

**FRENCH 250 (34255): Intermediate French**  
**Spring 2009**  
**MTWTH 11-11:50**  
**VKC110**

**Instructor:**

Dr. Colin KEAVENEY

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Office hours (THH155G): See class blog

**Course objectives:**

FREN 250 is the first course counting towards the major or minor in French. It follows FREN 220, the last course of the three-semester language requirement.

**The course objectives of FREN 250 are:**

- to further reading, writing, speaking and comprehension skills in French,
- to review and consolidate grammatical structures,
- to prepare students for more advanced literature classes by developing basic critical skills and literary concepts for approaching and discussing texts, thus allowing students to go beyond the temptation merely to 'tell the story' and 'judge the characters'.

**Course description:**

FREN 250 proposes this semester to explore themes of love, loss, memory (collective and personal), and modernity (notably, urban life) through close readings of French literary texts, films, and songs.

In addition to reading and class discussions, the course includes grammar sessions (consisting of formal explanations), intensive writing assignments, and communicative activities often done in pairs or small groups.

**Required texts:**

Gavalda, *Je veux que quelqu'un m'attende quelque part*. (Paris: J'ai lu).

Descotes-Genon, *L'Exercisier*. (Presses Universitaires de Grenoble).

Modiano, Patrick. *Dora Bruder*. (Paris: Gallimard).

**N.B.:** Photocopies of supplemental literary texts and poems as well as excerpts from theoretical readings will be distributed in class.

**Recommended references:**

French-English dictionary: *The Collins-Robert French/English Dictionary*.

French dictionary: *Le Petit Robert* (Tome 1).

Verb conjugations: *Bescherelle - la conjugaison* OR *501 French verbs*.

Grammar website: [http://globegate.utm.edu/french/globegate\\_mirror/gramm.html](http://globegate.utm.edu/french/globegate_mirror/gramm.html)

**Course assignments and grading:**

Attendance, homework, mini-quizzes, & participation	20%	4 quizzes	30%
4 written assignments (TE)	35%	2 oral presentations	15%

Attendance and participation are essential in this course. Students' attendance grade will be lowered for every unexcused absence. (For example, missing four classes will result in an attendance grade of 92%).

Written assignments must be typed, double-spaced and saved for rewrite. In the first draft, mistakes will be underlined and accompanied by symbols (see Correction Key). The second draft will be corrected. (There is no second draft for TE4).

Students must take all tests and return all *travaux écrits* (TE) on the scheduled day. No late assignments will be accepted. No make-up exams will be given.

Each student will give one brief oral presentation to open discussion on specific passages, features and problems of the texts.

**N.B:**

Students requesting academic accommodations based on a disability are required to register with Disability Services and Programs (DSP) each semester. A letter of verification for approved accommodations can be obtained from DSP when adequate documentation is filed. Please be sure the letter is delivered to me as early in the semester as possible. DSP is open Monday-Friday, 8:30-5:00. The office is in Student Union 301 and their phone number is (213) 740-0776.

Also, for rules and procedures regarding academic integrity, please see *Scampus*, especially the following appendix: [http://web-app.usc.edu/scampus/wp-content/uploads/2007/08/appendix\\_a.pdf](http://web-app.usc.edu/scampus/wp-content/uploads/2007/08/appendix_a.pdf)

**Grading scale:**

A	93-100	C+	77-79	D-	60-62
A-	90-92	C	73-76	F	<59
B+	87-89	C-	70-72		
B	83-86	D+	67-69		
B-	80-82	D	63-66		

**Emploi du temps****Semaines I-IV**

*Gavaldà, "Petites pratiques germanoprates"*  
*"The Opel Touch"*

E chap. 15 : (*temps du passé*)

E chap. 16 : *conditionnel*

Film: *Chacun cherche son chat*

E chap. 5 : (*pronoms sujet*)

Chanson: *Jacques Dutronc, "Paris s'éveille"*

*Vocabulaire du cinéma*

**Janvier (12-15)**

L

I

Ma

Me

J

**Janvier (19-22)**

L

Congé : MLK Day

II

Ma

**Mini-quiz : Révision** (conjugaison des verbes irréguliers; conditionnel, futur).

Me

J

**Janvier (26-30)**

L

III

Ma

Me

Paris contemporain: Film *Chacun cherche son chat*

J

Ve

Last day to drop without "W" or to change to P/NP option

**Février (2-5)**

L

**Travail écrit (TE) #1 due;** Film *Chacun cherche son chat*

IV

Ma

Me

**Quiz #1**

J

TE # 1 returned and discussed

**Semaines V-VIII**

*Poésie: Baudelaire, Apollinaire*

(*devoir, pouvoir, etc.*)

