

FREN 3150: French Culture and Civilization I

3 Credits

Department of Modern and Classical Languages

College of Arts & Sciences

Valdosta State University

Name: **Email:**

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Course Description: A survey of the historical, sociological, philosophical, literary, and artistic developments of everyday France and the Francophone world. (Prerequisite: FREN 2002 or permission of instructor)

Textbook: Allen, Heather W., and Sébastien Dubreil. *Alliages Culturels: La Société française en transformation*. Boston, MA: Heinle Cengage Learning, 2014.

Course Goals and Outcomes:

Upon completion of the course, students will:

- 1) Demonstrate an increased understanding of elements of modern French culture and civilization (history, society, political life, art, literature, and philosophy) and their impact on French societal development
- 2) Identify correctly the geographical locations of cities and regions in France, as well as their unique characteristics
- 3) Demonstrate understanding of the political and administrative organization of the country and how historical events and social ideals affect all aspects of life
- 4) Demonstrate a further exploration of France and its role in the European Union and the Francophone world, focusing on the plurality of cultures and the transformative nature of society (including trends in everyday lives, social issues, and religious diversity).
- 5) Establish a greater awareness of how to approach the study of different cultures and how cultural comparisons can be made and understood effectively
- 6) Communicate ideas about all issues discussed in class in oral or written format at the Intermediate-High to Advanced-Low levels as defined by the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) Proficiency Guidelines. Please consult the [ACTFL Proficiency Guidelines](#) here)

Assessment Standards, Goals, and Outcomes:

[Learning Goals for the VSU General Education Core](#)

[Outcomes for the Major in French – Language and Culture Track](#)

Future and prospective teachers (Foreign Language Education track) : Conceptual Framework of the College of Education

Grade Distribution:

- | | |
|--|-----|
| 1) Attendance, preparation, & participation: | 20% |
| 2) Quizzes & Classwork | 20% |
| 3) Classroom Presentations (2): | 25% |
| 4) VoiceThread Assignment: | 15% |
| 5) Final Exam | 20% |

Grading Scale:

- | | |
|--------|---|
| 90-100 | A |
| 80-89 | B |
| 70-79 | C |
| 60-69 | D |

Course Objectives	Assessment Instruments / Grade Components to Measure Outcomes	Types of Assessments	ACTFL / NCATE Program Standards	VSU General Education Outcomes	Projected Major Outcomes
1	1,2,3,4,5	Formative and summative written & oral assignments	1,2	1,2,3,4,6,7	1,2,3,4,5,6,8,9
2	1,2,3,4,5	Formative and summative written & oral assignments	1,2	2,3,6,7	1,2,3,4,5,6,8,9
3	1,2,3,4,5	Formative and summative written & oral assignments	1,2	1,2,3,4,6,7	1,2,3,4,5,6,8,9
4	1,2,3,4,5	Formative and summative written & oral assignments	1,2	1,2,3,6,7,8	1,2,3,4,6,8,9
5	1,2,3,4,5	Formative and summative written & oral assignments	1,2	1,2,3,6,7,8	1,2,3,4,6,9
6	1,2,3,4,5	Formative and summative written & oral assignments	1,2	3,7	1,2,3,4,9

Exams and Quizzes:

Quizzes on chapter vocabulary and concepts will be given at the beginning of each class session to ensure that you are successfully building your foundational knowledge in this area. Be sure to complete the readings for each session so that you are prepared.

You will have a cumulative final exam that will cover all areas of instruction in the course. Because collaboration is so important for the various classroom endeavors described below, you will be responsible for information learned during collaborative sessions. The Francophone world is large and complex—be sure to acknowledge this as you participate in class, complete your assignments, and collaborate with your classmates! Take careful notes and ask questions as they arise so that you do not fall behind!

Written and Oral Projects:

We will be using a variety of Web 2.0 tools to supplement our learning in this course, especially in the area of reading and writing skills. This gives you a creative space to showcase what you have learned. Assignments could be both short-term (i.e., able to finish in a class period) and long-term (i.e., collaboration with your professor and other students to create a final product). All assignments and due dates for major assignments are clearly indicated on the syllabus below and on BlazeVIEW, thus **it is your responsibility to check and prepare in a timely fashion.**

Much of our work in this course will center around topics incorporated in 3-4 movies that will be viewed in the course: [*Le Fabuleux destin d'Amélie Poulain*](#), [*La Haine*](#), [*Les Intouchables*](#), & [*Bienvenue chez les ch'tis*](#). We will watch these movies in short time elements during the course so that we can explore in depth how they are related to our course themes.

Faites attention ! Many projects will require you to collaborate with your classmates. Be sure to get the logistical details (contact information, dates, times, etc.) worked out so that you can successfully complete the assignment. Failure to fulfill assignment requirements due to lack of preparation will not be accepted as a legitimate excuse.

