

UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA
DEPARTMENT OF MODERN LANGUAGES AND CULTURAL STUDIES
www.mlcs.ualberta.ca

FREN 111: Beginners' French I
Fall 2015
September 1 – December 7

Section: A1-3

Place and Time: M _____ T _____ R _____ F _____

Instructor

Acting Coordinator

Name:

Mathieu Martin-LeBlanc

Office:

Arts 242-B

E-mail:

MRL8@ualberta.ca

Office Hours:

W 10:00-11:00 (or by appointment)

French program website: <http://www.mlcs.ualberta.ca/Courses/French.aspx>

Course Prerequisite: None. This course is not open to students with French 30 (and its equivalent), immersion experience, or native or near native proficiency in French. Please note that **students must register in the course recommended by the placement test** (unless they have received the coordinator's permission) or they may not be granted credits for the course.

Course-based Ethics Approval in place regarding all research projects that involve human testing, questionnaires, etc.?

Yes No, not needed, no such projects approved

Community Service Learning component

Required Optional None

Past or Representative Evaluative Course Material available

Exam registry – Students' Union

<http://www.su.ualberta.ca/services/infolink/exam/>

See explanations below

Document distributed in class

Other: <http://www.mlcs.ualberta.ca/Courses/French/FrenchSampleTests.aspx>

Additional mandatory Instructional fees (approved by Board of Governors)

Yes No

Course Description and Objectives:

The aim of the course is to enable students to develop elementary proficiency in oral expression, listening comprehension, reading, writing, and cultural understanding in French on topics related to daily activities and topics of personal relevance such as university life and family. In class, emphasis will be placed on the acquisition of oral skills, but attention will also be given to written skills. Students will acquire basic grammatical and lexical knowledge pertaining to the Francophone world.

At the end of the course, they are expected to have developed the ability to communicate in predictable and common situations at the sentence level and achieve a good control of the most frequently used grammatical structures and vocabulary.

Required Text:

- **Chez Nous: Branché sur le monde francophone** – 3rd Canadian edition – Prentice Hall. (Chapters 1 to 4 will be covered, and the same book will be used in French 112.)
- **MyFrenchLab** online learning materials (bundled with the textbook, purchased directly on eClass, or workbook exercises available at the Rutherford Library reserve desk.)

Optional Texts:

- **French/English Dictionary (or App):** *Larousse, Collins, or Oxford* are all good dictionaries. Avoid purchasing miniature pocket dictionaries; these have limited vocabulary and are not the best for this course.
- **Le Condensé:** Nouvelle grammaire en tableaux - Les éditions CEC
- **Sans Détour:** A complete reference manual for French Grammar – Prentice Hall

Grade Distribution (see ‘Explanatory Notes’):

Participation and attendance	15%
Assignments (online and/or traditional) and quizzes [2-3 per week altogether]	15%
Chapter tests 1 and 2 (Thursday September 24 and Thursday October 15 ; 6% each)	12%
Chapter test 3 (Audio/video and in-class composition ; Tuesday November 3)	8%
Chapter test 4 (Thursday November 26)	10%
Oral mid-session evaluation (Thursday and Friday October 8 and 9)	10%
Final oral exam (Monday and Tuesday November 30 and December 1)	10%
Final written exam (3 hours; Saturday December 12, 9:00am ; place TBA)	20%

Explanatory Notes:

Participation and attendance: Attendance and participation will be assessed based on the use of French during classroom activities, preparedness, and active participation in class. The marking rubrics for participation will be provided electronically. Note that the instructor expects students to have read the relevant materials before coming to class.

Assignments: These may include but are not limited to MyFrenchLab homework, writing assignments, grammar and vocabulary practice exercises, and oral presentations. The marking rubrics, when relevant, will be provided electronically.

Quizzes and Tests: Those are designed to test learning of class materials (grammar, vocabulary) as well as general reading and listening comprehension on themes related to class material.

