FRENCH 3011-B   
FRANCE TODAY I

Syllabus for French 3011, class 88737, Fall 2008, T/TH 9:35-10:55, Swann 106   
Ivan Allen College, Georgia Institute of Technology

Instructor: Dr. Christophe Ippolito, School of Modern Languages   
• Office hours: T/TH 11 :00-12:00, 3-4 and by appointment (Office : Swann 226)   
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COURSE MATERIAL

• Required Textbook: Ross Steele, Susan St. Onge, Ronald St. Onge, La civilisation française en évolution II. Institutions et culture de la la Ve République. Boston: Thomson & Heinle, 1997. ISBN 0-8384-6009-7   
• Course packet: Selected documents and links on each unit studied on T-square, as well as in-class activities.   
• Suggested: A good bilingual dictionary (Robert, Robert-Collins, Harraps…) and/or a French-French dictionary

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is designed as an advanced course for students who have completed French 2002 or for freshmen with extensive prior French instruction.  This first part of the course will analyze especially French values, and French society and politics today.  Students are expected to closely follow news developments and contemporary issues; many of these news and issues will be presented, discussed and explained.  Special attention will be devoted to France's place in the European Union, as France will assume the EU's presidency from July to December 08.    Class discussion and questions will take place in French.  Credit Hours: 3. Prerequisite: FREN 2002

COURSE OBJECTIVES

This course will introduce students to contemporary France.  Students are expected to develop their knowledge of French values, and French society and politics today.  Students are also expected to develop their cultural analysis skills and their ability to discuss and present articles, documents, films or other media on French values, society and politics, as well as on France's role in the EU. The course is also designed to improve oral and written communication skills at the mid-advanced level and further introduce to French-speaking cultures.  Additionally, the final project requires interacting in a professional manner with the community about French or Francophone culture (art, music, politics, business, etc.).

COURSE EVALUATION / ASSIGNMENTS

20% Active participation and in-class activities including exercises assigned for a specific class; participation required (quantity, quality; French only in class); see attendance/lateness policy for further details. Make a constant effort to participate in each class.   
10% Midterm (on chapters and issues reviewed in Textbook sections 3.4, 4.5 (on Europe) and 1.1, 1.2   
20% Final (on sections of textbook studied after the midterm in 'dossiers' 2 and 3).   
20% Homework: 1/ Weekly Postings on textbook, 2/ Weekly Presentations in class including postings on T-square   
20% 2 Essays on French culture based on two different periods (10% each)   
[topics to be selected by student / based on the reader's and other documents / length: 3 pages each, format cf posting above and dissertation instructions in writing guide on T-square.   
10% Final Project: Present a project on contemporary French society and/or politics   
(project selected by student, to be approved by instructor, with mandatory component linked to community in which student currently lives--Atlanta; this may include interviews, research, etc.)   
All material (including the material used for the final project) has to be posted on T-square. Instructor will assess all that is posted and make adjustments as needed (discussion, corrections, advice, etc.).   
All postings including weekly assignments, essays and project are due on the first day of the week.

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| **ML PERFORMANCE GOAL #1: PROFESSIONAL COMMUNICATION** | | |
| **ML Learning Outcome 1 : Demonstrate oral and aural proficiency in the target language** | FREN 3011: Students will demonstrate oral proficiency at the Advanced level on the ACTFL scale | |
| **ML Learning Outcome 2:** Demonstrate effective presentation skills in the target language | FREN 3011: Students will demonstrate the ability to present in class for 5 minutes or more without notes on a complex topic | |
| **ML Learning Outcome 3: Demonstrate writing proficiency in the target language** | FREN 3011: Students will produce a variety of essays at the Advanced level on the ACTFL scale | |
| **ML Learning Outcome 4:**  Demonstrate proficiency in comprehension of authentic written texts in the target language | FREN 3011: Students will demonstrate comprehension of authentic texts related to complex topics about French Culture and Civilization | |
| **ML PERFORMANCE GOAL #2: INTERCULTURAL SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE** | | |
| **ML Learning Outcome 5: Demonstrate in-depth knowledge of a *specific* target-language country or region** | | FREN 3011: Students will **demonstrate in-depth knowledge of** French Culture and Civilization |
| **ML Learning Outcome 6:**  Demonstrate the ability to analyze an issue from target-culture perspective(s) | | FREN 3011: Students will analyze issues in different areas of French Culture and Civilization |
| **ML Learning Outcome 7:**  Demonstrate critical reflection on cultural complexity and context | | FREN 3011: Students will analyze complex issues in French Culture and Civilization |

COURSE POLICIES:

Welcome to my office!   
Do not hesitate to come and see me as often as you want! You can also take an appointment if office hours are not convenient to you, or just drop by.  Especially, come as soon as you feel you have any problem and/or need help with anything.  Take at least two appointments with me to discuss honestly your progress and difficulties.  I will make sure your questions, concerns or suggestions get the attention they deserve.  I will be happy to inform you on your grades.  I will also be happy to help you as much as I can with your homework assignments, your latest essay/project, any issue pertaining to the course, the French program at Georgia Tech, or queries on France and Francophone cultures.  When I am not in my office, the best way to reach me is to email me, rather than leave a message on my office voice mail.

