

Elementary French (FRENCH 001)

Bryn Mawr College - Fall 2020

Instructor: Corine Ragueneau Wells

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Lecture: 9:40-10:30am M to F (5 days a week) Taylor E (M-W-F) Remote (T-Th)

Office: Old Library 145

Office hours: most days between 10:30am and 12:30pm and by appointment, most likely on zoom.

Course structure:

This course is a yearlong course that meets five days a week in non-intensive sections. Both semesters are required for credit.

Bonjour et bienvenue en Français 001!

This is the first course in a two-part series of beginning French. It will help you develop your French skills in a comprehensive manner, including proficiency building in the five communication modes of interpretive listening, interpretive reading, presentational speaking, presentational writing, and interpersonal communication. It will also introduce you to the cultural and ethnic diversity of the francophone world, while deconstructing a number of clichés about France. The focus of the course is on the students' ability to use the language for communicative purposes. Because instruction is given entirely in French using methods and activities that make the language comprehensible, easy, and fun, you will make rapid progress in your ability to speak the language.

Required Course Materials: Do not purchase until the end of the first week (tbc)

- **Textbook:** Kimberly Jansma, Margaret Ann Kassen, Denié-Higney Laurence. *Atelier. An Introductory French program, First Edition* (2019)
- **Online workbook:** MindTap
- We will be using *Atelier* and *MindTap* for textbook study and classroom activities. They will be your personal roadmap throughout the year. We recommend that you purchase both as a bundle (ebook + access to MindTap resources) from the BMC or HC library (ISBN: 9781305276543). It will be your only expense in this course for the whole year.

- Please purchase the materials as soon as you are certain that you want to complete both semesters of Non-Intensive Elementary French.

How to succeed in this course:

It is important that you study the material in the textbook and do the activities in the workbook each day before you come to class and that you complete the MindTap assignments after each class. Come to class with a sharp awareness of the material, whether it is vocabulary or grammar, as the daily lesson will blend together new and previously learned material. Develop the habit of only speaking French in class, with your instructor and with the other students. When you have a question about homework, assignments, deadlines, etc, use French in your emails. This will improve your French skills at a quick rate, and will be highly beneficial for the oral exams. Your willingness to express yourself in the target language will be reflected in your participation grade. Use office hours as an opportunity to go over a difficult part of the lesson, or just to practice your conversation skills. This will improve your interpersonal communication and writing skills at a quick rate.

In addition to your work on the textbook and MindTap, it is essential that you seek out real-world sources to apply your growing knowledge.

- Find a French YouTube channel that deals with your interests/hobbies.
- Listen to the French public radio and watch French news clips online.
- Identify a few French personalities (in entertainment, media, politics, sports) and follow them on their social media.
- Find a French singer/band and immerse yourself in their work.
- Start a journal in French and tell about cultural/personal experiences.

The textbook and MindTap will provide you with a strong, traditional base for building up your grammar and vocabulary, but only this real-world training will turn your acquisition of French into an authentic experience. Overall (textbook study, MindTap activities and “authentic” homework), you should dedicate no less than one daily hour to practicing your French in addition to instruction time. In world languages, the gold standard for measuring proficiency is your ability to communicate beyond the walls of the classroom.

Online resources

Course Moodle page: <https://moodle.brynmawr.edu/course/view.php?id=222#section-0>

MindTap: <https://www.cengage.com/dashboard/%23/course-confirmation/MTPPNJNQ372M/initial-course-confirmation>

Code to join the course is Course Key: MTPPNJNQ372M

This is the place where you can find the MindTap component of the method, and where you will do your homework assignments.

If you feel that you need a student tutor, please fill out the request form here:

<https://brynmawr.wufoo.com/forms/tutoring-request-form/>

Bryn Mawr College Honor Code: <http://sga.blogs.brynmawr.edu/honor-board/honor-code/>

Access services: Students who think they may need accommodations in this course due to the impact of a learning, physical, or psychological disability are encouraged to meet with me privately early in the semester to discuss their concerns. In addition, students must contact Deborah Alder, Coordinator of Access Services (610-526- 7351 or dalder@brynmawr.edu) as soon as possible, to verify their eligibility for reasonable academic accommodations. Early contact will help to avoid unnecessary inconvenience and delays.

« Authentic » resources

As part of our immigration unit, but also to practice interpretive listening skills and for grammar reinforcement purposes, we will use parts of this web documentary: <http://www.photo-de-classe.org/#/accueil>

“Photo de classe” is a free online documentary project about diversity in a Paris elementary school classroom. It is a wonderful introduction to contemporary France as a nation of immigrants and to its colonial and postcolonial history. It is also a great resource to debunk a number of stereotypes about the French society.