Oral examination: The oral exams may be in the format of short conversation, short scenarios prepared in advance and/or oral presentations related to themes covered in class. They will be done individually, in pairs or in small groups.

Final written exam: The exam will include a text and reading comprehension, essay writing, and a section on grammar.

Final Exam Information:

Exam Schedules for the 2015-2016 Academic year can be found at the following site:
<http://www.registrar.ualberta.ca/calendar/Academic/Schedule/11.1.html>

Deferred Final Examination: Place and time TBA

Deferred examinations cannot be granted by instructors. Students must apply for a deferral to his / her Faculty office with adequate documentation substantiating the absence due to incapacitating illness, severe domestic affliction, and other compelling reasons including religious convictions. See Section 23.5.6 of the University Calendar for details.

Required Notes:

“Policy about course outlines can be found in Section 23.4(2) of the University Calendar.”

Academic Integrity:

“The University of Alberta is committed to the highest standards of academic integrity and honesty. Students are expected to be familiar with these standards regarding academic honesty and to uphold the policies of the University in this respect. Students are particularly urged to familiarize themselves with the provisions of the Code of Student Behaviour (online at <http://www.governance.ualberta.ca/en/CodesofConductandResidenceCommunityStandards/CodeofStudentBehaviour.aspx>) and avoid any behaviour which could potentially result in suspicions of cheating, plagiarism, misrepresentation of facts and/or participation in an offence. Academic dishonesty is a serious offence and can result in suspension or expulsion from the University.”

Learning and Working Environment:

The Faculty of Arts is committed to ensuring all students; faculty and staff are able to study and work in an environment safe and free of discrimination and harassment. It does not tolerate behaviour that undermines that environment. The Department urges anyone who feels this policy has been or is being violated to:

- Discuss the matter with the person whose behaviour is causing concern; or
- If that discussion is unsatisfactory, or there is concern that direct discussion is inappropriate or threatening, discuss it first with your language instructor, and if still unresolved, the French language program coordinator and, lastly, the Chair of the Department.

For additional advice or assistance regarding this policy you may contact the student ombudservice (<http://www.ombudservice.ualberta.ca>). Information about the University of Alberta Discrimination and Harassment Policy and Procedures is described in UAPPOL at <https://policiesonline.ualberta.ca/PoliciesProcedures/Pages/DispPol.aspx?PID=110>

Academic Honesty:

All students should consult the information provided by the Office of Judicial Affairs (<http://www.osja.ualberta.ca/Students.aspx>) and the Academic Integrity Undergraduate Handbook (<http://www.osja.ualberta.ca/en/Students/UndergraduateHandbook.aspx>) regarding the definitions of **plagiarism** and its consequences when detected. If in doubt about what is permitted in this class, ask the instructor.

Students involved in language courses and **translation** courses should be aware that on-line “translation engines” produce very dubious and unreliable “translations.” **Students in languages courses** should be aware that, while seeking the advice of native or expert speakers is often helpful, **excessive editorial and creative help** in assignments is considered a form of “cheating” that violates the code of student conduct with dire consequences.

An instructor or coordinator who is convinced that a student has handed in work that he or she could not possibly reproduce without outside assistance is obliged, out of consideration of fairness to other students, to report the case to the Associate Dean of the Faculty. See the Academic Discipline Process (<http://www.osja.ualberta.ca/TheDisciplineProcess.aspx>)

Recording of Lectures:

Audio or video recording of lectures, labs, seminars or any other teaching environment by students is allowed only with the prior written consent of the instructor or as a part of an approved accommodation plan. Recorded material is to be used solely for personal study, and is not to be used or distributed for any other purpose without prior written consent from the content author(s).

Attendance, Absences, and Missed Grade Components:

Regular attendance is essential for optimal performance in any course. In cases of potentially excusable absences due to illness or domestic affliction, notify your instructor by e-mail within two days. Regarding absences that may be excusable and procedures for addressing course components missed as a result, consult sections 23.3(1) and 23.5.6 of the University Calendar. Be aware that unexcused absences will result in partial or total loss of the grade for the “attendance and participation” component(s) of a course, as well as for any assignments that are not handed-in or completed as a result.

