



MISSION
INTERUNIVERSITAIRE DE
COORDINATION DES
ECHANGES
FRANCO-AMERICAINS

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MICEFA French Language & Culture Optional Course Syllabus

Course Title: French in Action / Le français en action !

Level: Confirmed beginners to intermediate

Hours: 21 hours (7 course sessions, 3 hours per course)

Credits: 2 credits

Professor: Katia Nossenko Hercberg coordinatricepedagogique@micefa.org

Course Description:

Would you like to learn French in real life situations like the French do? **This French language and culture workshop is designed to help you perfect your oral and written expression in French.** Each course will offer you the opportunity to practice French in everyday situations: How to speak to a professor, at a bakery, to a *gendarme*, to a doctor, at the organic market, to a waiter etc. Using audiovisual and text excerpts, and grammar and vocabulary exercises, students will be encouraged to practice their oral and written expression.

This course is also one that takes place outside the classroom. Things learned in the classroom will be put into practice in the city. A number of city visits have been planned to incite the students to speak French with the French.

Combining the course with the general French course offered by the ILCF will allow students to progress quicker, to perfect their oral expression skills and to discover Paris differently!

Curriculum:

- Oral & Written Comprehension
- Oral Expression
- French Grammar and Vocabulary
- Cultural Visits in and around Paris

Course Materials:

- Documents and multimedia (excerpts, video clips, brochures, etc.)

Assessments and Evaluation:

Continuous testing in the form of quizzes and presentations throughout the course and a final exam on grammar learned during the course. Final grades for students are based on a combination of continuous testing scores, final exam score, and attendance & participation grades.

- Participation: 20%
- Attendance, punctuality, participation and attitude: 20%

- Final grammar and vocabulary course: 20%
- Oral presentations: 40%

Final average is given out of 20

Attendance and Participation:

Attendance is essential to the curriculum of the program and will be checked daily. Students are required to attend all course sessions in order to receive full credit for this course. Unexcused absences will not be accepted. Students are required to email the course contact person to inform them of their absence.

Excused absences include but is not limited to the following:

- Illness or injury
- Family or personal emergency

Students will be asked to justify all absences.

Student Code of Conduct:

1. Student presence at courses and cultural activities is mandatory. Students must provide justification for all excused absences
2. Students must arrive on time to courses and cultural activities, excessive lateness will have an effect on the credits earned in the course
3. Students are expected to turn cellphones off or put them on silent mode during courses and cultural activities
4. Plagiarism and/or cheating are not tolerated during this course. If a student is caught cheating during the course, the final grade will be a 0.

Course Schedule:

Course 1: **Bienvenue à Paris !**

Who are you? Where are you from?

Skills to Acquire: how to present oneself, know how to talk about one’s likes/dislikes, interests, studies or about one’s home

Grammar/Vocabulary: locations (articles, prepositions of place, common expressions for speaking about a continent, a country, a region, a city...)

Real-life Situation Activity: “*Et si je voyageais...*” create a touristic travel itinerary to discover a different country/region using a geographical map.

Oral Presentation 1: “*Le lieu d’où je viens est unique...*” present where you are from, its landscapes, symbols, historic monuments, and touristic sites (group work, 5-10 min)

Scavenger Hunt in the Assas-Luxembourg-Vavin neighborhood: discover the neighborhood through interactions with locals and in shops.

Course 2-3: **Le plat du jour s’il vous plaît !**

Skills to Acquire: how to talk about French cuisine (dishes, recipes, places), know how to read a menu at a restaurant, know how to order at a restaurant (simple, standard, complex, gastronomic)

Grammar/Vocabulary: partitives, contracted articles, numbers, quantity adverbs. Vocabulary: restaurants and French gastronomy

Real-life Situation Activity: Dialogue in groups of 2 or 3

- Conversation between a friendly waiter and a difficult client
- Conversation between an impolite waiter and an American tourist
- Conversation between a French person and an American couple

Oral Presentation 2: “*Je mets la main à la pâte...*” each student presents a dish or a dessert that they know how to cook. Attention: you must present the list of ingredients, the quantities and comment on every step of the recipe (5-10 min)

At the end of course 3: Surprise tasting!

Course 4: **Les maîtres-artisans et les traditions**

Visit: Boulangeire “Le Petit Mitron”. Meet and discuss baking and boulangeries with the head baker Didier Lavry

Real-life Situation Activity: Participation in the baking of a traditional French *baguette*, a *croissant* and a *pain au chocolat* followed by a tasting.

Course 5-6: **Paris, je t’aime**

Skills to Acquire: how to talk about the different French neighborhoods (*arrondissements*): describe the transportation system, present historical monuments (location, date of construction, symbolism and history) and tourist attractions (where? when and why is this attraction visited? by whom?); how to describe one’s own neighborhood (architecture, shops, transportation, institutions, population, interesting landmarks or places).

Grammar/Vocabulary: indefinite and definite articles: *il y a, c’est, il n’y a pas*; the pronoun “y”; vocabulary for describing an urban landscape

Real-life Situation Activity: Imitation in groups of 2 or 3

- Conversation between an impolite Parisian and an American tourist who is lost and who doesn’t have GPS
- Conversation between a French couple from outside of Paris and an American couple who have met on a “*Bateau Mouche*”.

Oral Presentation 3: “*Guided tour of my favorite neighborhood in Paris*” present an itinerary to show your visiting friends/family from America the best parts of the neighborhood including the starting point, the end point, the shops, the attractions, the architecture etc.

Course 7: **Emily (Liz, Jacky, Amanda, Dean, Joshua, Fernando...) in Paris**

Skills to Acquire: how to talk about one’s experience in Paris, describe what you imagined before coming, your first impressions, your first experience in the city with its residents, describe the ups and downs, talk about cultural differences.

Grammar/Vocabulary: opinion verbs (*penser, croire, trouver, il me semble*), expression of feelings and emotions

Real-life Situation Activity: Watch select excerpts from the film “Paris, je t’aime” and from the series “Emily in Paris”

- Collective group work on colloquial French, oral French structure, how to talk about a scene and thinking about what comes next

Oral Presentation 4: “*Le moment de ma vie Parisienne que je n’oublierai jamais*” create a scene (location, time, characters), explain your emotional state and why you will never forget