

FRAN 1113 CIN4: Basic French 1

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Course Syllabus

Course Description

This course introduces students to both theoretical and practical applications related to French grammar and vocabulary. The course offers to beginners in French several approaches of improving their oral and writing skills. Emphasis will be placed on the following language components: **articles, regular and irregular verbs, adjectives, prepositions, pronouns and verb tenses**. In addition, various French expressions and idioms will be added to the basic vocabulary.

The overall course objectives are:

- to introduce French basic grammar and vocabulary
- to help students improve their oral and written skills in French

Instructor

Dr. Bernard Delpeche is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Language & Literatures at Acadia University where he teaches various language and literature courses and he is the coordinator of the French course FRAN 1113/1123. He is the author of many articles and books on Francophone writers. Dr. Delpeche's works deal mainly with some interdisciplinary debates on cultures, comparative literatures and French Caribbean languages. He is a co-founder of the Caribbean Studies Program in the University of Toronto.

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Course Overview

Unit 1

This unit will focus on the basic linguistic components in French. It summarizes the grammatical structure of French language and provides specific elements of basic French expressions.

- a. **Chapitre Préliminaire:** The first pages of the textbook consist of a series of French basic expressions that must be learned by students. For instance, Bonjour Madame! Au revoir etc...This part contains various exercises of the auxiliary verbs avoir and être as well as the articles definite le, la, les, the indefinite un, une, des and the pronouns je, tu, il/ elle, nous, vous, ils/elles.
- b. **Chapter 1:** Emphasis will be placed on the meanings of the adjectifs qualificatifs and adjectifs possessifs in this chapter. Students should know the difference between these two adjectives and some generic expressions that are related to them. In addition, students will learn how to use the numbers 1 to 1000 in French. Finally, Chapter 1 of the textbook deals with the first group of French regular verbs like chanter, aimer, étudier etc.
- c. **Chapter 2:** In French language, it's important to identify an adjective and a substantive (noun). This chapter indicates the position as well as the functions of the adjective in a sentence, in other words, its semantic relations with the noun. There are a few ways of asking questions in French. These techniques are analyzed in the second chapter by an application of the common forms of adjectifs et adverbess interrogatifs. Some irregular verbs like faire and aller and the prepositions à and de are also introduced in this chapter.

By the end of this unit, students will be able to:

1. Conjugate the verbs avoir (to have) and être (to be)
2. Identify differences between pronouns and nouns
3. Understand the meanings of some basic French expressions
4. Apply masculin- féminin, singulier –pluriel and défini-indéfini
5. Know the French numbers from 1 to 1000.
6. Conjugate some irregular French verbs like aller and faire

Unit 2

The second unit will cover a wide range of French words which are related to sport, family, hobbies, music and cultures. Students are expected to familiarize with more irregular verbs as well as some grammatical and lexical structures of the sentences.

- a. **Chapter 3:** This chapter indicates how the concept of gender (Masculin/Féminin) must be applied to the French nouns. It also deals with a series of irregular verbs like devoir, pouvoir and vouloir and their semantic implication in a sentence. These irregular verbs necessitate an infinitive form to complete the meaning of the sentence. Chapter 3 offers to students a list of irregular adjectives (prénominaux) as: beau, vieux that have a particular structure.
- b. **Chapter 4:** This chapter covers all the main reflexive verbs in French. It brings various applications of these verbs. In addition, it introduces the second group of French regular verbs like finir, choisir. Students should know the difference between the first and second groups of the verbs (active and reflexive). The concepts of superlative and comparative are also studied in this chapter. For instance, how the expressions "more ...than", "less... than" and "as....as" are translated in French depending on the function of the pronoun (subject).

By the end of this unit, students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate their French vocabulary by using Masculin/Féminin
2. Recognize regular and irregular verbs as well the first and second group of French verbs
3. Use appropriate prepositions after certain verbs
4. Know all adjectives in French.
5. Identify the superlative and comparative forms
6. Use adequately the reflexive verbs

Unit 3

In French, different past tenses are used in some particular contexts. In this unit, the instructor will explain how to apply the past tenses: imparfait and passé composé. Reflexive verbs and the position of adverbs will be studied in both present and past tenses. Furthermore, French interrogative pronouns like *qui*, *quel*, *avec qui* will be a significant part of this unit.

- a. **Chapter 5:** There are two main ways of using the past tense in French: : imparfait and passé composé. This chapter provides a lot of explanations and exercises of using the past tenses of passé composé in a sentence. Students will be able to apply the auxiliary verbs *avoir* and *être* to create the passé composé. Chapter 5 contains some extensive rules and applications of the interrogative pronouns like *qui*, *que*, *quel*. These pronouns have a similar function with the interrogative adjectives but they follow a different grammatical rule.
- b. **Chapter 6:** This chapter presents the rules of applying two object pronouns in affirmative and negative sentences. Students should know the combination of the pronouns direct and pronouns indirect in the same sentence. The construction of these pronouns requires a transformation in the third person of singular and plural. This chapter elaborates some strategies of using direct and indirect forms. Another past tense (imparfait) is also treated in this section.

By the end of this unit, students will be able to:

1. Conjugate the verbs in the past tense by using the passé composé
2. Properly use the main reflexive verbs in the past tense
3. Write some sentences using *qui*, *que*, *quel*
4. Give examples of ways to ask questions using prepositions and interrogatives.
5. Use spontaneously the past tenses in speech and writing.
6. Identify the types of both complément d'objet, direct and indirect.

Course Materials

Textbook:

Chez nous, 3rd Canadian edition, Pearson Prentice Hall, A Valdman, C. Pons, M.E. Scullen, K Mueller, P. Bouffard. 2014.
ISBN: 10: 0133594866 | ISBN-13: 9780133594867

This includes the printed book with an access code to [My French Lab](#).