Attendance, Academic Honesty   
Your presence and active participation in class is essential. Daily class attendance is required.  Please be on time too.  Being late once or twice is understandable, but half a point off will be deducted from your final grade for each additional occurrence of lateness.  Two unexcused absences allowed (an excused absence has to be documented by a letter from doctor or Dean); one point off your final grade for each additional unexcused absence. Cell phones off in class.  Georgia Tech offers accommodation to students with disabilities: please see www.adapts.ga.edu. This course complies with GT Academic Honor Code: please see www.honor.gatech.edu.  I am interested in your work, and not in that of a friend or material copied form the internet or any other source.  Avoid plagiarism at all costs, and always quote all your sources.  Any form of cheating (be it on an essay or a test or any other assignment) is discouraged and will affect your grade.  Internet-based tools make it extremely easy today to find out whether somebody pasted material from the internet or other sources.

Organization   
The work  is task-oriented (see schedule below).  Prepare these tasks well in advance, especially when you have to present in groups.  Visuals are appreciated; use of PowerPoint or web files is welcome.  You may always see me before a presentation to discuss what you plan to do or other issues.  You need up to an hour a day to prepare for each class session.  Read the pages assigned for each day thoroughly.  You will have not only to know the material but also to apply it.  Take a study partner and work with her/him, especially on oral  presentations.  However, the written work given to me should be your own (see above).

At the end of this course, a student should be able to complete the research/study project negotiated with and accepted by the instructor at the beginning of the session.  This project, who will deal with French society and/or politics under various forms, must be of an interdisciplinary nature, and will be proposed by the student.  Students are encouraged to complete projects that are consistent with their choice of major.  Meetings will help students with issues such as defining their topics and the problems they will study, research and discuss; developing a methodology; completing a bibliography; identifying needs for field studies.  Then in the following weeks, the instructor will monitor with student(s) the appropriate progression of the work, and facilitate this progression and the timely completion of the project.

FRENCH 3011-B   
PATTERNS OF FRENCH CULTURE I: SCHEDULE

The following schedule is subject to changes.  Any changes will be announced in class, ahead of time.  Should you be absent on a day a change is announced, it is your responsibility to remain apprized of all changes.

Forums on T-square:   
forum 'Textbook'   
forum 'Presentations'   
forum 'Essays'   
forum 'Final Project'