Film: *Les 400 coups*

E chap. 15, 11 : (*passif*)

(*verbes pronominaux*)

E chap. 17 : (*subjonctif*)

(*infinitif*)

*Commentaire composé*

**Février (9-12)**

L

V

Ma

Me

J

**Rewrite #1 due**

**Février (16-19)**

L	Congé : Presidents' Day	VI
Ma		
Me	<b>TE #2</b>	
J		

**Février (23-26)**

L	Travail écrit #2 returned and discussed	VII
Ma		
Me		
J	<b>Rewrite TE2 due</b>	

**Mars (2-5)**

L		VIII
Ma		
Me		
J		

**Semaine IX-XII**

Images: Photos de Doisneau, Atget, Brassai, etc.

*Dora Bruder*

E chap. 5 : (*pronoms personnels*)

**Mars (9-16)**

L		IX
Ma	<b>Quiz #2</b>	
Me		
J		

**Mars (16-20)**

**Congé : Spring Break**

**Mars (23-26)**

L		X
Ma		
Me		
J	<b>TE #3 due</b>	

**Mars 30-Avril 2**

L		XI
Ma	TE #3 returned and discussed	
Me		
J	<b>Quiz #3</b>	

**Avril (6-9)**

L	<b>Rewrite TE #3 due</b>	XII
Ma		
Me		
J		

Ve Last day to drop with "W"

<p><b>Semaines XIII-XV</b></p> <p><i>Extraits de films et textes</i></p> <p><i>Dora Bruder</i></p> <p><b>Avril (13-16)</b></p> <p>L XIII</p> <p>Ma</p> <p>Me</p> <p>J</p> <p><b>Avril (20-23)</b></p> <p>L <b>Quiz #4</b> XIV</p> <p>Ma</p> <p>Me</p> <p>J Férié: Thanksgiving</p> <p><b>Avril (27-30)</b></p> <p>L <b>TE4 due</b> XV</p> <p>Ma</p> <p>Me</p> <p>J</p>	<p>E chap. 10 : (<i>négation</i>)</p>
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**N.B.** Certain adjustments to the syllabus may be necessary during the semester. However, test dates and TE submission dates are NOT subject to change and will be strictly enforced.

**FREN 250 (11am)**  
**Exposés (Spring 2009)**

**Veillez choisir DEUX des exposés suivants (un entretien et un exposé sur un texte/chanson/poème) et inscrivez-vous.**

**Janvier**

20 Gavalda, "Petites pratiques germanoprates": \_\_\_\_\_.

26 Gavalda, "The Opel Touch": \_\_\_\_\_.

28 *Chacun cherche son chat* (film : Doheny): \_\_\_\_\_.

**Février**

10 Montand "A Saint-Germain des Prés" (chanson) \_\_\_\_\_.

17 Queneau, "L'Amphion" (poésie) \_\_\_\_\_.

19 Apollinaire, "Le pont Mirabeau" (poésie) \_\_\_\_\_.

23 Mireille Mathieu, "Les ponts de Paris" (chanson) \_\_\_\_\_.

24 Baudelaire, "Le crépuscule du soir" (poésie) \_\_\_\_\_.

25 Diam's, "Ma France à moi" (chanson) \_\_\_\_\_.

**Mars**

4 Varda, *Les Glaneurs et la glaneuse* (film : Leavey) \_\_\_\_\_.

11 Atget, photo \_\_\_\_\_.

12 Brassai, photo \_\_\_\_\_.

24 Godard, *A bout de souffle* (film : Language Center) \_\_\_\_\_.

25 *Dora Bruder*, ouverture du livre: \_\_\_\_\_.

**Avril**

7 Entretien (VHA): entretien avec un survivant (Occupation) \_\_\_\_\_.

8 Entretien (VHA): entretien avec un survivant (anti-sémitisme) \_\_\_\_\_.

9 Entretien (VHA): entretien avec un survivant (enfance)\_\_\_\_\_ .

13 Entretien (VHA): entretien avec un survivant (vie à Drancy)\_\_\_\_\_ .

14 Entretien (VHA): entretien avec un survivant (lois anti-juives)\_\_\_\_\_ .

15 Entretien (VHA): entretien avec un survivant (école)\_\_\_\_\_ .

21 Entretien (VHA) : avec un survivant (les rafles) \_\_\_\_\_ .

22 Entretien (VHA): entretien avec un survivant (déportation)\_\_\_\_\_ .

27 *Dora Bruder*, conclusion: \_\_\_\_\_ .