

Class Meeting time	Tuesday 15h00-16h30 Thursday 15h00-16h30
Textbooks	K.Caenen, <i>Choix de Bruxelles</i> , Vesalius College, 2010 (to be distributed in class by the instructor = 15 euro) Small dictionary (French/ First language and First language/French) Available at Fnac, Waterstones,....
Office Hours	Office hours: Tuesday/ Thursday 12h00-13h00 Office hours by appointment : Tuesday/ Thursday 16h30-17H00 Office Schoofslaan, room 044
Questions?	email kcaenen@vub.ac.be ,

COURSE DESCRIPTION/ DESCRIPTION DU COURS

Students are going to acquire an elementary knowledge of the French language, and will be able to communicate autonomously very quickly. These basic communication skills will be acquired by reading short dialogues and small texts, but also by listening to authentic conversations, reproduced in the classroom. Structures and vocabulary will be practiced with the instructor and in small groups.

Students are going to integrate their new French skills in general activities concerning French and Belgian cultural elements, and thus also practicing their oral skills and their reporting skills. Students will also work on small simple written texts.

Students who have any prior French knowledge will not be accepted to attend this class. The instructor will send these students on to an appropriate level. Easy credit seekers will not be tolerated!

GENERAL OBJECTIVES / OBJECTIFS DU COURS

After this course, students will have the following skills, and should be able to:

- Understand basic communication and be able to participate in everyday basic conversations.
- Know the basic grammar and basic vocabulary to manage living in a French speaking environment.
- Read and understand basic French texts and compose simple written work
- Feel confident while speaking French in front of their peers.

And to enable students to produce correct written and oral language, the following grammatical material will be taught:

- *conjugaisons des verbes au présent,*
- *l'impératif*
- *le futur proche*
- *les articles*
- *les adjectifs possessifs*
- *les nombres*
- *le genre, le nombre et la place des adjectifs et des noms*
- *l'article partitif*
- *le passé composé*

- *les pronoms compléments directs*
- *la négation et l'interrogation....*

METHOD OF LEARNING / METHODOLOGIE DU COURS

Classes will be taught in French progressively from the beginning and every student is expected to produce French phrases to his ability during classes. This may seem difficult, but don't forget that you can always **ask if you don't understand**. Gaining confidence while speaking French is far more important than worrying about the mistakes you might make.

Classes will be taught twice a week, **the first session** is devoted to learning and understanding texts and new theory, new grammar or new vocabulary skills. Students will need to prepare this session in advance by reading at home.

The second class session will be devoted to both exercises and practical French in use. Students have to prepare these sessions in advance, making the designated exercises in the handouts.. The second class session will also include an oral part. Approximately one third of the the class period will be devoted to language games, skits, conversations, extra vocabulary and talking French. Students will be asked to form work groups for the entire semester.

ASSESSMENT

Two types of **homework** will be given.

1.La préparation will have to be done after and before each in class exercise session. This includes making exercises, preparing for the next session, making sure you understand the new grammatical material, repeating and studying the conversation explained in the previous class, learning your vocabulary, reading and preparing exercises for the next class, *La préparation* will not be graded directly, but some of the set exercises will be corrected collectively in class, and thus your *préparation* will influence your class work and be reflected in the assessment.

The instructor will also check/ correct at random your handouts to see that you did the preparation work and are keeping up with the course. All students will have their exercise book checked at several random moments during the semester. Students should keep their handouts in a folder and bring this folder to class.

THIS IS JUST BASIC STUDY WORK! DO IT, OR ELSE,.....

Practical assignments / *Activités pratiques* will include interviewing people, surveys, city games, grocery shopping, culinary projects, research,...

The assignments can be found after each chapter in the handouts. There are five practical assignments, including also your oral exam presentation. Practical assignments will include a little bit of writing, but these assignment will be mostly used to practice oral French inside and outside the classroom.

2. Les devoirs

Two big *devoirs* or homeworks will be given during the semester, check the class calendar for the exact dates. These are individual written assignments that enable you to show the progress that you've made learning French.

