

SCHOOL OF ARTS & SCIENCES PROSPECTUS SPRING 2024

FREN 0300

INTERMEDIATE FRENCH I – RACONTER PARIS

COURSE DESCRIPTION

- French 0300 is the first half of a two-semester intermediate sequence designed to help you attain a level of proficiency that should allow you to function comfortably in a French-speaking environment.
- You are expected already to have learned the most basic grammatical structures in elementary French and will review these on your own with a grammar handbook, documents posted by your instructor on Canvas, and online exercises. This course will build on your existing skills in French, increase your confidence and ability to read, write, speak, and understand French, and introduce you to more refined lexical items, more complex grammatical structures, and more challenging cultural material.
- Contextualized around Paris and its art, literature, culture, restaurants, and housing, you will be asked to immerse yourselves in the life of one of Paris' neighborhoods. As part of this engaging "global simulation," you will interact with your fellow classmates and explore your own *arrondissement* through weekly writing and video assignments, as well as in-class communicative activities such as role-plays, problem-solving tasks, discussions, and debates. The collaborative and cumulative structure of the course will allow us to deepen our collective knowledge of the City of Light and French culture.
- As in other French courses at Penn, class will be conducted entirely in French. Through the study of authentic materials such as articles, films, videos, and websites, you will grow in your understanding of the French-speaking world and have multiple opportunities to develop your communicative competence and your writing skills. .
- Homework will require grammar readings and vocabulary exercises on documents posted on Canvas, weekly composition practice, frequent short writing activities, filmed speaking, and several reading assignments.

PREREQUISITES & PLACEMENT

Students who enroll in French 0300 must meet one of the following prerequisites:

- Successful completion of French 120/0200 or French 121/0210.
- A score between 450 and 540 on the SAT II or the departmental written exam.
- A score between 369 and 405 on the [online placement exam](#).

Students having completed a previous course in French at Penn are not allowed to skip a level.

Students in the College with a placement score are allowed to move up one level without seeking special permission; students in other schools who wish to move up a level must speak with the course coordinator.

Since the placement scores are based on exams using a multiple-choice format and do not measure oral and listening skills, they provide a preliminary placement level. If necessary, students will be moved up or down one level if their ability to function in the language does not seem appropriate for the level of the course. You should consult your instructor or the course coordinator if you have concerns about your placement.

COURSE STRUCTURE¹

- For the Spring 2024 semester, all sections of FREN 0300 are scheduled in person.
- The class will meet on Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday for 60 minutes.
- The course is based on active learning (flipped-classroom), therefore students are expected to work on the target vocabulary and grammar (i.e. read a grammar lesson, learn a vocabulary list, and do a content activity such as reading comprehension) prior to class and class time will be spent applying those concepts through communicative tasks and pair/small group interactions.
- The semester-long calendar will be detailed in the course syllabus to be published at a later date.
- Detailed weekly programs will be posted on Canvas in order to inform students of what they can expect to do every class meeting and what they need to do outside of class meetings (in preparation for class or as post-class assignments)
- Office hours will be bookable online in order to give everyone more opportunities to receive personal attention and additional practice.

ATTENDANCE & ENGAGEMENT

- Successful foreign language learning requires daily practice and you are expected to attend all class meetings and submit work according to the guidelines indicated on Canvas.
- **Please be advised that attendance at the first class meeting is MANDATORY.**
- **Attendance will be taken for all classes and you may not exceed more than one week or 3 absences. This includes absences incurred as a result of adding the course late. Please note that absences that exceed the limit may have a negative effect on your final grade.** If you are unable to meet these expectations, you should contact your instructor as soon as possible. You must email your instructor and report absences through Path@Penn.

¹ Our goal is to provide optimal learning conditions and therefore the course is subject to change based on your feedback and periodic reassessment of how well our pedagogic goals are being achieved.

- For further information regarding attendance, consult the College webpage on Policies Governing Class Attendance: <https://www.college.upenn.edu/attendance>.

ASSESSMENT & GRADING

- Your grade will be based on the following criteria:

Compositions (3)	30%
Quizzes (4)	20%
Daily Participation & Preparation	10%
Video blog (3)	15%
Oral exam (1)	10%
Canvas posts & quizzes	15%

COURSE MATERIALS

- Students must have access to the following grammar reference book that will also be required in FREN 0400 and 1000.
 - *Contextualized French Grammar: A Handbook*, Stacey Katz Bourns, Cengage, 2013
- All other course materials and readings will be on Canvas.
- Any student may consult with [Student Financial Services](#) to find out what support they are eligible to receive to cover course costs or other items that ensure their health, safety, and secure learning environment.

COURSE COORDINATOR: Rebecca C. Harmon, Ph.D. (rcharmon@sas.upenn.edu)