Note: The following references are essentially subjective. By no means should they be regarded as an exhaustive list. Please build it up at your own pace and according to your personal tastes and interests.

Traditional media

<https://www.brut.media/fr>
<http://savoirs.rfi.fr/fr/recherche/rubrique/apprendre>
<http://www.francetvinfo.fr/images/videos/>
<http://www.france24.com/fr/>

<http://www.tv5monde.com>
<http://www.lemonde.fr>
<http://www.lefigaro.fr>

YouTube channels

<https://www.youtube.com/user/EnjoyPhoenix>
<https://www.youtube.com/user/ptitenatou>
<https://www.youtube.com/user/UnMondeAuFeminin>
<https://www.facebook.com/coucoulesgirls/?fref=ts>
<https://www.youtube.com/user/MonsieurDream>
<https://www.youtube.com/user/NormanFaitDesVideos>

French and francophone artists

Angèle, Aloïse Sauvage, Edgar Sekloka, Suzane, Pomme, Camille, Gael Faye, Delgres, Tiken Jah Fakoly, Requin Chagrin, Anne o'Aro, Columbine, Bagarre, Amadou et Mariam, Orelsan, Dowdelin, Blick Bassy, PNL, Maître Gims, Moonlight Benjamin, Damso, Niska, Stromae, Fishbach, Feu ! Chatterton, La Grande Sophie, Fauve, Nekfeu, La Femme, Noir Désir, Christine and the Queens, Soko, Eddy de Pretto, PLK, Rachid Taha, Claire Luciani, Lescop, Barbara, MC Solaar, Les Rita Mitsouko, La Mano Negra, Jacques Brel, Taxi Girl, Daniel Darc, Bisso Na Bisso

Attendance policy and acceptable use of technology:

Attendance is mandatory and will be taken at the beginning of each class. Your goal should be perfect attendance and punctuality. You are expected to be in class on time, and to come prepared. Tardiness will lower your grade – three “tardies” will equal one absence, and excessive tardiness will be counted as an absence. Since the bulk of class time is devoted to pair and group activities, your presence is necessary for your own progress, but also for your classmates’ success.

For an absence to be excused, you must provide the instructor with an excuse respecting the Honor Code via email in a timely manner. There is a limit of two excused absences unless the student submits official documentation from the Dean’s Office regarding the absence(s). Starting with a 3rd unexcused absence, your final grade in the course will be lowered by 1 percentage point per absence. For instance, if you earn a 93% (A-) in the class but have 4 unexcused absences (penalty of 4 percentage points), you will receive a 89% (B+) in the course. Students with more than 5 unexcused absences risk failing the class.

All tests and exams must be taken as scheduled unless you have documentation from the Dean's Office requesting an alternate test time. Only in the case of serious illness, exams will be rescheduled immediately upon the student's return to class.

Classroom activities will make intensive use of personal devices (smartphone, tablets, laptops). In that context, you are expected to treat them exclusively as learning tools.

Table française at Bryn Mawr and French Mutations Film Festival:

The French table will meet twice a week **in a Zoom meeting/at New Dorm (Haffner) Dining Center**. The exact days and times will be announced at the beginning of the semester. Although those meetings are not part of the curriculum, they are an excellent opportunity to practice your oral skills in a low-pressure environment. Elementary French students must attend at least twice this semester.

Grading Weights:

Participation: 10%
Homework (MindTap): 10%
Homework (authentic): 15%
Group presentation on a famous immigrant: 10%
Immigration project: 10%
Culture/Vocab Quizzes : 10%
Unit Tests : 15%
Final oral interview: 5%
Final written exam: 15%

Participation:

This component takes into account a number of variables, including but not limited to:

- 1) your willingness to engage in classroom activities (conversation as well as written assignments),
- 2) your cooperation in group and pair work, and
- 3) your respect and attitude towards the class and your peers.

Do not be afraid to make mistakes: even when you are not familiar with the relevant grammar structure or vocabulary, find a way to express yourself. The only mistake you can make is not to participate.

Devoirs (Homework):

Homework (*les devoirs*) is made up of four components: textbook and reading assignments (for daily practice, not graded), MindTap activities (to be submitted online every day, graded), “authentic” assignments (to be submitted weekly, graded).

