

FRENCH 250 (34261): Intermediate French
Fall 2011
MTWTH 11-11:50
VKC110

Instructor:

Dr. Colin KEAVENEY

e-mail: keaveney@usc.edu

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). (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*.

Grammar website: http://globegate.utm.edu/french/globegate_mirror/gramm.html

Course assignments and grading:

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

Participation is essential in this course. The instructor will make note of students' active engagement in and preparation for class, as well as punctuality and homework. Students' participation grade will also be seriously affected by unexcused absences. (For example, a third absence would result in a student's participation grade dropping to 90%). 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.

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).

Written assignments (*travaux écrits*, or TE) 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 quizzes and tests and return all *travaux écrits* on the scheduled day. No late assignments will be accepted. No make-up exams will be given.

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).

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

All work submitted must be the students' own!

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**

Gavalda, "Petites pratiques germanopratives"

E chap. 15 : (*temps du passé*)

"The Opel Touch"

E chap. 16 : *conditionnel*Film: *Chacun cherche son chat*E chap. 5 : (*pronoms sujet*)

Chanson: Jacques Dutronc, "Paris s'éveille"

Vocabulaire du cinéma

Août (22-25)

L

I

Ma

Me

J

Août 29-2 Septembre

L

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

Ma

Me

J

Septembre (5-8)

L

Férié: **Labor Day**

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

Septembre (12-15)

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 chaps. 15, 11 : (*passif*)(*verbes pronominaux*)E chap. 17 : (*subjonctif, infinitif*)*Commentaire composé***Septembre (19-22)**

L

V

Ma

Me

J

Rewrite #1 due

Septembre (26-29)

L
Ma
Me **TE #2**
J

VI

Octobre (3-6)

L Travail écrit #2 returned and discussed
Ma
Me
J **Rewrite TE2 due**

VII

Octobre (10-13)

L
Ma
Me
J

VIII

Semaines IX-XII

Images: Photos de Doisneau, Atget, Brassai, etc. <i>Dora Bruder</i>	E chap. 6 : (<i>pronoms relatifs</i>) E chap. 5 : (<i>pronoms personnels</i>)
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Octobre (17-20)

L
Ma **Quiz #2**
Me
J

IX

Octobre (24-27)

L
Ma
Me
J **TE #3 due**

X

Octobre 31- Novembre 3)

L
Ma TE #3 returned and discussed
Me
J **Quiz #3**

XI

Novembre (7-10)

L **Rewrite TE #3 due**
Ma
Me
J
Ve Last day to drop with "W"

XII

Semaines XIII-XV*Extraits de films et textes**Dora Bruder*E chap. 10 : (*négation*)**Novembre (14-17)**

L		XIII
Ma		
Me		
J		

Novembre (21-24)

L	Quiz #4	XIV
Ma		
Me	<i>Férié: Thanksgiving</i>	
J	<i>Férié: Thanksgiving</i>	

Novembre 28-1 Décembre

L		XV
Ma	TE#4	
Me		
J		

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.