

WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY  
DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN LANGUAGES & CULTURES

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FALL 2015

FREN 308 – INTERMEDIATE GRAMMAR & COMPOSITION

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**Class Time:** Tu-Th. 12.00-1.15 Murrow Hall 242

**Professor:** Dr. Romain Chareyron

**Office:** 124 B

**Office Hours:** Tu.-Th. 9.00-10.00

**Email:** [romain.chareyron@wsu.edu](mailto:romain.chareyron@wsu.edu)

**Phone:** 335-0445

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### Required Texts

-*Tâches d'encre*, by Siskin, Krueger and Fauvel, Heinle, 2012 (3<sup>rd</sup>. edition).

-*Contrastes: Grammaire du français courant*, by Denise Rochat (2<sup>nd</sup> edition).

**A good bilingual dictionary (such as Oxford-Hachette) is also essential for this class.**

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### Course description

This course is intended for students to during this course, students will focus on some major aspects of French grammar such as (but not limited to): the past tenses, the subjunctive, the articles and the adjectives while understanding and feeling comfortable with a variety of writings (narration, description, dialogues, portrait).

The course is organized around two themes:

- **The first theme**, which will occupy the majority of the class, is designed around a central theme, which is the writing of a “polar” (detective story). Using the models provided by the texts from *Tâches d'encre*, students will be asked to develop their story throughout the semester, doing a step-by-step writing of their story. Their work will culminate with the writing of a detective novel based on the characters and events developed during the semester.
- This part of the course will be divided into 4 modules:

- 1) Establishing the main character (portrait)
  - 2) Establishing the location and the surroundings (description)
  - 3) Establishing the chain of events (narration)
  - 4) The final written project
- **The second theme** will be centered on each student’s field of specialization/major. Using the model of “la dissertation”, students will be asked to research on a specific issue related to their field and write a “dissertation” about it, respecting the structure studied in class. Students will be asked to present their research in front of the class.

**Website for the class**

I created a website for this class where you will find all the grammar exercises as well as all the worksheets corresponding to each type of writing we will study throughout the semester. You will also be able to access a lot of extra information regarding grammar and vocabulary. Therefore, it is essential that you visit this website on a regular basis. Consider it as the online companion to our textbooks.

Link to [Intermediate Grammar and Composition](#)

This course is designed to develop proficiency in the four basic communicative skills of speaking, listening, reading and writing French, especially the last two skills. It also develops the added skill of cultural competence in the French and Francophone cultures of the world.

Underlying these objectives are five of the “National Standards for Foreign Language Learning”:

Learning goals	Goals for students
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To communicate in French – to use the French language in both oral and written communication.</li> <li>• To make comparisons with English – to develop an understanding of the nature, structure and functions of the French language.</li> <li>• To learn about other cultures – to explore behaviors and value systems of French and other Francophone cultures.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To improve their writing and reading skills.</li> <li>• To improve their knowledge of French grammar.</li> <li>• To familiarize themselves with different genres/types of writing.</li> <li>• To gain knowledge of specific structures and vocabulary regarding different types of writing.</li> <li>• To be able to express themselves on</li> </ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To establish connections between second language study and other academic disciplines.</li> <li>• To extend the use of French and the sharing of information to other communities.</li> </ul>	<p>target topics and issues.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To develop strategies to write effectively in French.</li> </ul>
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### Course evaluation

Attendance	5%
Participation/Preparation	10%
Quizzes (3)	15%
Final grammar exam (cumulative)	10%
Compositions (4)	40%
Final written project	20%

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### Departmental and Course Grading System

Letter grades will be assigned as follows:

A : 93% and above	B-: 80-82	D+: 68-69
A-: 90 – 92	C+: 78-79	D: 62-67
B+: 88 – 89	C: 73-77	F: below 62
B : 83 – 87	C-: 70-72	

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**MOODLE:** Students will have access to our class web site on Moodle; to access Moodle, go to: <http://www.forlang.wsu.edu>; click on Moodle on the right and enter your WSU student username and password. Then, click on your course: FL-FREN-308-01. You will find some course information there (syllabus and schedule) and will be able to check your grades after each test by clicking on ‘Grades’ in the left menu.

**CLASSROOM ETIQUETTE:** Learning a foreign language can be very intimidating; students are therefore strongly reminded to be kind towards classmates and supportive of each other's efforts.

