

# Pittsburg State University

## MLL 124: French Language & Culture I

### INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

**Instructor:** Prof. Brian Moots

**Office location:** 404 Grubbs Hall

**Office hours:** MWF 9:30-11AM; 1-2PM

TR 11AM-12:15PM

Or by appointment

**Office phone:** 620-235-4902

**Email:** [bmoots@pittstate.edu](mailto:bmoots@pittstate.edu)

**Contacting the Prof:** The best way is by email, either by my Pittstate email address or by the mail option in Canvas. Weekdays, I will respond to all emails within 24 hours of receiving your message. If you send an email Saturday or Sunday, then I'll respond by Monday morning.

### Required Materials

1. *Chez Nous 4<sup>th</sup> Edition Media-Enhanced* \*Textbook can be Paper or E-Text
2. MyFrenchLab Site Access (Register and sign in at MyFrenchLab.com)

**Important:** Remember when you order your textbook and online subscription that we use the same materials for the entire three-course French program. Therefore, be sure to divide by three when calculating how much three semesters will cost. Most importantly, be sure to purchase the two-year subscription to MyFrenchLab if you plan to take two or three semesters of French. That way you only pay one time for your French I, French II, and French III classes!

### Course Description and Objectives

French Language & Culture I is an introductory course with no prerequisite. It is designed to help students develop proficiency in the four language skills—speaking, listening, reading, and writing—while introducing them to aspects of French and Francophone culture. Students will acquire some of the basic grammar and vocabulary necessary to function in selected everyday situations that would be encountered in a French-speaking country. By the end of the semester, you will be able to...

1. Introduce yourself appropriately in formal and informal situations.
2. Talk about family relationships and describe your family.
3. Describe places in a city and discuss what you can do there.
4. Describe a person's physical appearance and personality traits.
5. Talk about your classes, degree programs, and careers.
6. Discuss your daily routine and activities.
7. Identify various clothing and communicate clothing preferences.
8. Distinguish and articulate traits of French and Francophone culture.

## **Pitt Pathways**

This course counts toward the requirements in Pitt Pathways for your degree program. Pitt Pathways is the study of humans in their global setting. The Pitt Pathways curriculum, therefore, acts as the heart of education by developing the capacities that typify the educated person and provide a basis for life-long learning and intellectual, ethical, and aesthetic fulfillment. The Pitt Pathways sequence examines the world around us and fosters an understanding of our interactions with the world and our place in the universe. Pitt Pathways celebrates the creative capacities of humankind and helps to preserve and transmit to future generations the values, knowledge, wisdom, and sense of history that are our common heritage.

## **Pitt Pathways Goals for this course**

This course contributes to the overall purpose of the Pitt Pathway Program through the Essential Studies Element, Global Understanding and Civic Engagement: Human Systems within a Global Context (Students will explore global systems conscientiously). The specific Companion Element to be assessed is Diverse Perspectives within a Global Context.

### *Human Systems within a Global Context:*

Humans have developed complex systems that structure interaction. It is important to understand how and why these systems developed, change through time, vary by location, and are interconnected at all levels (local/regional/global), and the implications of that interconnectedness. Competency in this element means

- Analyzing the structure, development, and change of human economic, political, social and/or cultural systems over time;
- Analyzing the individual's role and responsibility to society at all levels;
- Evaluating how human systems are interconnected at all levels.

### *Diverse perspectives within a Global Context:*

Valuing different perspectives and analyzing the interrelationships between them leads to global respect and understanding. Competency in this element means:

- Applying multiple perspectives to personal, social, cultural, disciplinary, environmental, race, ethnicity, gender, nationhood, religion, or class interactions;
- Analyzing connections between worldviews, power structures, or experiences of multiple cultures in a historical or contemporary context;
- Analyzing issues of diversity (i.e. religious, racial, sexual orientations, gender, or disabilities).

## **These objectives are met through a variety of means, including**

- 1) reading, analysis, and discussion of cultural information about the countries and regions where the target language is spoken.
- 2) discussion of authentic materials that show the diversity of the people who speak the language. Such authentic materials include audio, video, pictures, music, and internet resources among others.

- 3) the practice of situations that show the sociolinguistic appropriateness of language use in different communicative instances.

### Calculating Final Grades:

90%—100% = **A**      60—69.9% = **D**  
 80%—89.9% = **B**      0—59.9% = **F**  
 70%—79.9% = **C**

### Assignments and Grading (Assessment)

- **Class Participation/Attendance:** 150pts (130 participation—30 per chapter and 10 for Ch. P; 20 points for French Table/Club activities)
- **Homework:** 220 points (50 points per chapter; only 20 points for Ch. P)
- **Quizzes:** 50 points
- **Essays:** 50 points (25x2)
- **Oral Exams:** 180 points (One mid-term in groups (80pts), one final in pairs (100pts))
- **Culture Projects:** 50 points (One Region Presentation and one Film Review) 25x2 = 50 points
- **Chapter Tests:** 300 points (4X75 = 300 points)

### PARTICIPATION/ ATTENDANCE/ PREPARATION

Attendance is critical for your success in this class. Regular practice is essential for improving proficiency in a foreign language; like learning a musical instrument or playing a sport well, attending class and participating actively on a daily basis are critical. Your participation will be evaluated on a weekly basis. Since the 3 hours a week we spend together are likely to be your only continuous exposure to a French-speaking environment, attendance and participation are counted significantly in the course grade. **Three** absences (excused or unexcused) are permitted. Missing a class period will affect the Attendance & Participation portion of the student's final grade. Students who miss class as one their three absences are responsible for the work assigned on the missed day and must check homework for the next class. No other make-up work is allowed.

