

Department of World Languages and Cultures

University of Nevada, Las Vegas

FREN 401: Advanced French Composition & Conversation I Course Syllabus

Course Rationale

Bienvenue to FREN 401 ! There are many reasons to explore the French language and its cultures. Whether you want to discover its rich cultural heritage, are interested in living or working in one of the 84 countries which share the official use or teaching of French, or even if you just fell in love with it, there is no doubt that learning French will open more doors than you can imagine.

Mastering a language takes time and our faculty members are there along the way to help you on your language journey. Take a look at our [programs](#) and think about adding a great skill to your resume; after all, French is poised to become one of most spoken languages in the world by 2050 according to [Forbes!](#) And do not forget to check out the wonderful opportunities to put your language skills into practice offered by the [UNLV French Club](#), the [UNLV Language Resource Center](#), the [UNLV International Programs](#), the [Alliance Française de Las Vegas](#), and the [French Consulate in Los Angeles](#).

FREN 401 applies to the French minor or major. If you have not already done so and are interested in declaring a French minor (18 FREN credits) or French major (36 FREN credits), you can register at the College of Liberal Arts' Wilson Advising Center (702-895-1997 [Wilson Advising Center](#)) For details on the programs, please go to: [French degree programs](#)

Course Prerequisite(s):

FREN 401 is designed for learners who have completed FREN 302 or equivalent exposure to the language. Learners who have had other exposure to French are required to take a [free online placement test](#) no later than the end of the first week of classes. FREN 401 fulfills the UNLV International Core Requirement.

Course Description

FREN 401 expands the language skills acquired at the high intermediate level, with emphasis on speaking, listening, interacting, reading, writing, and cultural awareness. Based on real-world themes and authentic texts, FREN 401 takes an integrated, communicative approach to language and culture development. Learners will hone their skills in the three modes of communication (interpretive, interpersonal, and presentational) and participate in activities corresponding to the University [Undergraduate Learning Outcomes](#) and the [Department of World Languages and Cultures](#) Student Learning Outcomes in the areas of communication, cultures, connections, comparisons, and communities.

Learning Outcomes/Course Objectives

This course is designed to increase learners' knowledge about the French language and its cultures. Drawing from the objectives corresponding to the B2 level of fluency as established by the [Common European Framework of Reference for Languages](#), specific curricular goals are targeted.

At the end of this course, successful students will be able to:

- understand the main ideas of complex text on both concrete and abstract topics, including

technical discussions in his/her field of specialization.

- interact with a degree of fluency and spontaneity that makes regular interaction with native speakers quite possible without strain for either party.
- produce clear, detailed text on a wide range of subjects and explain a viewpoint on a topical issue giving the advantages and disadvantages of various options.

Required Texts

The following books will be used daily and are available from the UNLV bookstore.

FREN 401 covers Unités 0-4.

- C. Gibbe, J. Girardet, M-L Parizet, J. Pécheur. *Tendances : méthode de français niveau B2*. Clé International, 2016.
ISBN: 978-2-09-038534-2
Order a physical copy: [Tendances B2](#)
Order a digital copy: [Tendances B2 version numérique](#)
- J. Girardet, J. Pécheur. *Tendances : Cahier d'activités niveau B2*. Clé International, 2017.
ISBN: 978-2-09-038535-9

There is one more required purchase:

- 1) An account with TalkAbroad (www.talkabroad.org) for two 15-minute conversations.

Our class section code is: Harp2021-373803

Finally, please have ready access on your computer to the free online dictionary, www.wordreference.com

Evaluation Methods

Homework (15%)

Most of the effort put into language learning happens outside of class when you do your homework assignments. They are designed to review and reinforce in-class activities, prepare you for participation the following day, and give you opportunities to independently increase your knowledge base in French. To be successful in this course, you should expect to complete approximately two hours of homework per class meeting and to study at least one hour outside of class daily. Dr. Harp will always correct homework so please consult her notes/corrections. The last two homework assignments will consist of 1) a short presentation made in class on an ecological subject, following the project assignment guidelines found on pages 70-71 and 2) the accompanying slides presentation.

