

INTENSIVE ELEMENTARY FRENCH

Synchronous

1. About the course:

This course is an intensive introduction to French, which focuses on speaking, pronunciation, comprehension, reading, writing, and cultural understanding. The course is **synchronous**, which means we will **be meeting in live, online videoconference**, and you will **also be working independently**.

Course goals

My main goal for this course is to promote the study and understanding of languages, literatures, and cultures associated with the French language. This goal can be dissected threefold:

- o To develop and practice your skills in speaking, listening, reading and writing French
- o To integrate your language learning with studies (cultural, linguistic, sociopolitical, scientific, literary, artistic, and institutional) of France and the Francophone world.
- o To inspire you to see yourself as a global citizen

What you will master:

By the end of this course, you should be able to do the following, with few to no errors in grammar, at the level and speed of a Novice-High French speaker as defined by ACTFL guidelines:

- o Read, interpret, and discuss the main ideas of short and simple French narratives (e.g. menus, travel brochures, brief conversations, short texts, and similar materials);
- o Listen to, interpret, and discuss the main ideas of French conversations/recordings;
- o Ask and Answer personal questions and discuss your daily life in spoken French;
- o Write about daily life by composing lists, short messages, e-mails, and simple notes;
- o Compare and contrast some of the main aspects of French and Francophone culture and civilization to your own culture(s) and lived experiences;

What does it mean to be proficient in a language?

The targeted proficiency level for this course is **Novice High**, **as described in the ACTFL Proficiency Guidelines**, across the skills of **speaking, listening, reading, and writing**.

Essential questions

- How can we better understand other human beings from different linguistic and cultural backgrounds?
- How can we use French to communicate orally or in writing? For example:
 - How do we use French to talk about ourselves and others?
 - How do we use French to ask for and convey information?
- What is “French” or “Francophone” culture? For example:
 - What is France’s colonial history?
 - In which places in the world do people speak French?
 - How do Francophone cultures compare to and differ from our own cultures?

What you need to have

Required Technology:

- Access to a computer (**note: some of our course software is more easily accessible on personal computers rather than smartphones and tablets**)
 - Windows 7 or later, or macOS 10.11 or later (**note: some of our course software is not officially supported on Linux distributions**)
 - 2+ GB RAM
 - 1.8+ GHz CPU
- High-speed internet connection (5+ mbps download speed)
- Java-enabled web browser (Firefox, Chrome) (**note: some of our course software is not officially supported on Safari or other browsers**)
- Word-processing software (LibreOffice, Microsoft Office, Google Docs, etc.)
- Microphone
- Webcam
- Speakers

Required Course Materials:

- **Horizons** 7th edition by J. Manley, S. Smith, J. McMinn-Reyna & M. Prévost
- **“MindTap”** (the online learning platform to accompany **Horizons**)

These materials may be bought or rented, individually or as a package through **Cengage Unlimited**. The text may be hard copy or the e-book. **Access to MindTap is required**. It comes automatically with Cengage Unlimited. **If you instead purchase a used copy of the text, you will also need to purchase an access code to MindTap.**

Required Class Resources:

- **Cengage Mindtap**
- Voicethread

Additional Resources:

- **Lexilogos Dictionaries**
- **TV5 Monde French News**
- **Tex's French grammar, on-line review & practice**
- **Duolingo** (language learning site with practice activities)

2. What you will be doing and how you will be graded

Modules and Deadlines

Our course is broken down into Modules, one for each of the 11 chapters of our textbook, and one for global, Francophone culture. Each module will contain:

- Relevant resources discussing new topics
- Activities for you to practice new skills
- At least one discussion assignment
- A short activity or live chat assignment
- A self-assessment quiz
- A written reflection on your learning so far

Deadlines & Late work

You will have 4 days to complete each module at your own pace for full credit. Generally, modules will open every **Sunday** and **Wednesday** at **12:00AM Eastern Time** and close every **Wednesday** and **Sunday** at **11:59PM Eastern Time**. These deadlines are to ensure you keep up with the fast pace of the material. If you fall behind, you may submit any work (except the final project) after the deadline for partial credit.