In this course: **Students are allowed to miss three sessions without penalty** regardless of the reason for their absence (excusable or not), **after which two percentage point per absence will be deducted** from the 15% attendance and participation grade. It is recommended not to miss a session unless necessary.

Missed grade components due to absences may be taken at another time if they are due to illness or domestic affliction. Instructors can no longer request a doctor’s note for absences due to illness, but they may request other adequate documentation at their discretion such as a form from the student’s Faculty or a statutory declaration. In other cases, including domestic affliction or religious conviction, adequate documentation must be provided to substantiate the reason for an absence.

The student must notify their instructor by e-mail within two days following the scheduled date of the term work missed or as soon as the student is able to arrange for an extension or make-up test / assignment. Instructors are not required to grant make-up assignments / tests or extensions for unacceptable reasons that include, but are not limited to, personal events such as vacations, weddings, or travel arrangements. When the student misses some term work without an acceptable excuse, a final grade will be computed using a raw score of zero for the term work missed.

Policy for Late Assignments:

Students who consult in advance with an instructor regarding contingencies preventing the timely completion of an assignment may, at the discretion of the instructor, be granted an extension.

When a test or any other evaluation has been scheduled, any student who misses class on this day and does not have an excusable reason for the absence will get a zero, even though s/he might have been absent the day it was announced as s/he has the responsibility to enquire about what has been missed.

Student Accessibility Services:

If you have special needs that could affect your performance in this class, please inform your instructor during the first week of the term so that appropriate arrangements can be made. If you are not already registered with Specialized Support & Disability Services, contact their office immediately (1-80 SUB; email sasrec@ualberta.ca; phone 780-492-3381; WEB www.ssds.ualberta.ca).

Grading:

Marks for assignments, tests, and exams are given in percentages, to which letter grades are also assigned, according to the table below (“MLCS Undergraduate Grading Scale”). The percentage mark resulting from the entire term work and examination then produces the final letter grade for the course.

“MLCS Undergraduate Grading Scale”

Letter	%	Pts	Descriptor
A+	95-100%	4.0	Outstanding: Superior performance showing understanding and knowledge of the subject matter far exceeding expectations.
A	90-94%	4.0	Excellent: Superior performance showing comprehensive understanding of subject matter.
A-	86-89%	3.7	Very good: Clearly above average performance with complete knowledge of subject matter.
B+	82-85%	3.3	Very good
B	75-81%	3.0	Good: average performance with knowledge of subject matter generally complete.
B-	70-74%	2.7	Good
C+	66-69%	2.3	Satisfactory: Basic understanding of the subject matter
C	61-65%	2.0	Satisfactory
C-	58-60%	1.7	Satisfactory
D+	55-57%	1.3	Minimal Pass: Marginal performance; generally insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the subject matter.
D	50-54%	1.0	Minimal Pass: Marginal performance; generally insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the subject matter.
F	0-49%	0.0	Fail: Unsatisfactory performance or failure to meet course requirements.

Note : It is our opinion that if a student does not receive a minimum of B- in this course, they should strongly consider improving their language skills (ie : tutoring, conversation groups, exchange programs, volunteering, J’Explore www.jexplore.ca, etc.) before continuing to the next level of our language program.

Language of Instruction and Communication:

The language of instruction in the classroom is French. However, students should be aware that it is perfectly normal not to understand everything at once and they are not expected to: they should tell their teacher when they feel lost and s/he will find another way of explaining. It is expected that **most** communication be carried out in the target language. This pertains to daily class time conversation with fellow students and instructor.

Learning Resources:

- Help with writing: Bon patron - <http://bonpatron.com/>
- Help with verb conjugation: <http://www.pomme.ualberta.ca/pomme/>