CIEE Dakar, Senegal

Course title: Advanced French I
Course code: FREN 3001 SGSM
Programs offering course: Language and Culture
Language of instruction: French
U.S. semester credits: 3
Contact hours: 50
Term: Spring 2020

Course Description

This French course will enable students to improve what they have acquired in French and to have a better understanding of the francophone culture and particularly the Senegalese culture. It has two components: a language and cultural components.

In the first component, we will try to reinforce what students have acquired by reviewing:

A. Grammatical points

- Past tenses (perfect, imperfect, more than perfect)
- Future and Conditional tenses
- Subjunctive tense
- Connectors
  - cause and consequence
  - comparison
  - opposition and concession
  - purpose
- Condition and hypothesis
- Relative pronouns
- Negation, etc.

The main goal for this course is to help students master these grammatical points. As for the method, it is not a matter of systematic grammar courses but trying to guide students so they can discover/understand by themselves grammatical points from adequate exercises.
Two assignments on conjugation and grammatical points will enable students to have two grades. In general, an incorrect item makes one lose half of a point or a point depending on the assignment. In all cases, the scale is explained or mentioned on the assignment sheet.

Secondly, we will insist on speaking through discussions on current topics, cultural texts or newspapers’ articles. Mistakes from these discussions will be written on the board and corrected after.

B. **Conversation or discussion on current topics**

- Elections in Senegal
- Coexistence between Muslim and Christian
- The Islamic veil
- The phenomenon of immigration
- Prostitution
- Beaten women
- Women's work: domestic workers
- The circumcision ceremony
- The school system in Senegal
- Polygamy
- Marriage and dowry
- A controversial cultural practice: excision (female genital mutilation)
- Africa / America: a social, cultural and educational comparative study
- Americans seen by Africans
- Begging in Senegal: definition, function, social and political status
- The religious brotherhoods in Senegal
- Public Health
- Pollution
- The Senegalese economy and unemployment
- The urban situation in Senegal
- Politics in Senegal
- Democracy or dictatorship in Africa

C. **Presentations**
Each student will choose his/her own topic, prepares and presents it to his /her classmates who will ask him/her questions. This will be assessed and the grading will be based on the student’s seriousness to do the assignment as well as his /her mastery of French.

D. Fun activities

Fun activities such as role-plays will be integrated in the program to animate the course. In addition, students will be asked to animate creative activities sessions

Learning Objectives

By completing this course, students will:

- Develop enhanced ability to communicate appropriately in French;
- Analyze their experiences in Senegal and conduct cultural comparisons and surveys in French;
- Demonstrate skills to argue, debate, and express an opinion in French;
- Research some aspects of Senegalese Society and Culture through Literature written in French.

Course Prerequisites

None.

Methods of Instruction

Instructional activities will include presentations of grammar lessons, readings, oriented discussions on specific topics, case studies, student presentations, oral and written report etc.

N.B. Course schedule is subject to change due to study tours, excursions, and local holidays. Final schedules will be included in the final syllabus provided to students on site.

Assessment and Final Grade

1. Written Assignments 20%

3 of 9
2. Knowledge of the Language 20%
3. Oral Expression 10%
4. Final Exam 30%
5. Participation 20%
TOTAL 100%

Course Requirements

Written Assignments

An oral and written report will be done after each field trip. The written report will be corrected according to the following scale: for one mistake, 0.25 point will be removed, so for four mistakes, 1 point will be removed from the grade.

Knowledge of the Language

This evaluation will focus on grammar, conjugation, lexicology and stylistics (on lessons covered in class).

Oral Expression

presentation etc.

Final Exam

Final exams will focus on grammar namely conjugation and other grammatical points. The written production usually focuses on students’ stay/ experiences in Sénégal. As for the oral part, it puts the emphasis on topics known by students. To give the same chance to all students, topics are chosen at random and presented individually according to a scale predetermined by the teacher.

Participation

Participation takes into account attendance, effective participation in lessons, respect of deadline for assignments etc.
Weekly Schedule

Week 1
Class: 1.1

Contact with students
Students’ expectations
Students introduce themselves using the map of USA (my identity)
Prepositions with geographical names

Assignment
Exercise: complete with the appropriate preposition
Revision of the present tense

Assignments
Complete an interview using the present tense of the verb
Write short stories

Week 2
Class: 2.1

Perfect and Imperfect tenses (Forms & uses) Assignments
Complete with the appropriate form of the verb
Write a story in the past
Questions & answers using perfect and imperfect tenses
Oral expression: topics of students’ choices

Week 3
Class: 3.1
The plu-perfect tense (Form & uses)

Assignments

Put the appropriate form of the verb

Reading + analysis of the reading

Simple relative pronouns (qui- que- dont)

Assignments

Complete with the appropriate simple relative pronoun

Create sentences using simple relative pronouns Transform sentences using simple relative pronouns

Week 4
Class: 4.1.

RURAL VISITS

Week 5
Class: 5.1.

Rural visits debriefing

Simple Future – Anterior Future tenses (Forms & uses)

Assignments

Put the appropriate form of the verb

Write a paragraph on one’s future projects

Week 6
Class: 6.1.
Conditional present tense (Form and uses)

Clauses with Si

Assignments

Complete with the appropriate form of the verb Exercises to practice clauses with Si

Students write situations to give and ask for advices + discussion

Questions & answers using conditional + discussion Subjunctive tense (Form and uses)

Assignment

Put the appropriate form of the verb (Subjunctive tense)

Week 7
Class: 7.1

Oral expression: for or against + discussion

- Death penalty
- Polygamy
- Euthanasia
- Etc.

Composed Relative Pronouns (ce qui, ce que, ce dont, auquel, duquel etc.)

Assignments

Put the appropriate composed relative pronoun Transform sentences using composed relative pronouns

Week 8
Class: 8.1
Evaluation: Knowledge of the language + written production

Logical Connectors: Causes & Consequences Assignment

Complete with the appropriate logical connector

Week 9
Class:  9.1  .

Oral expression: Analysis of newspapers articles + debate

Presentations by students

Week 10
Class:  10.1  .

The reported speech and tenses changes + exercises Presentations by students

Week 11
Class:  11.1  .

Logical connectors: Comparison & Opposition

Assignment

Complete with the appropriate logical connector Logical connectors:
Purpose & condition

Assignment

Complete with the appropriate logical connector

Week 12
Class:  12.1  .

Students’ special needs and problems
Evaluation: Knowledge of the language + written production

Week 13
Class: 13.1.

TYPOLOGY OF TEXTS: Argumentative & Prescriptive texts

Assignment

Students produce /create an argumentative text

Week 14
Class: 14.1.

Presentations by students

General revision

Week 15
Class: 15.1.

Final exam: Knowledge of the language + written production

Final exam: LPI (Language Proficiency Interviews)

Course Materials
Readings

• French Advanced 1 Manual
• Students are encouraged to read the books in the CIEE library (African Novels and other useful works in French)