A. Presentations

You will be required to do two 15-minute presentations (IN FRENCH) related to certain areas of interest within our studies. The specific details of the topics, requirements, due dates, and rubrics will be discussed at the beginning of the semester, but can also be found on BlazeVIEW.

B. VoiceThreads

Another component of this course will require you to work with the free online tool VoiceThread. This application allows you to pair images with recorded text (written and spoken by each student) to more fully explore a certain subject. All students will complete 2 VoiceThread assignments each semester, divided by book sections as follows: Part 1, Parties 2-4. The specific details of topics and requirements will be discussed further, but can also be found on BlazeVIEW.

You will be required to submit a rough draft of your text before the final VoiceThread project. Dates for rough and final drafts are noted below.

These projects will require collaboration with your classmates. Please make sure that you work through the logistical details of this—failure to fulfill assignment requirements due to lack of preparation will not be accepted as a legitimate excuse.

Late Work:

Late work will not be accepted. All students MUST turn in all assignments on time to get credit. If a student is absent, s/he is responsible for contacting a classmate to get homework assignments and information from the missed class period. Students must submit assignments early when they know ahead of time that they will have a VSU excused absence. Legitimate excuses will be accepted only with official documentation (e.g., hospital administration form or letter from VSU official).

In general, no make-ups will be given. Only those students with legitimate documented excuses may be offered the chance to make-up the missed test, quiz, or assignment.

Online Textbook Learning Tools:

This textbook provides many online tools through the CengageBrain.com. We will be using these materials in class and for other assignments. *Please get your account set up promptly.*

If you purchased a new version of this textbook, you should have a blue card with your access code inside. This card will also tell you how to log in to the CengageBrain site and access these materials. N.B.: You should **NOT** need a course code for this resource.

Communication with Your Professor:

Best method: in person or office phone

2nd best: email

Make note of the email address and phone number at the top of this document.
NOTE: Emailing does not absolve students from any course responsibility or deadline unless you receive confirmation from me. There may be periods when I do not have regular email access, however I will respond as quickly as possible because I know that your communications are important!

Unless otherwise noted, emails received after 7:00 PM M-F will be answered the next weekday morning. With anything urgent you should always contact me in class as well. ***The most important thing about communicating with me is that you do so. Come to office hours or make appointments for any questions/problems so we can look at things together before you get behind or frustrated.***

In addition: please note that any email communications with your professor are an important component of your coursework and participation grade. All emails should follow appropriate technical and professional guidelines. This means that any messages should include a proper salutation and a proper closing (i.e., just your name or something like "Sincerely,"). Also, no emoticons, abbreviations outside of course lingo, or slang should be used in the composition of the email. It is good practice to consider emails to professors or other University staff just as one would an email to a boss or superior. This applies to messages sent from your computer or your phone. Failure to follow these guidelines will result in a reduction in participation grades.

Any urgent news or info will be announced in class and via email so be sure to check your VSU account at least 3 times per week. If there are any changes to the syllabus, additional hand-outs or assignments, etc., they will always be announced in class, posted on email, or posted on BlazeVIEW (sometimes all three.)

Attendance and Participation:

All students must attend class for each session (see participation grade). There are no “cuts.”

From the VSU Catalogue: “The University expects that all students shall regularly attend all scheduled class meetings held for instruction or examination...it is recognized that class attendance is essentially a matter between students and their instructors. Instructors must explain their absence policy in the course syllabus. All students are held responsible for knowing the specific attendance requirements as prescribed by their instructors and for the satisfactory make-up work missed by absences. When students are to be absent from class, they should immediately contact the instructor.

“A student who misses more than 20% of scheduled classes of a course will be subject to receive a failing grade in a course [6 days in our class].”

For an absence to be excused, students must present official excuse documentation to their instructor the day they return to class showing pertinent dates/times of the conflict or illness. In cases of excused absence, make-ups on various components are at the discretion of each individual instructor.

Attendance and active participation are essential for maximum success in our class. **Students are expected to attend each session or meeting, to arrive promptly and to be prepared.** This means that you should:

- a. Prepare and read all materials and activities before class as instructed
- b. Participate actively and contribute constructively in the classroom environment
- c. Use French exclusively, both in class discussions and group discussions (if you do not know a word/phrase, try to find a different way to say it or ask for help *in French*)
- d. Ensure that cell phones and other electronic devices are turned off and out of reach. The only exception to this is in the case of a family emergency, in which case the student should notify me **before** class, set the device to vibrate, and leave the classroom to answer any calls.
- e. Arrive on time for each class session and refrain from packing up your materials before the end of the class. If you have a special conflict that prohibits you from doing this, notify me within the first week of classes to discuss a solution.

Please see the detailed participation rubric on the following page for more details.