In addition to weekly class attendance and participation, students are required to attend the French Table or French Club activities **four** times throughout the semester. More information about these activities will be provided during the course of the semester.

If you are unable to attend the weekly French Table meetings or any of the French Club activities, you may write up to 4 French / francophone film reviews in English to cover those points. Choose a French / francophone film, watch it in French with English subtitles (or your native language if available), then type a one page review. Your review must include: 1) a summary of the film; 2) comment on a specific scene: situate the scene (what's before and after), explain the importance of that scene in the film; 3) your personal feelings/impressions about the film.

## **HOMEWORK**

Daily homework is an essential part of learning a foreign language since repetition and practice help you integrate the new material. I will list the material to be covered in class each day, and give the homework assignment to be completed for the following class period. Late homework is not accepted without an excused absence. Because the class is conducted almost exclusively in French, it is important that you prepare the readings/homework for each day, so that you can follow along and use the class time to practice your French.

Students will be given assignments for every class from the online Student Activity Manual (SAM). There will be listening, writing, and viewing exercises (video based). Students are required to create their own MyLanguageLab account and then sign up MyLanguageLab Course ID #. All assigned exercises from the Student Activity Manual (SAM) must be completed and submitted via the MyLanguageLab website.

## **QUIZZES**

At various points during the semester there will be brief quizzes on vocabulary or grammar. Each quiz will be worth 5-10 points. These quizzes will be announced in class the class period before the quiz. The quiz will be given at the start of class and must be taken in class. No quizzes can be made up.

## **CULTURE PROJECTS**

You will have the opportunity to present once on French and Francophone culture and once about a French or Francophone film that you watch outside of class. You will receive detailed information about the presentations during the semester.

## **ORAL EXAMS**

There are two oral exams: the first will be a mid-term exam taken in groups of 3-5 students. The second oral exam is our final exam that will be done in pairs at the end of the semester during the final exam time. Specific instructions will be provided to help prepare for each exam.

## **CHAPTER TESTS**

We will have four chapter tests, one for each chapter we cover this semester. The exams will include oral comprehension exercises, written vocabulary and grammar exercises, a reading with questions, and sometimes a short writing exercise. There will be **no make-ups**.

## **ESSAYS**

You will have the chance to develop your writing skills through the two formal writing

assignments. These essays will be completed on the MyFrenchLab site. You will have the opportunity to revise the compositions.

### **ACADEMIC HONESTY AND INTEGRITY POLICY**

I expect you to read and follow the university's guidelines on academic integrity. The PSU's policy on Dishonesty in Academic Work can be found at the following link <http://www.pittstate.edu/audiences/current-students/policies/rights-and-responsibilities/academic-misconduct.dot>.

*Electronics:* Cell phones, laptops, or other electronic devices during lecture or discussion are allowed for academic purposes. Use of electronics in the classroom for non-academic purposes will result in the student being asked to leave the classroom; the second offense will result in a charge of Academic Misconduct according to the University Senate Rules and Regulations on classroom disturbance.

### **SPECIAL CONCERNS**

Any student who, because of a disabling condition, may require some special arrangements in order to meet course requirements should contact me as soon as possible to make necessary accommodations. For more information, contact the [Center for Student Accommodations](#) or search on their website.

### **RETRO-CREDITS**

The Department of Modern Languages and Literatures has a retro-credits program designed to reward students who have already spent years learning languages in high school. Students must sign up for the program with Kathy Dyer, Departmental Secretary, during the first three weeks of the semester in which they take their first language course at PSU. That course determines their entry level and the maximum credits they can earn through retro-credits. For more information on retro-credits visit our webpage at [www.pittstate.edu/flang](http://www.pittstate.edu/flang).

### **IKE (Certificate of International Knowledge and Experience)**

This course counts towards the academic component of the [IKE Certificate of International Knowledge and Experience](#). The IKE Certificate may be earned by students in any major. The academic component consists of five courses—two semesters of a foreign language, and three courses with international content in three different disciplines. To receive the certificate, students must also complete a second component, either by studying abroad, or by participating in co-curricular activities on campus. Completion of the IKE certificate as an undergraduate is noted on a student's PSU undergraduate transcript, although graduate students may also earn the certificate. To be added to the IKE CANVAS group and start tracking your progress towards the certificate, please e-mail your GUS number in a request to [ike@pittstate.edu](mailto:ike@pittstate.edu). More information on the IKE program is available online at <http://www.pittstate.edu/departement/ike/international-knowledge-and-experience/index.dot>

## **STUDY ABROAD INFORMATION**

The department strongly recommends that all Modern Languages majors and minors participate in an accredited study abroad program. PSU offers study abroad scholarships as well as assistance with other financial aid. To learn about accredited programs, contact Angela Moots, Study Abroad Coordinator, by email at [amoots@pittstate.edu](mailto:amoots@pittstate.edu), by phone at 235-4221, or visit 118C Whitesitt Hall. For information on transfer credits, consult with Dr. Myriam Krepps, Modern Languages Program Coordinator, 235-4710, 429 Grubbs Hall, or Dr. Celia Patterson, Chair, English and Modern Languages, 235-4689 or visit 434 Grubbs Hall.

## **SYLLABUS SUPPLEMENT**

Consult the following link <http://www.pittstate.edu/office/registrar/syllabus-supplement.dot> for information on:

Important dates

Dropping a course or withdrawing for the semester

Important information for students receiving financial assistance

Important information for international students

Class attendance policy

Severe weather information

Academic integrity policy

Where to go for assistance (check the category that applies to your needs)

Mid-term grades

Incomplete grades

Final grade reports

Grade appeals

Dead week policy

Final exam schedule

Final exam overload