There are a few rules concerning these *devoirs*:

1. The copy given to the instructor should be on a nice clean sheet of paper. If you use a computer, make sure that you enable your word processing programme to write all the necessary accents in French. If not, your grade will suffer. Nicely handwritten copies are also accepted. Only hardcopies will be accepted, no homework can be sent by email.
2. Missing the deadline = 0 for that devoir. No exceptions will be made. If you are sick, notify the instructor as quickly as possible, and bring along a doctor's note when you come back to class. No doctor's note (you'll need one for all your courses anyway) = still 0 for that devoir.
3. The work must be entirely your own work. The instructor is not a simpleton and will recognize the input of more advanced students, guest families, translation programmes,...etc. This doesn't mean that you can't look up words or phrases or ask people around you. It means that the written items should be the result of you processing the language, including words that you've looked up if you wish to do so. In case of doubt, the instructor will ask you to redo the homework in class. Let's put it like this: copies including advanced grammar will arouse my suspicion,.....
4. Keep it simple. Try to use as much vocabulary and grammar that you've studied so far. The assignments are designed for beginners, which is what you are. I don't expect novels, nor scientific French.

Two types of **quizzes or exams** will be given this semester.

1. Announced quizzes will cover a limited amount of course material and are given at certain intervals (after each chapter of your handouts) to ensure every student is keeping up with the course work. Check the class calendar for the exact dates. No quizzes are given the week after Spring break, for obvious reasons.

2. Mid term and final examinations will be given at set dates. The final examination will also include an oral part, a presentation given in the final week of class.

The most important element in this course is the **individual progress** of the students and the **effort** they put in towards learning French. Students are entitled to make mistakes and learn from their mistakes, it's an essential part of language acquisition.

GRADE BREAKDOWN

Quizzes	20%	Announced quizzes
Oral French produced in class	10%	
Graded homework (<i>devoirs</i>)	10%	
Class participation	10%	Active contribution to the class. You've made your <i>préparations</i> and you do your best to speak French in class + physical attendance. *
Mid term exam	20%	
Final exam	30%	25% written exam, 5% oral presentation.

***Physical attendance** in class is compulsory and recorded at every class. If you are sick, warn the school and they will notify your teachers. You'll also have to bring a doctor's note when you return to school. If you miss class for any other reason, send an email to kcaenen@vub.ac.be, preferably in advance as to explain why you cannot attend class. It is your responsibility to keep up with the course work, and ask the necessary explanations if you don't understand. If you miss an announced quiz, please notify the instructor in advance and we'll set up an alternative.

GRADING

	%	On 20	
A	85-100	17-20	Excellent
A-	81-84	16	very good
B+	77-80	15,5	
B	73-76	14,5	good
B-	69-72	14	
C+	66-68	13	
C	62-65	12,5	satisfactory
C-	58-61	11,5	
D+	54-57	11	
D	50-53	10	pass

	%	On 20	
F	49 and below	below 10	fail

Your transcript will give you a letter grade. The exams receive a number with the equivalent letter grade, but the numbers are added in order to obtain the final letter grade. The numbers indicated hereafter come from the fact that Flemish universities must consider 50% as passing and, by a process of linear interpolation from the US 4-point GPA system, 85% and above is an A, and anything below 50% is an F. If you want to calculate the course grade you only need to multiply the numerical mark for each assignment and quiz/ exam by the percentage allocated to each different part of the course and then add the results.

Grades have a tendency to be lower in Europe than in the US. As stated above, a B is good and a C is satisfactory. However, most SA students generally want, or are used to, higher grades. To let you in on the secret way to an A = work for it, work hard, and you'll be rewarded.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Getting a good grade involves putting in the necessary work. Showing up in class alone is not sufficient.

Cheating at quizzes and exams will expose you to the fine penalties described in the course catalog, check the section on academic integrity for further details. The instructor is well informed about the most common cheating techniques, so don't even attempt them. Stringent security measures will be taken at exams, ;-)

TO-DO LIST

Students are also encouraged to take an active part in any cultural or social event of their choice that involves speaking French or hearing other people speak French. Carry a small notebook with you at all times and write down words and expressions you don't understand. You can look them up in your dictionary or just ask the instructor. Any question about odd, nice, annoying, complicated, fabulous, ... concepts, ideas, people, things..... that you discover while in Belgium are very much welcome.

STUDY GUIDE = HOW TO GET A GOOD GRADE

A. On a weekly basis.

After each tuesday class and before each thursday session you should do the following things to keep up with the course. Keep this order to organise your study session, it should take you up to two or two and a half hours.

- 1) Read, understand and translate the texts.
- 2) Study the vocabulary. You can use the vocabulary sheets provided in the handouts. Write them out several times, correct spelling is very important. Y
- 3) Repeat the text using the MP3.
- 4) Study the *Idiome*. Make the *Idiome* exercises, you need to prepare them for the Thursday session.
- 5) Go over the new grammar. Make sure you understand. Extra explanations in English can be found in the course handouts Study the grammar rules. Make the set grammar exercises, you need to prepare them for the Thursday session.
- 6) Make the set homework if there is one.

