

**FRENCH 250 (34251): Intermediate French**  
**Spring 2011**  
**MTWTH 1-1:50pm**  
**WPH203**

**Instructor:**

Dr. Colin KEAVENEY

e-mail: keaveney@usc.edu

Office hours (THH155G): M 3.20-4; T 12.30-1.30; W 1.20-1.50; Th 12.30-1.30  
 & by appointment. (Subject to change)

**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:**

Homework, mini-quizzes	10%	4 quizzes	30%
Participation	10%	2 oral presentations	15%
4 written assignments (TE)	35%		

Participation is essential in this course. The instructor will make note of students' active engagement in and preparation for class, as well as punctuality. Students' participation grade will also be seriously affected by unexcused absences. (For example, a third absence could 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, death notice 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 (*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 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 one brief oral presentation to open discussion on specific passages, features and problems of the texts. A second oral presentation 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](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**

<i>Gavalda, "Petites pratiques germanopratives"</i>	E chap. 15 : ( <i>temps du passé</i> )
<i>"The Opel Touch"</i>	E chap. 16 : <i>conditionnel</i>
<i>Film: Chacun cherche son chat</i>	E chap. 5 : ( <i>pronoms sujet</i> )
<i>Chanson: Jacques Dutronc, "Paris s'éveille"</i>	<i>Vocabulaire du cinéma</i>

**Janvier (10-13)**

L		I
Ma		
Me		
J		

**Janvier (17-20)**

L	<i>Congé : MLK</i>	II
Ma		
Me	<b>Mini-quiz : Révision</b> (conjugaison des verbes irréguliers; conditionnel, futur)	
J		

**Janvier (24-27)**

L		III
Ma		
Me	Paris contemporain: Film <i>Chacun cherche son chat</i>	
J		
Ve	Last day to drop without "W" or to change to P/NP option	

**Janvier 31-Février 3**

L	<b>Travail écrit (TE) #1 due;</b> Film <i>Chacun cherche son chat</i>	IV
Ma		
Me	<b>Quiz #1</b>	
J	TE # 1 returned and discussed	

**Semaines V-VIII**

<i>Poésie: Baudelaire, Apollinaire</i>	( <i>devoir, pouvoir, etc.</i> )
<i>Film: Les 400 coups</i>	E chap. 15, 11 : ( <i>passif</i> )
	( <i>verbes pronominaux</i> )
	E chap. 17 : ( <i>subjonctif</i> )
	( <i>infinitif</i> )
	<i>Commentaire composé</i>

**Février (7-10)**

L		V
Ma		
Me		
J	<b>Rewrite #1 due</b>	

**Février (14-17)**

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

**Février (21-24)**

L	<i>Congé : Presidents' Day</i>	VII
Ma	Travail écrit #2 returned and discussed	
Me		
J	<b>Rewrite TE2 due</b>	

**Février 28-Mars 3**

L		VIII
Ma		
Me		
J		

**Semaine IX-XII**

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

*Dora Bruder*

E chap. 5 : (*pronoms personnels*)

**Mars (7-10)**

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

**Mars (14-17)**

**Congé : Spring Break**

**Mars (21-24)**

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

**Mars (28-31)**

L		XI
Ma	TE #3 returned and discussed	
Me		
J		

**Avril (4-7)**

L		XII
Ma	<b>Quiz #3</b>	
Me	<b>Rewrite TE #3 due</b>	
J		
Ve	Last day to drop with "W"	

**Semaines XIII-XV**

*Extraits de films et textes*  
*Dora Bruder*

E chap. 10 : (*négation*)**Avril (11-14)**

L		XIII
Ma		
Me		
J		

**Avril (18-21)**

L		XIV
Ma		
Me		
J	<b>Quiz #4</b>	

**Avril (25-28)**

L		XV
Ma		
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.

**FREN 250**  
**Exposés (Spring 2011)**

**Veillez choisir DEUX des exposés suivants (un texte/photo/film ET un entretien) et inscrivez-vous.**

**Janvier**

- 18 *Gavalda*, ‘Petites pratiques germanoprates’: \_\_\_\_\_ II
- 20 *Gavalda*, “The Opel Touch”: \_\_\_\_\_ II
- 26 *Chacun cherche son chat* (film--Cinema library ou Rocket Video): \_\_\_\_\_ III

**Février**

- 7 Montand “A Saint-Germain des Prés” (chanson) \_\_\_\_\_ V
- 14 Apollinaire, “Le pont Mirabeau” (poésie) \_\_\_\_\_ VI
- 16 Queneau, “L’Amphion” (poésie) \_\_\_\_\_ VI
- 22 Mireille Mathieu, “Les ponts de Paris” (chanson) \_\_\_\_\_ VII
- 23 Baudelaire, “Le crépuscule du soir” (poésie) \_\_\_\_\_ VII
- 24 Diam’s, “Ma France à moi” (chanson) \_\_\_\_\_ VII

**Mars**

- 7 Varda, *Cléo de 5 à 7* (film--Leavey) \_\_\_\_\_ IX
- 21 Atget, photo (prof) \_\_\_\_\_ X
- 22 Brassai, photo (prof) \_\_\_\_\_ X
- 23 Godard, *A bout de souffle* (film--Leavey) \_\_\_\_\_ X
- 24 *Dora Bruder*, ouverture du roman: \_\_\_\_\_ X
- 29 Entretien (VHA) avec un survivant (avant la guerre) \_\_\_\_\_ XI
- 30 Entretien (VHA) avec un survivant (Occupation) \_\_\_\_\_ XI

31 Entretien (VHA) avec un survivant (enfance) \_\_\_\_\_ XII

**Avril**

4 Entretien (VHA) avec un survivant (vie à Drancy) \_\_\_\_\_ XII

7 Entretien (VHA) avec un survivant (lois anti-juives) \_\_\_\_\_ XII

11 Entretien (VHA): entretien avec un survivant (école) \_\_\_\_\_ XIII

13 Entretien (VHA) : avec un survivant (rafles) \_\_\_\_\_ XIII

18 Entretien (VHA) avec un survivant (déportation) \_\_\_\_\_ XIV

25 *Dora Bruder*, conclusion: \_\_\_\_\_ XV