

FREN 0400-ALL SECTIONS

INTERMEDIATE FRENCH II: GRIOTS MODERNES: L'ART DE LA PAROLE

This course invites you to **listen to the stories of the French-speaking population** outside the borders of France. The figure of the *griot*, the West African storyteller and guardian of cultural heritage, will be our guide as we learn about the history and traditions of Senegal, Martinique, and the Maghreb. We will explore the cities of Dakar, Fort-de-France, and Constantine, investigating the **diverse perspectives and voices** reflected in **historical sites, folktales, film, poetry, art, and music**. These authentic materials will introduce you to important values and customs and engage you to **consider issues pertaining to identity**, the role of education, the influence of Western ideas on non-Western cultures, and the use of oral tradition to preserve cultural heritage. This course is specifically **designed to develop your communicative competence** as well as your writing and reading skills through the in-depth **review and practice of essential grammatical points** (past tenses, subjunctive, passive voice, and the passé simple). Finally, as you listen to the stories from this part of the world, you will have the opportunity to take part in a storytelling project to **recount your own personal experiences and preserve the stories** that have helped shape the person you are!

COURSE STRUCTURE

- For the Fall semester, it is anticipated that all sections of French 0400 will be taught in-person. The class will meet three times a week for 60-minute sessions.
- The semester-long calendar of assignments and assessments common to all sections will be detailed on Canvas.
- Detailed *Programmes de la semaine* with links to all course materials and access to learning platforms will be published on Canvas.

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

ASSESSMENT AND GRADING POLICY

- Your grade will be based on the following criteria:
 - Participation and Engagement 30%
 - Krik? Krak! Oral Storytelling Project 30%
 - In-class Essays 20%
 - Written and Canvas Assignments 20%

COURSE MATERIALS

- Required book: *Petit-fils d'Algérie* (French Edition) by Joël Alessandra, Casterman, 2015.
- All remaining course materials will be available 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.