(see instructions on pdf on Moodle)

- **Textbook** (*le manuel*) homework will be assigned on a daily basis (MTWThF) and are not to be not checked (P as for practice) by your instructor. (However if you are failing to complete them on a daily basis, you will have to submit them on one google doc per module to be part of your homework grade). By completing these assignments, you will get ready for the next day’s class (short-term goal) and build up knowledge that will be assessed through quizzes and exams (long-term goal). Before class, prepare the assignment of the day. Read through the grammar explanations (in English). Study a section of the vocabulary words (French -> English and English->French). Vocab acquisition will be assessed routinely through pop quizzes.
- Homework also includes online grammar and vocabulary exercises through **MindTap**. These may be speaking, writing, listening or reading assignments that will help you practice and reinforce what you learned in class. This part of your homework should be completed the same day and the answers will be sent to your instructor with a time-stamp.
- From week 2 onwards, “**authentic**” **homework** will be submitted each Wednesday, alternatively as a Google voicemail and as a Google doc (format tbd). In both, you will report on your real-world French experiences. The Google voicemail (call 484-380-5320) should consist of free-flowing speech (as opposed to rehearsed or read). You may use bullet points, but the objective of this assessment is (1) to express yourself with no safety net and (2) to practice pronunciation. You will not lose points for grammar mistakes. The more spontaneous, original and creative the message, the higher your grade will be.
- The Google doc, approximately 150-word long, should be regarded as an opportunity to practice and review the textbook knowledge while applying it to your areas of interest. Your work will be assessed based on 1) quality of grammar 2)

richness and depth of vocabulary 3) strength of arguments (for a mini-essay) or quality of storytelling (for creative writing).

There is a firm deadline for submitting homework: 23:59 on the due date. Late assignments will receive a 10% decrease if they are submitted within the next 24 hours. Beyond 24 hours, you will receive a 60%. Google docs will be edited by your instructor so you can correct them and resubmit them within the week. As for Google voicemails, you will receive an invitation to your instructor's office for individual review. If you have questions about a homework assignment, do not wait until the night before to ask. It is your responsibility to email your instructor several days ahead of time, or to make an appointment during office hours. If the question is not specific to your personal work and may benefit your classmates, you can also ask for further explanations during class.

Exposé de groupe (Group presentation):

At the end of the semester, you and a partner will give a short (5-6 minutes) presentation (*un exposé*) about immigration in France. Slide presentations are welcome, as is any technology input, as long as you do not read off the screen. You will receive more information as the semester progresses.

Projet sur l'immigration (Individual Project on Immigration)

A couple of weeks into the semester, you will start thinking about a fictional character who left their country and emigrated to France. Short assignments will be given (emails, oral postcards), providing you with an opportunity to explore the psychology of your character while practicing both grammar and vocab (self, family, domestic universe, workplace, etc.).

Interros (History and Vocabulary quizzes):

Short pop quizzes will be given in-class to assess vocabulary and acquisition and cultural issues discussed in class.

Contrôles (Unit Tests):

You will have a test or you will complete a project after each module (7 tests total). The lowest grade of your 7 tests/projects will be dropped. You will have a final oral interview (*un entretien*) individually scheduled with your instructor during the week of finals. The final exam (*l'examen final*), to be scheduled during finals week, will cover Modules 1-7.

Extra-Credit will be given to students who keep a “carnet de bord” of all their French and Francophone experiences outside of the classroom throughout the semester.

Honor Code:

Use of any automatic translation software (which is quite easily noticeable for your professor) will be considered an offense against the Honor Codes of both Bryn Mawr and Haverford. Sources (printed, internet) must be acknowledged in essays and presentations. Group work is encouraged in many aspects of this course but your essays are expected to reflect your own ideas and your own work. For that reason, we ask that you do not have your writing checked by private tutors, family members, or other students inside or outside 001. For questions related to the honor code, consult the website:

<http://www.brynmawr.edu/honorcode/>

For all written assignments make sure you set your word processing software on “French”.

Grading scale

Percentage	Letter	BMC/HC grade		percentage	Letter	BMC/HC grade
94 – 100%	A	4.0		77 – 79%	C+	2.3
90 – 93%	A-	3.7		74 – 76%	C	2.0
87 – 89%	B+	3.3		70 – 73%	C-	1.7
84 – 86%	B	3.0		67 – 69%	D+	1.3
80 – 83%	B-	2.7		63 – 66%	D	1.0

Programme du semestre

Note: Dates and assignments are subject to modification during the course of the semester. Dates are indicated in French format: DD/MM.

Week	Module
8-21 sept	1 : Bonjour ! Unit test : 21/9
22 sept – 2 oct	2 : La vie universitaire Unit test : 5/10
5-16 oct	3 : Chez l'étudiant Unit Test: 19/10
19-30 oct	4 : Travail et loisirs Unit test: «2/11
2-13 nov	5 : Allons au café

	Unit test: 16/11
16-20 nov (in person)	7 : Bien manger, bien vivre (part 1) Exposés de groupe (tbc)
21-29 nov	Pont de Thanksgiving
30 nov – 4 déc (remotely)	7 : Bien manger, bien vivre (part 2) Unit test: 8/12
7-11 déc	Exposés de groupe (tbc) Révisions
14-18 déc	Examen oral et examen écrit