

# Intermediate French: French 250 (French IV)

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*Spring 2014*

## **Instructor**

Dr. Colin KEAVENEY

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Office hours (THH155G): M11-11.50 & 3.20-3.50; T2-2.50; W3.20-3.40; Th2-3.40

## **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.

## **Course objectives and outcomes**

By the end of the semester, you will be able to

1. reconstruct, orally and in writing, a storyline and narrate it in detail in all time frames;
2. summarize the main idea and supporting information of texts on a broad range of topics;
3. present, develop and support, orally and in writing, your opinions and arguments using hypothesis;
4. develop critical and analytical skills through close-reading techniques;
5. develop a deeper understanding of a text's cultural context;
6. compare and contrast cultural attitudes and ideologies;
7. develop academic writing skills in French (connected discourse);
8. give an oral analysis of texts using minimal notes (oral presentations with and without an audio-visual component);
9. prepare questions on presentation topics to promote class discussion, and respond to arguments through debate.

## Required texts

Gavaldà, Je veux que quelqu'un m'attende quelque part. (Paris: J'ai lu).  
Descotes-Genon, *L'Exercisier*. (Presses Universitaires de Grenoble). (E)  
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.  
Le conjugueur: <http://www.leconjugueur.com>  
Grammar website: <http://www.laits.utexas.edu/tex/gr/>

## Course Assignments and Grading

Class-work (homework, preparation & participation)	20 %
3 written assignments	30 %
4 tests	30 %
2 oral presentations	10 %
Project / JEP	10 %

**Presence, preparation and participation** are essential in this course. Your class-work grade will be lowered by one point for every unexcused absence exceeding three unexcused absences during the course of the semester. The instructor will make note of students' active engagement in and preparation for class, as well as punctuality and homework. It is students' responsibility to provide documentary evidence of the validity of any absence they wish to have excused (doctor's note, court documents etc.). The instructor will NOT demand such documentation and will assume that absences are unauthorized in the absence of evidence to the contrary.

**Written assignments / Travail écrit (TE)** must be typed, double-spaced and saved for rewrite. On the first draft of TE#1 and TE#2, I will make comments regarding content and structure, and will underline grammatical and syntactical errors (see Correction Key for interpretation of symbols). A preliminary grade will be given for the first draft. You are then expected to rewrite the assignment. The second version will be corrected and will receive another grade. The final grade for the TE will be the average of the grades received for both versions.

Please note that there will be no rewrite for TE#3.

All grammar and thematic assignments assigned as homework should be done in a notebook, which the instructor will collect at regular intervals in order to assess students' progress and assiduity. (This notebook should be brought to class every day and all assignments in it should be clearly identified and dated).

Each student will give two brief **oral presentations**: the first on one of the set texts; the second will involve presenting an extract from a French Shoah survivor's testimony (more information to follow): [http://sfi.usc.edu/search the archive](http://sfi.usc.edu/search_the_archive)

**Project or JEP:** You can choose to prepare a Project or to participate in JEP.

**Project:** The project is composed of two parts: an oral presentation (that may include visuals), and a final paper (4 pages including a bibliography in the MLA style). **You must meet with me regarding your choice of topic before the end of the 12<sup>th</sup> week.** The project is research-based and you may bring your expertise in other fields (photography, foreign policy, cinema, environment, architecture, music, art history, literature, etc.) The project paper is due no later than 12pm Friday 9 May 2014 (typed, double-spaced, delivered to the French department office (THH 155) before 12pm AND by email).

**JEP:** In lieu of the project, you may elect to teach in a mini-team through the Joint Educational Program (JEP). A program assistant from JEP will visit our class and provide you with further information.

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

### Grading scale

A	93-100	B-	80-82	D+	67-69
A-	90-92	C+	79-77	D	63-66
B+	87-89	C	73-76	D-	60-62
B	83-86	C-	70-72	F	0-59

### **FRENCH LANGUAGE PROGRAM MAKE-UP POLICY :**

General university policy states that students who can verify that they missed class or were prevented from completing assignments due to illness or religious holidays are permitted to make up the work they missed. Students who miss class because of their performance in university-sponsored events, such as athletic competitions, fine arts performances, ROTC activities, etc, are also allowed to make up the work they missed. The only other valid reasons for making up work are jury duty or a death in the immediate family.

Absences due to personal reasons CANNOT be excused. These include personal trips to attend university-sponsored events as a spectator, to visit family, to attend weddings, to attend court (except for jury duty), and other personal reasons, even when plane tickets have been purchased.

It is the students' responsibility to provide original documentation to their instructor for all valid absences:

- for illness, a medical excuse from a doctor or appropriate health-care provider is required and is subject to verification. Students using the Student Health Center should have a valid release on file at the SHC with their instructor's name on it;
- for university-sponsored events, an original memo from the appropriate advisor must be provided;
- documentation from a newspaper, funeral, memorial service, etc, must be provided in the event of absence due to a death in the immediate family.

Please note: Documentation must be original, will be verified, and will be kept on file.

### **A Note on academic integrity and standards**

Plagiarism is a serious offence and could result in your dismissal from USC. A student found to have plagiarized will receive an automatic "Fail" on the paper, and will be reported to the Dean of Students for further disciplinary action.

*Key university documents:*

- Trojan Integrity Guide: <http://www.usc.edu/student-affairs/SJACS/forms/tio.pdf>
- Undergraduate Guide for Avoiding Plagiarism: <http://www.usc.edu/student-affairs/SJACS/forms/tig.pdf>

Here are some general guidelines (as provided in Writing 140 & 340):

- If you borrow any words or ideas – whether you directly quote or paraphrase the material –, you must give credit to your source in your paper.
- Documenting false sources or failure to credit your sources is plagiarism.
- A paper bought or taken from the Internet, or used previously is plagiarized.
- As to your French, all sentences must be your own. Do not use online translation services. And, when undertaking peer review or accepting assistance from a tutor or friend, remember that the

resulting text must represent your abilities and authority and not those of the persons assisting you. You must be able to reproduce all sentences of the text on your own.

### **Accommodations for students with disabilities**

Students requesting academic accommodations based on a disability are required to register with Disability Services and Programs (DSP) each semester. Please be sure to deliver to me the letter of verification for approved accommodations from DSP.

### **Programs of interest**

**Pause-café** : Tuesdays 12-1pm; THH 170: Weekly informal round-table get-togethers in French

**Ciné-club** : Monthly film club; schedule will be posted in the French Department and the Language Center

#### **Study programs in France:**

- June in Dijon (see Dr. Colin Keaveney, Dept of French). 1st information meeting: Thursday 23 January 2014, 3:30-5pm
- Fall or Spring Semesters in Paris (see Office of Overseas Studies)
- Year in France through Sweet Briar (see Office of Overseas Studies)