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|  | **In-Class Activities, Readings (to prepare at home)** | **Homework/Devoirs** | **Additional Activities: culture and readings** |
| Learning Tips | Always prepare the activities for the day before class: this will make your learning much more effective | You will have to prepare to present many articles or documents including visuals | For the readings, preparation in groups is encouraged  Always prepare the activities in this column and read the texts carefully. |
| semaine 1 |  |  |  |
| mardi 19  août | Introduction  Writing guide  comment/discuss/give your opinion--vocabulary  cultural studies: how to | T-square forum @ https://t-square.gatech.edu/portal  For each essay, post your preliminary drafts on t-square  Post any visual support for your presentations (including at least the document you are commnenting, your outline with short presentation of issues discussed and main points, and questions for class discussion). You may always present with a partner. | Presentation of useful web sites + T-square site  List emails collected, Questionnaire>objectives/syllabus |
| jeudi 21 août | 3.4. L'avenir européen pp. 167-177  model for presentations | Questions (at least 2) and comments (at least 3) on textbook section studied this week to be posted on T-square forum 'Textbook' | French Presidency of Europe, July-December 2008 |
| semaine 2 |  |  |  |
| mardi 26 août | 4.5. L'Union européenne pp. 223-232 | Questions (at least 2) and comments (at least 3) on textbook section studied this week to be posted on T-square forum 'Textbook' | Political constructions of/in Europe |
| jeudi 28 août | Presentations | Prepare at least a document (news article, video segment, etc.) to be presented in class on the topic studied this week.  Post the article(s) [or video segment] and your comments and questions on it on T-square on forum 'Presentations' | Europe: Strenghts and weaknesses today |
| semaine 3 |  |  |  |
| mardi 2 septembre | 1.1. La famille et le rôle de la femme pp. 3-11 | ESSAY 1 on France and the European Union--1st draft  Questions (at least 2) and comments (at least 3) on textbook section studied this week to be posted on T-square forum 'Textbook' | Sex, gender, law in France |
| jeudi 4 septembre | Presentations | prepare at least a document (news article, video segment, etc.) to be presented in class on the topic studied this week | Feminism in France and in the USA |
| semaine 4 |  | ESSAY 1 on France and the European Union--final version |  |
| mardi 9 septembre | 1.2. Le logement pp. 12-24 | Questions (at least 2) and comments (at least 3) on textbook section studied this week to be posted on T-square forum 'Textbook' | Social Programs in France today |
| jeudi 11 septembre | Presentations | prepare at least a document (news article, video segment, etc.) to be presented in class on the topic studied this week | Ecology and environment |
| semaine 5 |  |  |  |
| mardi 16 septembre | MIDTERM |  |  |
| jeudi 18 septembre | FILM 1 on contemporary France: La Haine |  |  |
| semaine 6 |  |  |  |
| mardi 23 septembre | 2.1. La diversité de l'environnement quotidien pp. 59-70 | One page summary of film (sequences....and your opinion)  Questions (at least 2) and comments (at least 3) on textbook section studied this week to be posted on T-square forum 'Textbook' | discussion of film |
| jeudi 25 septembre | Presentations | prepare at least a document (news article, video segment, etc.) to be presented in class on the topic studied this week | Proposals: Attali report and other documents |
| semaine 7 |  |  |  |
| mardi 30 septembre | 2.2. Les milieux sociaux pp. 71-79 | Questions (at least 2) and comments (at least 3) on textbook section studied this week to be posted on T-square forum 'Textbook' | see F. Braudel, French Identity |
| jeudi 2 octobre | Presentations | prepare at least a document (news article, video segment, etc.) to be presented in class on the topic studied this week | La fracture sociale |
| semaine 8 |  |  |  |
| mardi 7 octobre | 2.3 Les religions pp. 80-85 | Questions (at least 2) and comments (at least 3) on textbook section studied this week to be posted on T-square forum 'Textbook' | Catholicism, Islam, Bouddhism... in France, Dreyfus Affair, etc. |
| jeudi 9 octobre | Presentations | prepare at least a document (news article, video segment, etc.) to be presented in class on the topic studied this week | Religion, spirituality and society |
| semaine 9 |  |  |  |
| mardi 14 octobre | RECESS |  |  |
| jeudi 16 octobre | FILM 2 (TBA) |  |  |
| semaine 10 |  |  |  |
| mardi 21 octobre | 2.4, L'enseignement pp. 86-103 | One page summary of film (sequences....and your opinion)  Questions (at least 2) and comments (at least 3) on textbook section studied this week to be posted on T-square forum 'Textbook' | Differences with US system  Strenghts and weaknesses of the French model  syndicats (Unions) |
| jeudi 23 octobre | Presentations | prepare at least a document (news article, video segment, etc.) to be presented in class on the topic studied this week | Implications for study abroad  take an appointment with instructor for proficiency interview |
| semaine 11 |  |  |  |
| mardi 28 octobre | 2.5. La vie professionelle et la femme au travail pp. 104-113 | Questions (at least 2) and comments (at least 3) on textbook section studied this week to be posted on T-square forum 'Textbook' | The Women's Movement and its afterward |
| jeudi 30 octobre | Presentations | prepare at least a document (news article, video segment, etc.) to be presented in class on the topic studied this week | Women's roles and role models in France today |
| semaine 12 |  |  |  |
| mardi 4 novembre | 3.1. Les institutions politiques pp. 119-126 | Questions (at least 2) and comments (at least 3) on textbook section studied this week to be posted on T-square forum 'Textbook' | Constitution and electoral system |
| jeudi 6 novembre | Presentations | prepare at least a document (news article, video segment, etc.) to be presented in class on the topic studied this week | Political crises, 'cohabitation' |
| semaine 13 |  |  |  |
| mardi 11 novembre | 3.2. Les partis politiques pp. 127-134 | Questions (at least 2) and comments (at least 3) on textbook section studied this week to be posted on T-square forum 'Textbook' | L' UMP (parti au pouvoir) |
| jeudi 13 novembre | Presentations | prepare at least a document (news article, video segment, etc.) to be presented in class on the topic studied this week | Le PS et ses candidats |
| semaine 14 |  |  |  |
| mardi 18 novembre | 3.3. Les présidents de la Vème République pp. 135-166 | ESSAY 2 on French politics--1st draft  Questions (at least 2) and comments (at least 3) on textbook section studied this week to be posted on T-square forum 'Textbook' | Presidents: Styles and accomplishments |
| jeudi 20 novembre | Presentations | prepare at least a document (news article, video segment, etc.) to be presented in class on the topic studied this week | The Sarkozy presidency |
| semaine 15 |  |  |  |
| mardi 25 novembre | Review for Final  Final Projects preparation | ESSAY 2 on French politics--final version | FILM 3 (time permitting, TBA)  Spoken French Evaluations (on request: contact instructor) |
| jeudi 27 novembre | THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY--NO CLASS |  |  |
| semaine 16 |  |  |  |
| mardi 2 décembre | final presentations (see syllabus above) | **FINAL PROJECTS PRESENTATIONS** |  |
| jeudi 4 décembre | Review for Final Examination | **FINAL PROJECTS PRESENTATIONS** |  |
| See University Schedule | **FINAL EXAMINATION** (no make-ups) |  |  |