

**FRENCH 122**  
**BASIC PROFICIENCY IN FRENCH**

**BULLETIN INFORMATION**

FREN 122 - Basic Proficiency in French (3 credit hours)

**Course Description:**

Practice and further development of essential listening, reading, speaking, and writing skills. Admission either by placement score of F-3 or by successful completion of FREN 110 or 121.

**SAMPLE COURSE OVERVIEW**

This course prepares you to use French to communicate with others in a basic way and to explore various aspects of the cultures of the French-speaking world. Students study vocabulary and grammar and apply these to speaking, reading, listening, and writing practices and activities inside and outside of class. This information builds on what students learned in FREN 121. Students take one quiz approximately every two weeks – based on listening, writing, and reading. They write short compositions during the semester. They complete homework (listening, reading, and/or writing) for every class. They take an "exit exam" and must demonstrate minimum proficiency in speaking, listening, reading and writing in order to pass the course. Culture is woven into all aspects of the course.

**ITEMIZED LEARNING OUTCOMES**

**Upon successful completion of French 122, students will be able to:**

1. Communication
  - a. Demonstrate an understanding of the main ideas and many supporting details of written and spoken communication in the present, past, and future time frame on topics of one's immediate environment, background, friends, family, pastimes, travel, etc.
  - b. Engage in sustained oral and written exchanges with a focus on providing and obtaining more detailed information, expressing feelings and preferences, describing and narrating, giving directions, and exchanging opinions on topics of personal interest such those mentioned above.
  
2. Cultures
  - a. Demonstrate a deep understanding of cultural information and relationships between cultural perspectives, products, and practices, especially as they relate to the Francophone countries featured in the text.
  - b. Read basic information (history, art, music, important figures, etc.) about French-speaking countries.
  - c. View fine art and listen to music from the French-speaking countries.

- d. Read and listen to interviews with native speakers of French about everyday life in these countries.
  - e. Demonstrate the use of appropriate cultural behavior in social and survival situations in 90% of class time.
3. Connections
    - a. Interpret and discuss in paragraph length discourse to reinforce and learn new information in academic areas such as history, geography, art, anthropology, and literature.
  4. Comparisons
    - a. Develop deep insights into their own language and culture through readings, listening, Internet listening activities on the MyFrenchLab website, and classroom activities which deal with Francophone speakers in the students' community and abroad.
  5. Communities
    - a. Embrace opportunities and attend 3 events to practice and hear the French language outside of the classroom in activities such as concerts, movies, lectures, exhibits, festivals, and conversational exchanges with Francophones.

#### **SAMPLE REQUIRED TEXTS/SUGGESTED READINGS/MATERIALS**

1. *Chez Nous* (4<sup>th</sup> Edition) Packet (includes My French Lab) by Valdman, Pons, & Scullen.
2. *French 122 skills packet #21* available at the Smarttext Mobile Kiosk, 211 Main Street (the Lofts at USC, formerly Whaley's Mill, rear lot) cash /checks only at the kiosk, August 15th-
3. French 122 skills packet audio available at: <http://filc.cas.sc.edu/french/French122.xml>
4. French 122 skills packet CDs are also available in the Foreign Language Learning Center.
5. Online dictionaries available: (wordreference.com, www.dictionnaire.com or www.frenchdict.com/)

#### **SAMPLE ASSIGNMENTS AND/OR EXAMS**

1. **DAILY CLASS PREPARATION:** Consistent daily preparation is essential to your proficiency development and to the effectiveness of our class time together. Your class preparation may be evaluated by your professor by means of a combination of the following: preparation quizzes, pop quizzes, compositions, textbook or MyFrenchLab exercises, web-based exercises, vocabulary lists, and the French 122 skills packet assignments.
  - a. Preparing thoroughly for class requires a good deal of self-discipline and effort on your part, but it should reward you with passing scores on the exit exams and good grades. Expect to spend approximately two hours per class hour on out-of-class work for French 122; many students do more. If you encounter difficulties, your professor is willing to work with you to understand your problems with the material. The French Tutoring Center is also available (see your professor for hours).

- 2. ATTENDANCE/PARTICIPATION:** Daily attendance is an absolute necessity. More than four absences, regardless of the reason, are considered absolutely excessive, and your professor will penalize you for absences in excess of four. Excessive lateness and/or leaving class early are both impolite and disruptive, and will be counted as portions of classes missed. This policy follows the university handbook, which states that if students miss more than 10% of their classes in a course for any reason (cutting class, medical or family reasons, car troubles, USC sports, field trips, etc.), the instructor may exact a grade penalty.” This means that if you miss more than four classes, you should expect that your final grade will be lowered. Your professor will tell you how the grade penalty will be calculated.