CLASS PARTICIPATION GRADING RUBRIC:

A (25 pts): The student:

- always greeted people and took leave using French
- always used French in class (i.e., with instructor and in small groups)
- always listened attentively when others spoke and showed respect for her/his peers
- always came prepared to class, arrived on time, did not pack up early
- always actively participated in all classroom activities
- always made a positive impact on the class with her/his presence and positive attitude
- helped peers with in-class activities in a constructive manner
- always communicated in a professional manner with professor (in person, emails, etc.)

A- (23 pts): The student:

- sometimes greeted people and took leave using French
- mostly used French in class, but sometimes used English in group work
- usually listened and showed respect for her/his peers
- occasionally unprepared, but usually came prepared & arrived/departed on time
- participated in all classroom activities in a constructive manner
- usually communicated in a professional manner (in person, emails, etc.)

B (21 pts): The student:

- did not greet people and take leave in French
- frequently used English, especially during group and pair work
- at times got distracted and was occasionally disrespectful to her/his peers
- showed some preparation for class, but needed more preparation
- occasionally arrived late, departed early, or prepared to leave during class
- participated in classroom activities but was more passively attentive than active
- sometimes communicated in a professional manner (in person, emails, etc.)

C (19 pts): The student:

- used more English than French during class
- paid little attention in class (e.g., slept, checked phone/Facebook/email, homework, etc.)
- showed little preparation for class, often arrived late or departed/prepared
depart early
- participated minimally in classroom activities and was disrespectful to peers
- rarely communicated in a professional manner (in person, emails, etc.)

D (17 pts): The student:

- used only English during class
- paid no attention during class and was disrespectful to her/his peers
- showed no preparation for class
- consistently arrived late or departed/prepared for departure early
- failed to contribute to the class with her/his presence and/or detracted from the
class with her/his negative attitude
- never communicated in a professional manner (in person, emails, etc.)

F (0 pts): The student:

- did not attend enough classes/did not have sufficient participation for evaluation

Academic Integrity:

“Academic integrity is the responsibility of all VSU faculty members and students. Faculty members should promote academic integrity by including clear instruction on the components of academic integrity and clearly defining the penalties for cheating and plagiarism in their course syllabi. Students are responsible for knowing and abiding by the Academic Integrity Policy as set forth in the Student Code of Conduct and faculty members’ syllabi. All students are expected to do their own work and to uphold a high standard of academic ethics.” [VSU Academic Integrity Code](#)

The Academic Integrity policy will be taken very seriously in this course. Students are expected to follow all university guidelines pertaining to academic integrity. **All work for this class must be done by the individual student unless stated otherwise by the instructor. Electronic or online translators, help from native/advanced speakers, and copying of print sources from the Internet or anywhere else are all strictly forbidden. IF THERE IS A SUSPICION OF USE OF ANY OF THESE SOURCES, WORK WILL BE GIVEN A FAILING GRADE.**

The Student Success Center:

The [Student Success Center \(SSC\)](#) provides free peer tutoring in core courses, including French. It also offers Regents’ Test preparation, time management, and study skills workshops. In addition, you can find free professional academic advising and on-campus job information in one location. *Help is available to ALL VSU STUDENTS!*

Student Opinion of Instruction Forms

At the end of the term, all students will be expected to complete an online Student Opinion of Instruction survey (SOI) that will be available on BANNER. Students will receive an email notification through their VSU email address when the SOI is available. SOI responses are anonymous to instructors/administrators. Instructors will be able to view only a summary of all responses three days after they have submitted final grades. While instructors will not be able to view individual responses or to access any of the data until after final grade submission, they will be able to see which students have or have not completed their SOIs, and student compliance may be considered in the determination of the final course grade. These compliance and non-compliance reports will not be available once instructors are able to access the results. [Complete information about the SOIs](#), including how to access the survey and a timetable for this term is available.

Title IX Statement:

Valdosta State University (VSU) is committed to creating a diverse and inclusive work and learning environment free from discrimination and harassment. VSU is dedicated to creating an environment where all campus community members feel valued, respected, and included. Valdosta State University prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, ethnicity, national origin, sex (including pregnancy status,

sexual harassment and sexual violence), sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, age, national origin, disability, genetic information, or veteran status, in the University's programs and activities as required by applicable laws and regulations such as Title IX. The individual designated with responsibility for coordination of compliance efforts and receipt of inquiries concerning nondiscrimination policies is the University's Title IX Coordinator: Maggie Viverette, Director of the Office of Social Equity, titleix@valosta.edu, 1208 N. Patterson St., Valdosta State University, Valdosta, Georgia 31608, 229-333-5463.

Access Statement:

Students with disabilities who are experiencing barriers in this course may contact the Access Office for assistance in determining and implementing reasonable accommodations. The Access Office is located in Farbar Hall. The phone numbers are 229-245-2498 (V), 229-375-5871 (VP) and 229-219-1348 (TTY). For more information, please visit VSU's Access Office or email: access@valdosta.edu