Pacing

Did you know that spacing your practice consistently will help you retain information? Since most of our modules revolve around a chapter of our *Horizons* textbook, and each chapter can be broken up into 4 subchapters ("*Compétences*"), you should aim to complete at least one *Compétence* per day of the module. The practice activities for each module are separated according to these *Compétences*, to help you keep on track.

Required Learning Resources

Each module will list the accompanying textbook chapters for you to reference. Access to the MindTap platform comes with an electronic copy of our textbook, which contains embedded explanatory audio and video materials. Additional videos, articles, or other materials will be posted on Brightspace with each module.

Practice activities

Practice activities from MindTap accompany each module. Doing your practice activities on time is crucial to your success. Hand-written assignments must be legible; and you should only submit your own original work. You should submit all assignments through our online learning platforms, in the file formats as directed in each assignment's description.

Online discussions

For each module, you will participate in a discussion with your classmates either as text through Brightspace's "Discussion Board" or as video through VoiceThread (linked through Brightspace). In addition to posting your own original response for each discussion, you should respond to at least two of your classmates' posts.

Class Discussion Rubric			
	No credit	Partial credit	Full credit
Substance	Non-substantive posts such as "I agree", or "Good job" with no supporting information; or no posts at all	Basic organization of ideas; responded to some (but not all) prompts; or some responses are cursory	Original response and replies to peers contribute meaningfully to the class discussion, using examples or additional sources
Timeliness	Original response and replies posted after close of module	Original response posted during the 3rd or 4th day of module, and/or replies posted after close of module	Original response posted within first 2 days of module and replies to classmates posted prior to close of module
Etiquette	Posts are unprofessionally or poorly written	Most posts follow our netiquette guidelines	All posts follow our netiquette guidelines
Replies to peers	Replies to fewer than 2 peers	Replies to 2+ peers	Responds to 2+ peers with thoughtful comments which foster further discussion, and responds to follow-up questions/comments

Attendance and Participation

Attendance is required at each of our Zoom meetings. During these Zoom sessions, we will mostly practice speaking skills, and you are expected to actively participate. You can miss **one** session, no questions asked, at no grade penalty.

Partner Chat

Each week, you will be randomly assigned a chat partner. Each module has specific conversaton prompts for you to use for the Partner Chat activity, which should take you around 20 minutes. You may choose to complete the chat in written or oral form, but must submit a copy of your conversation transcript to Brightspace.

Wrap-up activities

To wrap up each module, you will have a short wrap-up activity. For some modules, this takes the form of a brief composition or presentation, for other modules a scheduled live voice chat with me, and for other modules still you will be able to choose your preferred format. Each of these wrap-up projects will have its own rubric, available on Brightspace along with the assignment descriptions.

Auto-évaluation

At the end of every module, there is an optional quiz, "*auto-évaluation*", which covers the topics discussed in that module. You should use the results of this assessment to identify your strengths and weaknesses, so you can study more effectively. Your score on the *auto-évaluation* does not impact your grade.

Reflection

At the end of each module, after completing all of the tasks, you will compose a brief reflection piece of under one page in length, in English. You should write about your experiences tackling the material from that module. What interested you? What did you find easy to grasp? What was most challenging to learn? Did you find any strategies particularly helpful? This piece should be a reflection of your learning process, in order to help you best understand where you stand in terms of achieving our course objectives.

Grading

Modules:

Our course contains 12 modules, each carying equal weight in grading.

Chapter Module = 100 points	
Practice activities	20 points
Partner chat	10 points
Online discussion	20 points
Wrap-up activity	20 points
Attendance and Participation	20 points
Reflection	10 points

The final module is a self-guided research presentation on the **non-European**, French-speaking country of your choice, and is also scored out of 100 points. You will present some background information about the country, as well as some specific aspects of the francophone cultures there. More specific requirements will be posted on Brightspace.

Francophonie Module = 100 points	
Pick a non-European, Francophone country	5 points
Collect at least 3 reputable sources	15 points
Compose a first draft of your presentation	20 points
Provide feedback to at least 2 peers' presentation drafts	20 points
Incorporate feedback into your final draft	25 points
Reflection	15 points