

*** *This prospectus is provisional and subject to modification.* ***

FREN 1000, Advanced French: *Une nouvelle jeunesse*

COURSE DESCRIPTION

L'objectif de ce cours est de vous aider à mieux connaître et comprendre la société française actuelle à travers la découverte de ses jeunes, vos homologues. Mais qui sont-ils ? Génération X, Y, Z ? Une lettre suffit-elle pour la définir ? Les jeunes outre-Atlantique sont-ils si différents de vous ? Les comprenez-vous (au sens linguistique et culturel) ? Vous parlent-ils (au sens propre et figuré) ? D'ailleurs, qu'est-ce être jeune tout court ?

These will be some of our guiding questions in FREN 1000 this semester, as we set out to discover what makes a generation and what characterizes your generation in particular. We will be looking not only at the commonalities and differences between Penn students and their French and Francophone counterparts, but also at the ways in which one generation inherits from those that have gone before. From school life to family dynamics, and from the fight for social justice to the risks and rewards of social media, we will undertake an in-depth investigation into today's youth, their experiences, preoccupations, and predecessors. Our resources will include a wide variety of cultural materials, from contemporary films and songs to news articles and literary texts. Our journey of intercultural and linguistic discovery will also be a process of self-reflection; throughout the semester we will be testing Jean-Paul Sartre's affirmation that "*l'autre est indispensable à mon existence, aussi bien d'ailleurs qu'à ma connaissance que j'ai de moi.*"

Class will meet in person three times a week unless otherwise stipulated. Your instructor will notify you in advance of any sessions to be conducted asynchronously.

PREREQUISITES

Students must meet one of the following prerequisites:

- Successful completion of French 140 or exemption from the language requirement
- A score above 650 on the SAT II
- AP 4 or 5

All students must confirm their placement prior to the first class by filling out the departmental credit regulation form online.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The course is designed

- to prepare students for **upper level courses** in French and Francophone studies and for **Study Abroad**
- **to solidify** students' knowledge of the language, building on the grammatical and lexical foundations they have acquired at previous levels. The course will also introduce them to the notion of **stylistic variation** or **registers** in both written and spoken French, and help them to situate the language they hear or read along a continuum from very formal to very colloquial.
- to help students become more aware of **the process of language learning** so as to develop strategies that will enable them to become **independent language learners**.
- to further develop students' ability to engage in **(inter)cultural learning and understanding**. The course will be grounded in the six facets of complete understanding defined by Wiggins and McTighe (2005): **ability to explain, interpret, apply, empathize, have perspective, and experience self-knowledge**. By the end of the course, students will demonstrate a broad understanding of the issues facing French youth today, and will be able to engage in an informed discussion of these issues, raising critical questions, drawing comparisons with their own personal concerns, and having enhanced their perspectives on their own identity.
- to help students gain **confidence** in expressing themselves in a foreign language, in a broad variety of settings and contexts: conversation with fellow French speakers, presenting and synthesizing arguments, critical analysis of cultural material, etc.

EXPECTATIONS AND REQUIRED WORK

Class activities and homework will be detailed on the Canvas Programme, which students should consult on a daily basis. The Programme will be updated regularly and is subject to modification throughout the semester; your instructor will keep you apprised of updates.

Participation and Engagement (30%)

FREN 1000 is a highly interactive class whose success depends on students' regular, active participation. There will be a number of ways in which you can engage with the course material and with one another, both in and out of the classroom.

- ***In-class participation***

During class sessions, much of the time will be spent working with your classmates in pairs or small groups. It is expected that the discussion be conducted entirely in French, even when your instructor is helping another group.

Your instructor will take attendance for every session. Please make every effort to inform your instructor in advance if you are unable to attend class. If you are absent, you will be expected to review the material covered that day and to contribute to the class discussion by the end of that week via Canvas or Google Docs, according to what your instructor specifies. You may not exceed 3 absences during the semester; additional absences will have a negative effect on your overall grade. Please contact your instructor as soon as possible if you have any concerns or anticipate any difficulty in meeting these requirements.

- ***Preparation & homework***

Discussions will be largely based on materials assigned outside of class (readings, films, songs, etc.), which you are expected to prepare before attending. Assignments will also include posting written or recorded contributions to Canvas (e.g. discussion boards and individual Canvas pages) and Google Docs. Although FREN 1000 does not conduct a systematic in-class review of grammar, your instructor will periodically indicate topics to review outside of class; regular practice, as well as close attention to the feedback provided by your instructor, will accelerate your progress as a language learner.

Creative Project (30%)

During the second half of the semester, students will work individually or in groups on a multifaceted *reportage* that will allow them to synthesize and personalize numerous aspects of the course content. The project's structure will draw on the [Génération Quoi](#) projet and on the French weekly [Le 1](#), and will blend written and visual elements. Students will share their work during the last week of the semester.

Essays (25%)

Students will write three essays during the semester. The essays will expand on topics and themes discussed in class, and will draw on readings and films that have been assigned. A first draft of each essay will be written in class, and a revised draft produced at home; the final grade will amalgamate the two versions.

Oral Exam (15%)

There will be a final oral exam at the end of classes. Each student will schedule a 30-minute appointment with their instructor. Students will be evaluated on linguistic accuracy, the quantity and quality of information pertaining to the major themes of the course, ability to link details to the broader context, and oral fluency.

FINAL GRADE

Participation and Engagement 30%

Creative Project 30%

Essays 25%

Oral Exam 15%