

LE FRANÇAIS 3-4

2009-2010

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Bienvenue! This course builds upon French 1-2 and is designed to further your communication skills in French as well as extend your cultural knowledge of the French-speaking world. You will practice French creatively in real-world contexts, learn French grammar through written and spoken practice, and draw parallels between French-speaking societies and our own. Most of the class will be conducted in French, and your spoken participation in French will be required. We will review and consolidate the material covered in French 1-2; target grammar topics for French 3-4 include:

- ✓ conjugation of regular and irregular verbs in the passé composé, using both être and avoir as auxiliary verbs
- ✓ mastery of futur proche
- ✓ mastery of the passé récent
- ✓ further development of the use of negative expressions, including: ne...rien, ne...jamais, and ne...personne
- ✓ conjugation of the imparfait
- ✓ introduction to tense selection: passé composé vs. imparfait
- ✓ conjugation and usage of reflexive verbs in all known tenses
- ✓ pronoun use and placement, including direct and indirect object pronouns and y/en

In addition to such cultural and syntactic goals, each language course at Saint Mary's strives to help students find answers to more fundamental or "essential" questions which are at the heart of learning language. The essential questions for French 3-4 are:



- ❖ How do the language systems in French differ from those in English (for example, verb conjugation, gender, and word order)?
- ❖ Where in the world is French spoken?
- ❖ How do we positively relate to people no matter what their native language or culture?
- ❖ How do we use cognates and visual cues to understand unfamiliar words?
- ❖ How is meaning produced, if not by word for word translation?
- ❖ Using basic, non-abstract vocabulary and grammar, how do we express familiar concepts and respond to others?

Required Texts:

Discovering French Blanc Textbook
Discovering French Blanc Workbook

Recommended Materials:

A section of a binder to keep handouts and notes.
Ample looseleaf paper.
Colored pens to use for self and peer correction.

Evaluation:

Quizzes and Tests	35%
Homework and Classwork	15%
Class Participation	15%
Projects, Oral Presentations and Compositions	15%
Final Exam	15%

All points in a given category will be totaled to find the average for that category. The averages will then be weighted to determine the final semester grade.

Grading Scale:

A+ 98+	B+ 88-89	C+ 78-79	D+ 68-69	F is
A 93-97	B 83-87	C 73-77	D 63-67	below
A 90-92	B- 80-82	C- 70-72	D- 60-62	60%

Quizzes and Tests: You should expect a quiz about once a week and a larger test for synthesis about once per grading period. Tests will include a mixture of written and oral questions. You should not expect questions for which you will translate French to English or respond in English; such questions will be rare if they occur at all. The ability to comprehend and express yourself in the target language (i.e. French) is thus essential to your success in this category. Correct spelling (including accent marks) is required.

Important hint: When you study, always study English to French (for example, “How do I say ‘candy’ in French?”) and not French to English (for example, “What does ‘bon bon’ mean in English?”).

Homework and Classwork: This category includes a wide variety of written practice in French, included but not limited to: exercises from your textbook and workbook, short dialogues, responses to film segments, email and internet-based assignments, and in-class group work. Oral assignments will include informal small group presentations in class, impromptu dialogues and messages left on my voice mail for homework.

Très cool: For each quiz on which you earn an A or A-, you will receive one homework pass. You are responsible for keeping track of them, filling them out completely and turning them in on the day of the assignment for which you wish to be excused.

Class Participation: Good class participation entails listening attentively, volunteering responses in class, coming prepared with all necessary materials, respecting your classmates and your teacher, and following all rules for good student conduct as set forth in the student handbook. Moreover, truly learning French will require frequent spoken practice. To that end, you should participate orally in class whenever possible. I expect you to volunteer several times per class period and to be prepared if called upon.

Step It UP: You should participate orally *in French* whenever possible. At the end of your year in 3/4, you should be able to understand extended discourse in French, ask basic questions entirely in correct, idiomatic French, and express more complex ideas in “franglais.”

Projects, Oral Presentations and Compositions: This category will include a minimum of one individual project and one group project per semester; projects generally combine written and oral skills. Possibilities include: comic strips, children’s books, poetry, audio and/or video taped skits, recordings of you speaking in French and research on the many varied cultures of the French-speaking world. You should expect one short composition (written entirely in French) per semester.

Final Exam: The exam will include a combination of vocabulary, grammar, reading comprehension, oral comprehension, and cultural knowledge.

Savvy Study Skill: It is important for you to keep all notes, assignments, quizzes and tests to help you review for your final exam. Find a safe place for your work NOW, before it's too late!

Course Procedures:

The Assignment Sheet. Every Monday, you will receive a list of all homework for the week. If you are absent on or including a Monday, be sure to get a copy off of the wall when you return.

Homework @ saintmaryschs.org. If you misplace your assignment sheet, or are absent on a Monday, you can get the assignments by logging on to the Saint Mary's website, following the links to my name and eventually to this course.

No Late Homework. Homework in foreign language must be done daily and on time in order to build needed skills logically. Thus, if you have an excused absence from school, you should keep up with your work if you are not ill, but you do have as many days as you were absent to make up the work that you have missed. If you miss class for athletics, student government, or any other school event, you do not have a grace period to make up your work; you need to see me *before* class to turn in your work or obtain an extension.

Bottom Line: I generally do not give points or credit for late homework if you are in class on the day it is due. Occasionally I may give half credit, depending on the circumstances, but you should not expect this to be the case. Get in the habit now of doing your work on time, when it will truly help you learn and practice current material.

Technology Excuse. Once per semester, and once only, students can turn in a late project or larger assignment (not homework) without any grade penalty, because of equipment failure. This excuse is only valid for assignments which specifically require some kind of equipment/machine (computer, tape recorder, video camera, etc.). It is never valid for daily homework (which does not need to be typed) or for oral presentations. If you have already used your technology excuse, your project will be downgraded up to 50% for tardiness.

Good News/Bad News: You get one free pass, but after that, the consequences are harsh. Use your free pass responsibly!

Academic Integrity. To truly progress in French, honest work is essential and **any** use of on line translation programs, translation software or any other more obviously unethical means of completing work is expressly forbidden. Students at the 3-4 level are not expected to be fluent but rather to practice the skills which will ultimately lead to fluency and, as such, computer translation is not only dishonest but also irrelevant to the educational enterprise.

French 3-4

Course Outline Sign Off

Student:

I HAVE READ AND UNDERSTOOD THE COURSE OUTLINE FOR FRENCH 3-4. BECAUSE THIS INFORMATION IS IMPORTANT TO MY SUCCESS, I WILL SAVE IT AND REFER TO IT WHEN NECESSARY.

Signature

Please Print Your Name Here

Parent/Guardian:

Please sign below. If you have any questions you would like to ask, or information you would like me to have about your student, please feel free to phone me at 526-9242 x429 or email me at cmahoney@stmchs.org. I hope to see you at Back to School Night!

Signature

Please Print Your Name Here

***During the spring semester, to enhance our understanding of French culture and language, we view the film *Amélie* which carries an R rating. Please initial below to give your student permission to view this film with us. If you would like more information, have any questions or concerns, or would like your student to have an alternate assignment for cultural enrichment, please contact me at the phone number or email above. Thanks!

Initials

Please detach this sheet after both you and your parent or guardian have signed it, and turn it in to me.

10 points: due no later than Thursday, 8/27

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