**FREN 3120 –FRENCH CONVERSATION**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This class is designed to help students improve their French speaking skills through guided conversations, a recitation and presentations on specified subjects.

In this course, oral communication skills and a comprehensive review of fundamental grammatical structures are integrated with the reading of short stories and articles on current events taken from French magazines or newspapers provided by your professor, chosen for thematic or cultural interest.

Through the core curriculum, students will study and compare the social, economic, religious, and political structures of different global francophone communities and cultures, and gain an understanding of the interdependence of these francophone communities through language and conversation.

Students give two oral presentations in class.

**OBJECTIVES:**

* Discuss ideas, express feelings, refine pronunciation, explain ideas and concepts, narrate stories, memorize and recite a short text, and demonstrate fluency in ad hoc conversations.
* Demonstrate control of basic language skills.
* Develop and lead a discussion in class on assigned topics.
* Identify the ideas and concepts expressed in the assigned readings in French.

Analyze an issue from target-culture perspective(s)

## Course Goals and Learning Outcomes

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| **ML PERFORMANCE GOAL #1: PROFESSIONAL COMMUNICATION** | | |
| **ML Learning Outcome 1 : Demonstrate oral and aural proficiency in the target language** | FREN 3120: 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 3120: Students will demonstrate the ability to present in class without notes on a complex topic | |
| **ML Learning Outcome 3: Demonstrate writing proficiency in the target language** | FREN 3120: 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 3120: Students will demonstrate comprehension of authentic movies related to complex topics about France today | |
| **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 3120: Students will **demonstrate in-depth knowledge of French society** |
| **ML Learning Outcome 6:**  Demonstrate the ability to analyze an issue from target-culture perspective(s) | | FREN 3120: Students will analyze issues in different areas of French cinema / history / society / culture |
| **ML Learning Outcome 7:**  Demonstrate critical reflection on cultural complexity and context | | FREN 3120: Students will analyze complex issues in France today |

**EVALUATION:**

***• Oral participation in class and preparation: 50%***

For each class time, students are required to do one or two small assignments in advance (1 point per class). Students will also receive a grade for their participation in each class discussion. This grade takes into account preparedness, accuracy, effort, and integration of previous corrections or feedback.

***• Poem recitation: 10%***

Students will choose a poem (or a text in prose equivalent in size to a sonnet) at the beginning of the semester and work on memorization and pronunciation throughout the semester.

***• PowerPoint presentation: 20%***

Students will choose two subjects on which they will give 5 to 7 minutes PowerPoint presentations (10 points per presentation).

***• Final oral exam: 20%***

In an individual meeting with the instructor, students will randomly pick 4 conversation topics from among a list of 20 possible topics corresponding to subjects discussed in class. , Students will know the topics in advance in order to facilitate preparation for the exam (4 questions @ 5 points each = 20 points).

**CALENDAR:**

WEEK 1**:** **Introduction** / **Find and provide information on a cultural topic**

WEEK 2: **How to** **explain your thought, expose your research, give your opinion: debates on a broad range of issues relevant to globalization**

WEEK 3: **Introduce works of art, expose your taste**

WEEK 4: **Francophone diversities:** **talk about food and recipes in the francophone world**

WEEK 5: **Present a Francophone comedian/ film / play /**

WEEK 6: **Learn to pronounce and recite a poem** / **Work on pronunciation and memorization of selected poems**

WEEK 7 **Plan and prepare for professional life: in France, in francophone Africa, in francophone Canada, francophone Switzerland, in the francophone Islands**

WEEK 8 **Discuss cultural differences and similarities between countries - issues of dependence and independence in globalization**

WEEK 9 **Use more specific adverbs, use comparisons and metaphors, express contentment and frustration – differences between the French from France and the French from Africa or Quebec**

WEEK 10 **Describe the human body, how people talk about health in different countries**

WEEK 11 **Converse about the aquatic life and aquatic activities, the countryside and the mountain life, the city life**