  - a. A large portion of your final course grade depends on the work you do in class. This means not just showing up, but coming prepared, and participating meaningfully in all class exercises and activities. Your oral work in class will be evaluated by your professor.
- 3. SKILLS QUIZZES:** You will take four skill quizzes (contrôle) on a Friday, two reading and two writing. Although you will not know in advance the specific content for the reading quizzes, you can prepare for them, by getting as much practice as you can during the semester and by working on your reading strategies. If you are not satisfied with the grades you are getting, increase the amount of supplemental reading practice you do. You should also be building your vocabulary during the semester with the textbook, the readings in the skills packet, and the audio material. You can prepare for the writing quizzes by means of consistent, careful class preparation especially on any writing assignments or compositions. When you get a writing quiz back, make note of the kind of errors you make, and work to improve those specific areas.
- 4. ORAL EVALUATION:** This is an interview with your professor in your professor’s office. The best way to prepare for the interview is to prepare consistently for and practice speaking in class, and to study vocabulary, grammatical structures and culture.
- 5. EXIT EXAMS:** In order to evaluate your proficiency, three exit exams will be administered during the semester. The exams consist of (1) an individual oral interview that tests both language and cultural competence; (2) a writing test; (3) a reading test on three short texts. The exams are pass/fail and the results determine whether you pass the course. Passing the exit exams will also be evidence that you can handle many situations in French.

  - a. These exams will be administered a first time between \_\_\_\_\_ (dates provided by instructor). If at this time you already prove you have attained the required level in any of the three areas, you will not need to take that exam again at the end of the semester. Each exam may be retaken during final exams week. Any student who passes all three exit exams on either the first or the second try is guaranteed a passing grade for the course. Students who do not demonstrate the required level of proficiency on any one part of the exam on either the first or the second try will automatically fail the course (receive a

grade of F), regardless of other grades earned during the semester. It is important that you understand this. Students who pass all three parts of the exit exam will receive the course grade they have earned based on the work completed during the semester preparation for and participation in class, homework, compositions, pop quizzes, skill quizzes, MyFrenchLab exercises, vocabulary lists, etc. (minimum of D).

- b. The exit exams are difficult, but past results confirm that students who are consistent and serious in their French studies from the start, who carefully prepare, and attend their 122 class regularly, and who take advantage of the practice opportunities both in and outside the classroom, should pass the exit exams on either the first or second try.
  - c. Remember: there are no shortcuts to proficiency; cramming just before the exit exam does not work. Frequent absences and/or failure to prepare carefully for class throughout the semester may put you at risk for the exit exams. It is your responsibility, as an adult university student, to get the practice you need and to seek additional help from the French Tutoring Center and from your professor if you need it.
- 6. FINAL EXAMS:** Other than exit exams, there are no final exams for this course per se. All students who must retake the Reading or Writing Exit Exam will do so on the regularly scheduled final exam day. This exam cannot be rescheduled for any reason. You must therefore anticipate the possibility of having an exam on your class's final exam day as scheduled by the university. If you must retake the oral exam, you are responsible for scheduling that with your professor for a mutually convenient time during the final exam period. Failure to take an exam at the regularly scheduled hour or failure to show up for your scheduled Oral Exit Exam interview will result in a grade of F in the class.

### **SAMPLE COURSE OUTLINE WITH TIMELINE OF TOPICS, READINGS/ASSIGNMENTS, EXAMS/PROJECTS**

#### **Week 1:**

- Class 1:** Introduction
- Class 2:** Revision chapter ½
- Class 3:** Revision chapter 3

#### **Week 2:**

- Class 4:** Revision chapter 4
- Class 5:** Revision chapter 5; listening exercise

**Week 3:**

- Class 6:** Revision chapter 6
- Class 7:** Chapter 7
- Class 8:** Chapter 7; reading exercise

**Week 4:**

- Class 9:** Chapter 7
- Class 10:** Chapter 7
- Class 11:** Chapter 7; writing exercise

**Week 5:**

- Class 12:** Chapter 8
- Class 13:** Chapter 8
- Class 14:** Chapter 8

**Week 6:**

- Class 15:** Chapter 9
- Class 16:** Chapter 9
- Class 17:** Chapter 9

**Week 7:**

- Class 18:** Chapter 9
- Class 19:** Chapter 9
- Class 20:** Chapter 9

**Week 8:**

- Class 21:** Chapter 9
- Class 22:** Oral practice
- Class 23:** Oral practice

**Week 9:**

- Class 24:** Chapter 10

**Class 25:** Chapter 10

**Class 26:** Chapter 10

**Week 10:**

**Class 27:** Chapter 10

**Class 28:** Chapter 10

**Class 29:** Chapter 10

**Week 11:**

**Class 30:** Oral exams

**Class 31:** Oral exams

**Class 32:** Writing exam

**Week 12:**

**Class 33:** Chapter 11

**Class 34:** Chapter 11

**Class 35:** Reading exam

**Week 13:**

**Class 36:** Chapter 11

**Class 37:** Chapter 11

**Class 38:** Oral Practice

**Week 14:**

**Class 39:** Oral Practice

**Class 40:** Chapter 12

**Class 41:** Chapter 12

**Week 15:**

**Class 42:** Chapter 12

**Exam according to university exam schedule**