Class Activities (20%)

Continuous and spontaneous participation during group activities and class discussions is vital to your success in this class. Much like you need to exercise to build muscle mass, you need to practice in real-time to navigate the joys and pitfalls of language learning. Participate and don't be afraid to make mistakes – just try to make new ones every day. Class activities may include

but not be limited to textbook and/or workbook activities and exercises, skits, and presentations. If you have an excused absence, you may record and submit assigned oral exercises for credit.

One facet of class activities is checking in with Dr. Harp. Please make an appointment with her at least twice during the semester at a mutually convenient time. These talks needn't be long nor in French and can be during office hours or via WebEx or Zoom. They give you a chance for clarifications and one-on-one practice.

Talk Abroad (10%)

Twice in the semester you will talk to a native speaker via the program TalkAbroad. Each 15-minute conversation will be on a general topic. Dr. Harp will grade the interview.

Tests (15%)

You will be able to measure your learning with four comprehensive tests throughout the semester. These tests are formatted to prepare you for the qualifying tests to earn the French language diploma bestowed by the French government, the [DELF](#) (*diplôme d'études en langue française*). You can take this test at the [Alliance Française de Las Vegas](#). Recipients of DELF diplomas are highly sought after by recruiting Francophone companies and universities.

Midterm (15%) and Final Exam (25%)

The midterm and final exams are comprehensive and formatted to give a holistic appraisal of your language skills. Dr. Harp will confirm the time and date of the final exam during the semester. For more information on final exams, please visit this [page](#).

Grading Scale

A	93 – 100	C	73 – 77
A-	90 – 92	C-	70 – 72
B+	88 – 89	D+	68 – 69
B	83 – 87	D	63 – 67
B-	80 – 82	D-	60 – 62
C+	78 – 79	F	0 - 59

Attendance Policy

FREN 401 is a skills course so punctual arrival and attendance in every session is mandatory. Only pre-arranged absences (see *Absences due to Religious Holidays and Extracurricular Activities*) will be allowed and graded work will be accepted without a penalty. Partial attendance (late arrival, early departure) will lower your class activity grade. Should you miss a class for any reason, you are still responsible for the material and the content of the class and for any assignment given for the next class. All assignments are found in the weekly Modules on the Canvas Home Page.

Absences due to Religious Holidays and Extracurricular Activities

If you cannot attend class due to a religious observance, you will be excused from attendance and be allowed to make up any missed work. However, this policy applies only to absences that are arranged with Dr. Harp within the first fourteen calendar days of the course of any such absences. For additional information, please consult this [page](#).

Student who represent UNLV at any extracurricular activity – good for you! - at the time the class meets will be excused from attendance and will have the opportunity to make up assignments. In such a case, the students must provide the instructor with an official notification no later than one week prior to the missed class.

Late Submission and Makeup Assignments

Since homework assignments are there to support language learning in the subsequent class, homework assignments submitted after their deadline will not receive full credit but will be checked by Dr. Harp. Homework submitted over one week late will not be accepted for credit. Makeup assignments (tests, exams) will only be permitted for absences due to religious holidays and extra-curricular activities, or for extraordinary circumstances (e.g. jury duty) for which formal original documentation will be needed.

Course site, Online Platforms, Email

This course is supported by [Webcampus](#), a Canvas site where you can access supporting documents for in-class and at-home activities, study guides for all tests and exams, your grades, as well as organizational documents such as the syllabus. **Consult your Canvas site daily** to keep up to date with assignments, due dates, and announcements. For students who do not have the equipment, the laptop with camera loaner program is ready to provide equipment: laptop@unlv.edu. Please visit the [Office of Information Technology](#) for general tech and Canvas support.

By policy, faculty and staff are to email students' Rebelmail accounts only so please use this address to contact Dr. Harp. Rebelmail is UNLV's official email system for students, who all receive a Rebelmail account after admission at the university. It is the primary way students receive official university communication such as information about deadlines, major campus events, and announcements.