**ATTENDANCE:** Attendance is mandatory. Students must contact the instructor by email or phone when sick or unable to attend class due to an emergency situation (sickness, accident, family emergency). Absences for ANY other reasons will not be excused; you must schedule your medical appointments, advising sessions and job interviews outside of class time. No credit will be given for a missed test, or quiz due to an unexcused absence; **late homework assignments won't be accepted.**

**PARTICIPATION/PREPARATION:** In order for you to gain knowledge and control of the grammar, you will be assigned a series of exercises to practice discrete aspects of French grammar (see calendar). It is essential that you do these exercises prior to class, as the class periods will not be lectures on grammar, nor will it be dedicated to the completion of exercises. Since you will be able to access the answers to all exercises on the website, I am assigning them to you mostly for practice, and for you to be aware of what aspect of the grammar you need to work on. Although we won't correct all the exercises in class, we will use this time to clarify what needs to be and to apply the grammar to specific writing activities. That is why you need to come prepared to each class, with specific questions about what aspects of grammar and/or stylistic you don't understand. Failure to do so will result in a significant lowering of your grade. Do not hesitate to let me know if some aspect of the grammar is not understood and you would like to spend more time on it or have more explanations.

For each composition, we will also have **peer-review sessions**, where students will exchange the first draft of their composition with another person, and they will make comments regarding grammar and stylistics, following specific guidelines provided in class. It is imperative that you come to class prepared, with the first draft of your composition typed and ready to be exchanged with someone else's. Failure to do so will result in a significant lowering of your grade for this section of the class. (see calendar for the dates of the peer-review sessions.)

For each module associated with the different types of writings studied, you will be asked to do some specific research at home (worksheets available on the website). It is essential that you do this prior to class, as a significant portion of class time will be dedicated to sharing your research and discussing strategies to improve your writing. Failure to do so will result in a significant lowering of your grade for this section of the class.

**QUIZZES:** You will have 3 quizzes throughout the semester, each one based on specific aspects of the grammar studied in class (see calendar for more information).

**FINAL GRAMMAR EXAM (cumulative):** The final grammar exam will be based on the grammar studied throughout the semester. More information will be provided in class.

**COMPOSITIONS:** Each composition will be based on a type of writing studied in class. For each composition, you will work in a series of stages to use the target grammar and vocabulary in the most efficient way possible. You will also be able to work on several drafts for each composition to refine the overall quality of French. For each composition, you will be asked to use specific grammar.

**FINAL WRITTEN PROJECT:** The final written project will be the cumulative work of the first 3 compositions you will have written. Specific information about this project can be found on the website, and we will discuss it in class as well. **The final written project is due on the last day of instruction, Thursday, December 10<sup>th</sup>.** I will only accept hard copies.

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**Language Learning Resource Center (LLRC):** This class does not carry a special course fee. Should you wish to access the many services offered by the Language Learning Resource Center (LLRC), please complete the Lab Fee Request Form available in the LLRC (Thompson 210) to purchase a semester lab pass (\$20) and submit it to the LLRC Director in Thompson 224F. In the LLRC you will have access to computer-based language learning resources and multi-lingual word processing as well as basic printing services. In addition, the LLRC offers a welcoming learning environment with multiple computer stations for you to work individually or with fellow students on course assignments.

### **DFLC PROFICIENCY EXAM FOR GRADUATING MAJORS AND MINORS**

All DFLC students graduating with either a major or a minor in a foreign language are required to take an exit proficiency exam at the end of the academic term in which they complete the last course of their major/minor. This exam, the STAMP 4S, can be taken in the LLRC at the end of each semester. Your instructor will provide you with sign-up information in the course of the semester. A practice test is also available at [http://avantassessment.com/test\\_taker\\_practice\\_test](http://avantassessment.com/test_taker_practice_test). This exam currently costs \$25.00 and can be paid as a voucher through the Bookie.

There is no minimum proficiency level that must be demonstrated in order to complete a foreign language minor/major. STAMP 4S measures the ability to read, speak, write, and aurally comprehend a language. The completion of this exam offers immediate concrete benefits to students. Because the STAMP 4S is administered by a nationally-recognized testing company, the results provide a widely-respected, accurate measure of a student's level of foreign language proficiency that can be used in future professional endeavors, i.e. on resumes, job applications, scholarship applications, and/or graduate school applications.

No student will be prevented from graduating or from earning their foreign language major/minor due to their performance on this exam. WSU mandates assessment of student proficiency at the end of the major and minor, and results from these exams are used to improve the quality of WSU programs.

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## **ACADEMIC INTEGRITY**

Academic integrity will be strongly enforced in this course. Students are expected to work individually on all assignments described above (homework assignments, quizzes, presentations, papers, mid-term exam and final exam), unless otherwise specified by the instructor. Any student caught cheating on any assignment will be given an F for the assignment or the course (depending on the gravity of the violation) and will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct.

## **STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES**

Reasonable accommodations are available for students with a documented disability. If you have a disability and may need accommodations to fully participate in this class, please visit the Disability Resource Center (DRC). All accommodations **MUST** be approved through the DRC (Washington Building, Room 217). Please stop by or call 509-335-3417 to make an appointment with a disability specialist.