WEEK 12 **Give advice, ask favors, make wishes, narrate memories / Understand and use slang and new expressions**

WEEK 13 **Converse about music, cinema, hobbies: different cultures in the francophone world**

WEEK 14 **Conversation on a topic chosen and voted by students**

WEEK 15 **Recap and revision & final exam**

**Course Expectations & Guidelines**

## Academic Integrity

Honesty and transparency are important features of good scholarship. On the flip side, plagiarism and cheating are serious academic offenses with serious consequences. If you are discovered engaging in either behavior in this course, you will earn a failing grade on the assignment in question, and further disciplinary action may be taken.

For a clear description of what counts as plagiarism, cheating, and/or the use of unauthorized sources, please see the Student Code of Content: <http://www.catalog.gatech.edu/rules/19b.php>.

If you have questions about my integration of the university’s honor code into this course, please do not hesitate to ask: my aim is to foster an environment where you can learn and grow, while ensuring that the work we all do is honest and fair.

For more information about Carnegie Mellon’s standards with respect to academic integrity, you can also check out the following link: <http://honor.gatech.edu/>

## Accommodations for Individuals with Disabilities

If you are a student with learning needs that require special accommodation, contact the Office of Disability Services (often referred to as ADAPTS) at (404)89-2563 or <http://disabilityservices.gatech.edu/> , as soon as possible, to make an appointment to discuss your special needs and to obtain an accommodations letter. Please also e-mail me as soon as possible in order to set up a time to discuss your learning needs.

## Assignment Turn-In

All assignments have to be turned in in class. Type (12, Times New Roman), print and staple if necessary.

Late assignments will not be accepted.

Note also that extensions will not generally be permitted, but if you think you are subject to an exceptional circumstance, please discuss it with me outside of class (and as soon as possible).

## Attendance and/or Participation

This is a discussion class, so **your presence and active participation in class is essential**. Your fellow students count on you to engage with them. Daily class attendance is required. Please be on time too. Since this is an intensive course involving extensive in-class work, and 50% of your final grade is based on participation and preparation, class attendance is extremely important. Students who are absent because of participation in approved Institute activities (such as field trips, professional conferences, and athletic events) will be permitted to make up the work missed during their absences (<http://www.catalog.gatech.edu/rules/4/>). Students are allowed 1 “free” absence, which should be reserved for illnesses or other valid reasons. Any absences beyond 1 will negatively impact your final grade in the course (3 points off your final grade for 2ND absence; 1 additional point per absence after 3).

## Collaboration & Group Work

This class has a part that requires collaboration / teamwork. I encourage you to make use of campus resources like the GT Library (they do have a lot of French DVDs), the Center for Academic Success, and the Communication Center to assist you in your pursuit of academic excellence.

Of course, you will have conversations in class with your classmates; however, you are on your own concerning homework. 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.

## Extensions, Late Assignments, & Re-Scheduled/Missed Exams

NO arrangements will be made for late assignments or missed exams. Make-up exams will be given only for documented reasons of illness, family emergency, or participation in approved Institute activities (such as field trips and athletic events, see <http://www.catalog.gatech.edu/rules/4b.php> for more information).

## Student Use of Mobile Devices in the Classroom: Cell Phones, Laptops, and Related Technology

Use of portable technology during class time is not permitted unless prior arrangement has been made with the course instructor. Please leave your laptop in your bag, turn off your cell phone, and resist the urge to text your mom.

## Student-Faculty Expectations

At Georgia Tech we believe that it is important to continually strive for an atmosphere of mutual respect, acknowledgement, and responsibility between faculty members and the student body. See <http://www.catalog.gatech.edu/rules/22.php> for an articulation of some basic expectations – that you can have of me, and that I have of you. In the end, simple respect for knowledge, hard work, and cordial interactions will help build the environment we seek. Therefore, I encourage you to remain committed to the ideals of Georgia Tech, while in this class.