time.

Absences for classes will lead to the following penalties:
N.B. Course schedule is subject to change due to study tours, excursions, or local holidays. Final schedules will be included in the final syllabus provided to students on site.

Weekly Schedule

Week 1
Class 1.1 Introduction

Class presentation

- Student introductions. “Je m’appelle, Elle s’appelle, Il s’appelle…”

Letters and numbers from 0 to 10.

Vocalic sounds: « eu », « oi », « au », « on ».

Work for next class:
https://quizlet.com/216548010/numbers-from-one-to-ten-flash-cards/

Work for session 4:
Watch the videos on Open Culture website. What is the most relevant or inspiring talk for you? What attitudes and strategies are you going to keep in mind?

Week 2
Class 2.1 Contact

“Les mots nouveaux”: words and expressions heard and seen by the students.

Some French names and how to read them.

Numbers 10 to 19.

How to read: « ou », « ei », « in » + “la liaison”.

Work for next class:

https://quizlet.com/216560251,numbers-from-ten-to-nineteen-flash-cards/

Class 2.2

Adjectives of Nationality.

Verbs “être” and “s’appeler”.

Communication: getting acquainted.

Free assignment.

Work for next class:

582067/nationality-adjectives-feminine-and-masculine-1-flash-cards/

2.3

Names of Countries: the use of “le”, “la”, “l’” and “les”.

Communication: greetings in French.

Work for next class:

https://quizlet.com/219251478/country-names-flash-cards/
https://quizlet.com/216583095/greetings-flash-cards/

Class 2.4

Numbers from 20 to 69.

How to read: « en », « an ».

French vocalic sounds.

First graded assignment: spelling and pronunciation. Adjectives, nouns, numbers introduced and practiced in weeks 1 and 2.

Discussion in English: first impressions on learning a foreign language; comments about the videos.

Work for next class:


Week 3

Class First Interactions

3.1

“Les mots nouveaux”: words and expressions heard and seen by the students.

Written understanding: how to introduce yourself.

Work for next class:
Class 3.2

Communication: how to ask for information.

Vocabulary: colors.

Work for next class:
https://quizlet.com/216729176/colours-flash-cards/?new

Class 3.3

Review and exercises to prepare for the midterm examination.

Numbers up to 100.

Work for next class:

Week 4

Class 4.1 Food

Midterm: test evaluating oral comprehension + vocabulary + numbers.

Class participation grade #1.

Work for next class:

Class 4.2

"Les mots nouveaux": words and expressions heard and seen by the students.
Communication: “Au restaurant”.

Vocabulary: fruits

Work for next class:
https://quizlet.com/216729317/fruits-flash-cards/?new

Class 4.3

« J’aime / je n’aime pas »: written understanding.

Vocabulary: vegetables.

Common verbs finishing with –er.

Work for next class:
https://quizlet.com/216729636/vegetables-flash-cards/?new

Prepare for the vocabulary test.

Class 4.4

Vocabulary test.

« J’aime / je n’aime pas »: draft 1, written production.

Work for next class:

« J’aime / je n’aime pas »: complete Draft 1.

Week 5

Class 5.1 Meeting People

“J’aime / je n’aime pas” : Draft 1 due by class time
“Les mots nouveaux”: words and expressions heard and seen by the students.

Communication: “Au téléphone”.

Work for next class:

« J’aime / je n’aime pas »: peer review.

Class 5.2

Conjugation: common verbs in -er (full conjugation).

“J’aime / je n’aime pas”: Peer reviews due by class time.

Work for next class:


Class 5.3

How to express time: “official” time.

Work for next class:

« J’aime / je n’aime pas »: draft 2.

Class 5.4

How to express time: “ordinary” time.

“J’aime / je n’aime pas” Draft 2 due by class time.

Work for next class:

https://quizlet.com/216730149/how-to-express-time-flash-cards/?new
“J’aime / je n’aime pas”: write the final version.

Week 6
Class 6.1
Daily Life Activities

“Les mots nouveaux”: words and expressions heard and seen by the students.

Communication: “La Vie quotidienne”.

Vocabulary: family members.

“J’aime / je n’aime pas”: final version due by class time.

Work for next class:


Class 6.2

“Du / de la / de l’ / des”

Preparation for the final examination: written production (“Qui est Karen ?”).

“J’aime / je n’aime pas”: Reading.

Work for next class:

Go over notes and activities and bring questions to the general review next class.

Class 6.3

Verb “aller” and preposition “à”
Collective preparation for the final examination: oral production and interaction.

General review.

Work for next class:

Prepare for the final examination (conjugations, vocabulary).

Class 6.4.

Final examination. Cumulative test evaluating oral comprehension, oral production, vocabulary, and numbers.

Conclusions.

Course Materials

Readings


Online Resources


http://www.openculture.com/2017/12/what-are-the-most-effective-strategies-for-learning

https://quizlet.com/fr-fr (selected exercises to review vocabulary and verb conjugations at the A1.1 level)