## **SAFETY STATEMENT**

Washington State University is committed to maintaining a safe environment of its faculty, staff and students. The university has developed a resource to ensure this safety, the Campus Safety Plan, which can be found at <http://safetyplan.wsu.edu>. It contains a comprehensive listing of university policies, procedures, statistics, and information relating to campus safety, emergency management, and the health and welfare of the campus community. In addition, the University emergency management web site at <http://oem.wsu.edu/emergencies> provides additional campus safety and emergency information. All students are requested to bookmark in their computers and become familiar with the WSU ALERT site (<http://alert.wsu.edu>) to read about warning and emergency notification procedures.

All students are requested to register their emergency contact information for the Crisis Communication System (CCS). To do so, go to the *myWSU* portal at <http://my.wsu.edu>, enter your network ID and password and, once you are on your *myWSU* main webpage, look for the Emergency Notification box on the right side of the page and click on Register. You will be asked to enter you cell, landline, and email contact information to ensure you receive any notification as soon as possible. Finally, if you need help evaluating your area in terms of safety and emergency management or have any recommendations, contact Chris Tapfer, University Emergency Management Coordinator at [tapfer@wsu.edu](mailto:tapfer@wsu.edu) or 335-7471 or visit the Office of Emergency Management site at <http://oem.wsu.edu>.

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(W): Document can be found on the website for the class.  
 (TE): Tâches d'encre  
 (C): Contrastes

## CALENDAR

Please note that this calendar is subject to change. If need be, I will issue an updated version.

Week	Class	Homework
1. (Aug. 25, 27)	T. Introduction to course  Th. <u>Le portrait</u>	Th. (a) « Qu'est-ce qu'un polar? » (W) (b) Lire le texte « Nestor » (TE pp.37-39) et répondre aux questions d'analyse du texte (W)
2. (Sept. 1, 3)	T. La fiche d'identité  Th. Description détaillée du personnage (labo)	T. -Exercices de révision du présent (verbes réguliers et irréguliers) (W) -Lire pp.1-5 (C)  Th. Fiche de grammaire + exercices sur les adverbes (W)
3. (Sept. 8, 10)	T. Révisions présent/adverbes  Th. Le quotidien du personnage + <b>Quiz 1</b>	Th. Réviser le présent et les adverbes
4. (Sept. 15, 17)	T. Travail de correction mutuelle  Th. <u>La description</u>	T. <u>First draft must be ready</u>  Th. Lire le texte « Désert » (TE pp.15-16) et répondre aux questions d'analyse du texte (W)
5. (Sept. 22, 24)	T. Description de l'immeuble/quartier (labo)  Th. Description de l'appartement	T. Exercices sur les adjectifs + fiche de grammaire sur les adjectifs (W)  Th. <u>Composition 1 is due</u>
6. (Sept. 29, Oct. 1)	T. Révisions adjectifs  Th. Travail de correction mutuelle + <b>Quiz 2</b>	Th. (a) Réviser les adjectifs (b) <u>First draft must be ready</u>
7. (Oct. 6, 8)	T. <u>La narration</u>  Th. Préparation à la rédaction du polar (labo)	T. Lire le texte « La Prise de conscience » (TE pp.62-63) et répondre aux questions d'analyse du texte (W)  Th. <u>Composition 2 is due</u>

8. (Oct. 13, 15)	T. L'élément perturbateur Th. Les péripéties (1)	T. -Lire pp.113-124 (C) -Exercices sur le passé composé (W) Th. Exercices sur l'imparfait (W)
9. (Oct. 20, 22)	T. Les péripéties (2) Th. Révisions passé composé vs. imparfait/pronoms interrogatifs	T. Tableau + exercices sur les pronoms interrogatifs (W)
10. (Oct. 27, 29)	T. Travail de correction mutuelle + <b>Quiz 3</b> Th. Plan détaillé du polar	T. (a) Réviser passé composé vs. imparfait + adjectifs et pronoms interrogatifs (b) <b>First draft must be ready</b>
11. (Nov. 3, 5)	T. <b>La dissertation</b> Th. Sélection d'articles et travail d'analyse (labo)	T. Lire le texte « L'Écologie sentimentale » (TE pp.108-109) et répondre aux questions d'analyse du texte (W) Th. <b>Composition 3 is due</b>
12. (Nov. 10, 12)	T. Organisation de la dissertation Th. Travail sur la dissertation	T. Tableau sur les connecteurs logiques et marqueurs de durée (W)
13. (Nov. 17, 19)	T. Présentations Th. Présentations	<i>Each students will give a short oral presentation on the topic they selected for their « dissertation ».</i>
14. (Nov. 24, 26)	<b>Thanksgiving holiday</b>	
15. (Dec. 1, 3)	T. Révisions de grammaire Th. <b>Examen de grammaire</b>	T. <b>Composition 4 is due</b> Th. <i>More information will be provided in class.</i>
16. (Dec. 8, 10)	T. Travail sur la rédaction du polar Th. Remise du polar	