BEST Tips for the Language Learner

Be patient with yourself. No muscle is developed without stress and rebuilding, which is not unlike your brain as it rewires itself to accommodate new language codes. Be kind to yourself – and be kind also to others, as everyone in our class is going through a similar process.

Sleep. You need this time to recover – you are actively creating new passageways in your brain! You also need deep sleep to move information from your short-term memory (what you are filling up during the day) into long-term storage.

Take notes, especially during class discussion. The perfect time to process new information is when we are using language in class to convey personal meaning. The more information is contextualized, the more effectively your brain can process and remember it. So, lean in and engage in conversation, and make sure you have a pencil in hand to record the new words and language structures that come up.

UNLV Resources

Special Accommodation for Disability

The [UNLV Disability Resource Center](#) (SSC-A, Room 143, 702-895-0866) provides resources for students with disabilities. Students who believe that they may need academic accommodations due to injury, disability, or due to pregnancy should contact the DRC as early as possible in the academic term. A Disabilities Specialist will discuss what options may be available to you. If you are registered with the UNLV Disability Resource Center, bring your Academic Accommodation Plan from the DRC to the instructor during office hours, so that you may work together to develop strategies for implementing the accommodations to meet both your needs and the requirements of the course. Any information you provide is private and will be treated as such. To maintain the confidentiality of your request, please do not approach the instructor in front of others to discuss your accommodation needs.

Tutoring and Coaching

The Academic Success Center (ASC) provides tutoring, academic success coaching, and other academic assistance for all UNLV undergraduate students. For information regarding tutoring subjects, tutoring times, and other ASC programs and services, please visit the [ASC website](#), or call 702-895-3177. The ASC building is located across from the Student Services Complex (SSC). Academic success coaching is located on the second floor of SSC A, Room 254. Drop-in tutoring is located on the second floor of the Lied Library, and on the second floor of the College of Engineering building (TBE A 207).

Library Resources

Librarians are available to consult with students on research needs, including developing research topics, finding information, and evaluating sources. To make an appointment with a subject expert for this class, please visit the [Libraries' Research Consultation](#) website; you can also [ask the library staff](#) questions via chat and text message.

UNLV Policies

Academic Misconduct

Academic integrity is a legitimate concern for every member of the campus community; all share in upholding the fundamental values of honesty, trust, respect, fairness, responsibility, and professionalism. By choosing to join the UNLV community, students accept the expectations of the [Student Academic Misconduct Policy](#) (approved Dec 9, 2005) and are encouraged when faced with choices to always take the ethical path. Students enrolling in UNLV assume the obligation to conduct themselves in a manner compatible with UNLV's function as an educational institution. An example of academic misconduct is plagiarism, which is using the words or ideas of another, from the Internet or any source, without proper citation of the sources.

Copyright

The University requires all members of the University Community to familiarize themselves and to follow [copyright and fair use requirements](#). You are individually and solely responsible for violations of copyright and fair use laws. Violations of copyright laws could subject you to federal and state civil penalties and criminal liability, as well as disciplinary action under university policies.

Classroom surveillance

Nevada Revised Statutes (State Law) 396.970 Surreptitious electronic surveillance on campus; exceptions. [Effective January 1, 2017.]

1. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 2, it is unlawful for a person to engage in any kind of surreptitious electronic surveillance on a campus of the System without the knowledge of the person being observed.
2. Subsection 1 does not apply to any electronic surveillance:
 - (a) Authorized by a court order issued to a public officer, based upon a showing of probable cause to believe that criminal activity is occurring on the property under surveillance;
 - (b) By a law enforcement agency pursuant to a criminal investigation;

- (c) By a peace officer pursuant to NRS 289.830;
 - (d) By a uniformed peace officer of the Nevada Highway Patrol Division of the Department of Public Safety pursuant to NRS 480.365;
 - (e) Which is necessary as part of a system of security used to protect and ensure the safety of persons on the campus; or
 - (f) Of a class or laboratory when authorized by the teacher of the class or laboratory.
- (Added to NRS by 1993, 2138; A 2015, 575, 3668, effective January 1, 2017)

Final Examinations

The University requires that final exams given at the end of a course occur on the date and at the time specified in the [final exam schedule](#). The general schedule is typically available at the start of the semester, and the classroom locations are available approximately one month before the end of the semester.