After each Thursday session and before each Tuesday session you should do the following things to keep up with the course. This should take you up to an hour or an hour and a half.

- 1) Make sure you have the correct answers of the exercises corrected in class. Correct your answers. If you have difficulties or fail to understand let the instructor know by email.
- 2) Repeat the vocabulary and the grammar you've studied so far. Make charts or revision cards.
- 3) Do the set reading for the Tuesday class, look up new words in the set texts.
- 4) Study for a test if there is one coming up. Check the class calendar.
- 5) Make the set homework if there is one.

B. After every unit

A test is organised after each lesson or two lessons, expect for lesson 5, this is included in the mid term examination This means that you have to study the following items:

- 1) All the new grammatical material from that lesson, but you also need to revise the grammar from previous units, for example the verbs.
- 2) All the new vocabulary from that lesson. You simply study the vocabulary list that you made or filled out in these handouts. Of course, you're not supposed to forget the vocabulary from previous lessons!
- 3) All the exercises from that unit. Remake them and correct them.
- 4) All conversation and cultural items presented, discussed or practised in class or during the practical assignment.

C. Twice a semester

A mid term examination is organised in week 8 and a final examination in week 15.

CLASS SCHEDULE AND CALENDAR

		Tuesday/ Mardi session	Thursday/ Jeudi session
Week 1 18/01-22/01	Survival French	Syllabus, présentations	Les rencontres rapides.
			révision cours de mardi
Week 2 25/01-29/01	Chapitre 1: Bonjour!	Textes, Idiome, Grammaire	Exercices + Parler
<i>à faire/ to do</i>		lire les textes	préparer les exercices.
Week 3 01/02-05/02	Chapitre 1: Bonjour!	Textes, Idiome, Grammaire	Exercices + Parler
<i>à faire/ to do</i>		lire les textes	préparer les exercices.
Week 4 08/02-12/02	Chapitre 2: Perdu!	Textes, Idiome, Grammaire	Exercices + Parler
<i>à faire/ to do</i>		lire les textes TEST CHAPITRE 1	préparer les exercices.
Week 5 15/02-19/02	Chapitre 2: Perdu!	Textes, Idiome, Grammaire	Exercices + Parler
<i>à faire/ to do</i>		lire les textes	préparer les exercices.
Week 6 22/02-26/02	Chapitre 3: Bon Appétit!	Textes, Idiome, Grammaire	Exercices + Parler
<i>à faire/ to do</i>		lire les textes TEST CHAPITRE 2	préparer les exercices.
Week 7 01/03-05/03	Chapitre 3: Bon Appétit!	Textes, Idiome, Grammaire	Exercices + Parler
<i>à faire/ to do</i>		lire les textes	préparer les exercices.
Week 8 08/03-12/03	Examen Mid term	Examen Mid term CHAPITRES 1, 2, 3	Cours de culture
<i>à faire/ to do</i>		étudier pour l'examen	DEVOIR I

		Tuesday/ Mardi session	Thursday/ Jeudi session
Week 9 15/03-19/03	Chapitre 4: Bon Voyage!	Textes, Idiome, Grammaire	Exercices + Parler
<i>à faire/ to do</i>		lire les textes	préparer les exercices.
Week 10 22/03-26/03	Chapitre 4: Bon Voyage!	Textes, Idiome, Grammaire	Exercices + Parler
<i>à faire/ to do</i>		lire les textes	préparer les exercices.
Week 11 29/03-02/04	Chapitre 5: Bonne idée!	Textes, Idiome, Grammaire	Exercices + Parler
<i>à faire/ to do</i>		lire les textes TEST CHAPITRE 4	préparer les exercices.
05/04-09/04 12/04-16/04	Vacances de Printemps		
Week 12 19/04-23/04	Chapitre 5: Bonne idée!	Textes, Idiome, Grammaire	Exercices + Parler
<i>à faire/ to do</i>		lire les textes	préparer les exercices. DEVOIR II
Week 13 26/04-30/04	Chapitre 6 : J'adore!	Textes, Idiome, Grammaire	Exercices + Parler
<i>à faire/ to do</i>		lire les textes TEST CHAPITRE 5	préparer les exercices.
Week 14 03/05-07/05	Chapitre 6 : J'adore!	Textes, Idiome, Grammaire, exercices	Examen oral (présentation)
<i>à faire/ to do</i>		préparer les exercices	préparer la présentation.
Week 15 10/05-14/05	Examen final	étudier pour l'examen	