Although the practice questions on My French Lab are not mandatory, it is recommended that students take advantage of this valuable resource to check their understanding of the materials before attempting the assignments for this course.

On the site the students will find the electronic activities manual and all the audio and video resources. These activities are to be used as supplemental supportive exercises. Instructions for registering for the MyFrenchLab are available when you access the course, as well as on the homepage beneath the course Syllabus.

Note: All references to the audio and resources throughout the course, will either be available on the CD or MyFrenchLab site depending of which version of the package was purchased.

See the [student handbook](#) for ordering information.

Evaluation

There are two possible grading schemes for this course:

Assignments	60%
Final Exam	40%
Total	100%

OR

Assignments	55%
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ACORN Quizzes	5%
Final Exam	40%
Total	100%

Assignments

All assignments are provided in ACORN via the assignment dropboxes.

The required textbook, *Chez nous*, provides several applications of:

- Grammar
- Vocabulary and French expressions
- Oral and written exercises

The main points of grammar will be summarized in French and English by the instructor. Some examples will be given by the instructor as models. Students are expected to write their assignments that will be based on these models. Several themes will be explored in the textbook in order to help students to write a short essay in French.

French vocabulary and idioms will be studied in terms of translating English words and expressions into French. Students will be able to apply the vocabulary in their written and oral exercises.

Some audio exercises are contained in the package *Chez nous*. Students are expected to listen to the oral exercises which correspond with the specific chapters.

The assignments are delivered to the instructor via assignment drop-boxes. Please remember to put your name, student number, course number, and assignment number on the assignment and keep a copy in the event the original is lost.

The last assignment should be received at least 4 weeks prior to the date you wish to write the exam. This will allow adequate processing time for the request, and for setting the exam.

Note: *files must be readable by Excel 2003 or Word 2003.*

Course Schedule

Click to download the suggested schedule for this course: [FRAN 1113 CIN4 - Suggested Schedule](#)

Print out this schedule and fill in your start date to use the recommended timeline to plan out when you will do readings and assignments. This is a tool to help you plan and time manage this course. If you get off-track, make sure to revisit your schedule and re-evaluate the dates you've set for yourself.

You have 6 months to complete this course. You may set your own schedule, but if you intend to complete the course in less than 3 months, you should let me know so that we can arrange a schedule.

Please do not leave all of your course work until a few weeks before your completion date. Although I will make every effort to accommodate your schedule within reason, I need time to grade assignments and mark exams.

Each Chapter should take you 2- 3 weeks. You should complete the following for each Chapter:

- Work through the relevant chapter in the text book, make sure to complete the oral exercises as you go along.
- Review the PowerPoint provided by the instructor for each chapter
- Complete all required assignments
- Complete optional/supplemental assignments on [MyFrenchLab](#), if desired.
- Take the online quiz on ACORN at the end of each module in preparation for the final.

Quick Overview: Recommended Schedule

Unit 1	Assignments
Chapitre Preliminaire 1 - Basic French idioms: Bonjour! Salut! 2 - Verbes: Être-Avoir 3 - Articles: le-la, les, un, une des 4 - Pronoms sujets	Chapitre Préliminaire - Exercices
Chapitre 1 1 - Adjectifs possessif –qualificatif 2 - Nombres: 1 à 100 and days/dates. 3 - Verbes réguliers (1ier group)	Chapitre 1 - Exercices
Chapitre 2 1 - Adjectifs Masculin and Féminin 2 - Adverbes Interrogatifs 3 - Préposition à and de 4 - Verbes: faire	Chapitre 2 - Exercices Devoir Audio 1 Quiz 1
Unit 2	
Chapitre 3 1 - Noms masculin et féminin 2 - Verbes irréguliers : devoir etc. 3 - Adjectifs Prénominaux 4 - Impératifs 5 - Verbes aller	Chapitre 3 - Exercices
Chapitre 4 1 - Verbes réfléchis 2 - Adverbes de quantité 3 - Verbes 2ième groupe 4 - Comparatifs and Superlatifs	Chapitre 4 - Exercices Devoir Audio 2 Quiz 2
Unit 3	
Chapitre 5 1 - Passé composé 2 - Adjectifs interrogatifs 3 - Pronoms interrogatifs	Chapitre 5 - Exercices
Chapitre 6 1 - Pronoms objet direct 2 - Pronoms objet indirect 3 - Imparfait	Chapitre 6 - Exercices Devoir Audio 3 Final exam (40%): after completing all assignments for the 3 units.

There is one final exam for this course and it will cover the first six chapters of the textbook Chez nous. To be successful on the exam, students are expected to write all their written and/or oral assignments prior to the final. The format of the exam is the following:

- completing a series of short French sentences by adding the appropriate verbs, adjectives and pronouns etc.
- translating a series of short French sentences from English to French or vice versa.
- writing a short essay in French.

Just before you write the final exam you can ask me to send you what the format will be.

You must pass the final exam to pass the course.

Student Handbook

You are responsible for becoming familiar with the contents of the Student Handbook. It contains important information about scheduling examinations (if applicable), applying for extensions, withdrawing from your course, ordering books, and computer and library services available to you. If you have questions about the policies outlined in the handbook (<https://courseware.acadiau.ca/openacadia/studenthandbook.html>), contact:

Open Acadia

- 21 University Avenue (Rhodes Hall)
- Wolfville, NS B4P 2R6
- Phone: 1-800-565-6568
- Fax: 1-902-585-1068
- Email: openacadia@acadiau.ca

Academic Integrity

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[◀ Course Introduction Video](#)

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