Incomplete Grades

The grade of I—Incomplete—can be granted when a student has satisfactorily completed three fourths of course work for that semester/session but for reason(s) beyond the student’s control, and acceptable to the instructor, cannot complete the last part of the course, and the instructor believes that the student can finish the course without repeating it. The incomplete work must be made up before the end of the following regular semester for undergraduate courses. If course requirements are not completed within the time indicated, a grade of F will be recorded, and the GPA will be adjusted accordingly.

Please see the [Student Syllabus Policies Handout](#) for select, useful information for students.

Semester Overview

Semaine	Sujet	Devoirs
Semaine 1 23 août 25 août	ETRE AUTONOME Introduction / tv5monde Unité 0 – Leçon 1 – <i>Connaître son profil d'apprentissage</i>	HW 1 HW 2
Semaine 2 30 août 1 ^{er} septembre	Unité 0 – Leçon 2 – <i>Enrichir son vocabulaire</i> Unité 0 – Leçon 3 – <i>Améliorer son niveau de langue</i>	HW 3 HW 4
Semaine 3 6 septembre 8 septembre	Labor Day – No Class Test 1 (U0) / Révisions	
Semaine 4 13 septembre 15 septembre	VIVRE UNE AVENTURE Unité 1 – Leçon 1 – <i>Choisir sa vie</i> Unité 1 – Leçon 2 – <i>Prendre des risques</i>	HW 5 HW 6
Semaine 5 20 septembre 22 septembre	Unité 1 – Leçon 3 – <i>Gérer ses succès et ses échecs</i> Unité 1 – Leçon 4 – <i>Vivre pour sa passion</i>	HW 7 HW 8 TalkAbroad #1
Semaine 6 27 septembre 29 septembre	Test 2 (U0, U1) / Révisions VIVRE EN FAMILLE Unité 2 – Leçon 1 – <i>Vivre une relation amoureuse</i>	HW 9
Semaine 7 4 octobre 6 octobre	Unité 2 – Leçon 2 – <i>Elever des enfants</i> Unité 2 – Leçon 3 – <i>Célébrer les étapes de la vie</i>	HW 10 HW 11
Semaine 8 11 octobre 13 octobre	Unité 2 – Leçon 4 – <i>Comprendre l'évolution de la famille</i> Pratique et révisions	HW 12 HW 13
Semaine 9 18 octobre 20 octobre	Midterm Exam (U0, U1, U2) S'INTERESSER AUX LOISIRS CULTURELS Unité3 – Leçon 1 – <i>Lire un récit littéraire</i>	HW 14

Semaine	Sujet	Devoirs
Semaine 10 25 octobre	Unité 3 – Leçon 2 – <i>Raconter une fiction</i>	HW 15
27 octobre	Unité 3 – Leçon 3 – <i>Aller voir une exposition</i>	HW 16
Semaine 11 1 ^{er} novembre	Unité 3 – Leçon 4 – <i>Ecouter ou faire de la musique</i>	HW 17
3 novembre	Pratique et révisions	HW 18
Semaine 12 8 novembre	Test 3 (U0, U1, U2, U3) RECHERCHER DES INFORMATIONS	
10 novembre	Unité 4 – Leçon 1 – <i>Faire une interview</i>	HW 19
Semaine 13 15 novembre	Unité 4 – Leçon 2 – <i>Juger la valeur d'une information</i>	HW 20
17 novembre	Unité 4 – Leçon 3 – <i>Synthétiser des informations</i>	HW 21
Semaine 14 22 novembre	Unité 4 – Leçon 4 – <i>Trouver des sources d'information</i>	HW 22
24 novembre	Discussion des projets de recherches	TalkAbroad #2
Semaine 15 29 novembre	Pratique et révisions	HW 23
1 décembre	Pratique et révisions	HW 24

Final Exam: Monday, 6 December 1:00 – 3:00 PM

For other UNLV calendar deadlines, please consult this [page](#).

This syllabus is based on one written by Dr. Gérard Beck.