

le français AP

Welcome back! In this course you will further develop your French language skills in three ways:

1. You will expand your language skills to the point where you would be able to travel easily in a Francophone country. Most grammar will be a review and refinement of topics already covered, but there is a great deal of new vocabulary. Prepare yourself!
2. You will further your knowledge of the Francophone world through literature, film, current events, music, and other means. There is an emphasis on colonialism and its effects.
3. You will practice deeper analyses of the texts, films, articles, and song lyrics in the course, especially related to the following theme: To what extent do we shape our future?
 - ❖ Does free will exist or does destiny rule all?
 - ❖ Are we doomed to repeat the mistakes of our past or of past generations or can we break free of those patterns?
 - ❖ Are socio-economic or cultural forces dominant in human achievement or are an individual's native talents or flaws more important?

For a more detailed list of skill-based topics, please refer to the syllabus at the end of this document.

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 AP French are:



- ❖ How do we internalize the structure of a language, making communication natural?
- ❖ How do comprehension and analysis of a variety of media (literature, art, film, etc.) increase our cultural understanding?
- ❖ How do we tailor our discourse to suit our tone or purpose (persuasion, exposition, etc.)?
- ❖ How do we use context clues and known vocabulary to arrive at an overall understanding of "the big picture"?
- ❖ How does knowledge of more complex structures permit expression of more complex ideas?
- ❖ How do we integrate all verb tenses with complex vocabulary and grammatical constructions to express, interpret and analyze abstract ideas?

You will take the AP language exam in May and I am confident that you will do well. However, it is a difficult exam, and it is for your own good that I will require a good deal of work. Compared to what is required for French 7-10, reading will be more advanced, written volume will be greater, and you will study additional vocabulary and grammar topics.

Completion of the 6 supplemental online units as well as regular, individual appointments with your instructor (a minimum of once every 2 weeks) both crucial and mandatory.

Required materials:

En Bonne Forme
French Three Years
AP French: Preparing for the Language Examination
La Machine Infernale by Jean Cocteau
Moderato Cantabile by Marguerite Duras

Recommended Texts:

A good French-English dictionary (Cassell's, Collins Gem, Harrap's, Larouss, Oxford-Hachette)
A verb dictionary: *501 Verbes* or *Le Nouveau Bescherelle*

Other materials:

A binder (1" or larger is probably best) for saving student work and my handouts
Ample looseleaf paper; no torn out spiral paper accepted
Multicolored pens for peer and self-correction
The means to record your voice as an MP3 or AAC computer audio file

Grading:

Writing Skills	35%
Oral Proficiency and Participation	25%
Reading Comprehension	25%
Listening Comprehension	20%

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.

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

Each category (with the exception of the final exam) includes a variety of assessments: daily homework and classwork, tests or quizzes, and longer assignments, projects, presentations, and the final exam. Many of your assessments will earn grades in more than one category.

Assessments:

Essays, Special Projects and Oral Presentations: In addition to the regular daily work for this class, you should expect at least one essay, one extended project and one formal oral presentation per grading period including but not limited to the assignments detailed in the syllabus at the end of this document.

Tests/Quizzes: You should expect a quiz about once a week. Some will be focused on skills in only one grading category and will include periodic oral, listening, and reading comprehension assessments which ask you to apply your knowledge in a more "real world" way. Others will generally evaluate your understanding of recently-taught grammar and vocabulary in the four main skill areas: writing, reading, listening and speaking. An assessment will also occur at the

close of each online support unit.

Homework and Classwork: There is homework almost every night, including but not limited to: grammar exercises, vocabulary practice sentences, reading with comprehension questions, response paragraphs, and voice mail messages. Classwork includes but is not limited to: dialogues, impromptu orals, internet-based culture activities, and the “jeu du jour.”

Final Exam: Semester exams at the AP level are practice for the AP exam in May. As such, they are general evaluations of French competency in the AP exam format. Questions are selected and/or tailored to target concepts covered in the course and seminar.

Oral Participation: Students must speak **in French** and should volunteer whenever possible, both for their participation grade and for actually learning the language. You will earn a weekly participation grade based on the number of times you speak in French. This will help you develop your oral skills and make you more comfortable in a French immersion classroom. Students at the 7-10 level are not expected to have a far-ranging vocabulary, impeccable grammar or perfect pronunciation. Frequency of participation builds fluency and mistakes are truly learning opportunities. Thus, students are both expected and required to speak **NO ENGLISH** in the classroom, even when speaking to peers. For this portion of a student’s grade (as opposed to an oral presentation on which students are evaluated against a standard of correctness) effort, enthusiasm and passion for learning are the most important criteria for success. In addition, all students must come prepared to class with relevant texts/materials, paper, and pens every day.

Course Procedures:

The Assignment Sheet. Every Monday, students receive a list of all homework for the week. If absent on or including a Monday, they should be sure to get a copy when they return.

Homework @ saintmaryschs.org. Students can also get brief homework information through the school website, by clicking on links to my name and then 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.

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. Even students at this advanced 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.

Technology Excuse. Once per semester, and once only, students can turn in a late assignment, without any grade penalty, because of uncooperative equipment or 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 or for oral presentations.

Print Your Work. At this point, I do not accept homework or projects turned in electronically, unless expressly stated in the assignment instructions. If you do your work on the computer, make sure you have it printed *before* coming to class.

Syllabus: Fall 2010

Major films for this semester: *Les Parapluies de Cherbourg*, *La Haine*

Unit One: Weeks 1-6

Reading:

- “Le lever de Prunelle” par Nicole de Buron (*En bonne forme*)
- « La Montre » par René Goscinny et Jean-Jacques Sempé (*Par tout le monde francophone*)
- Poem about the future, TBD
- Current events article from *Le Figaro*
- Horoscopes from www.yahoo.fr

Writing:

Grammar topics:

- Determining gender, attention to agreement, and the correct use of articles
- Participles: present and perfect, active and passive

Rédactions: Les effets du genre

Oral Assessment: 1-minute actualité

Unit Two: Weeks 7-12

Reading:

La Machine Infernale par Jean Cocteau

Writing :

Grammar topics :

- Negative expressions
- Comparatives and superlatives

Rédaction: Croyez-vous au destin ou au libre arbitre ?

Oral Assessment : Actualité

Unit Three: Weeks 13-end

Reading:

- « Un débrouillard » par Nicolas Hulot (*En bonne forme*)
- “Cultures du monde” (short readings and related activities linked to geography research) from www.tv5.org

Writing :

Grammar topics :

- Geography and related prepositions
- Exam review and synthesis

Projet: Le jeu de vie

Oral Assessment : Présentation d’un pays francophone (lié aux recherches et à l’histoire de voyage)

AP Online Support Units : Fall Semester

Unit 1:

La culture: Soccer in France

La grammaire: Composed Verb Tenses

Unit 2:

La culture: Going Green/The Environment

La grammaire: Subjunctive and Past Subjunctive

Unit 3:

La culture: University Unrest

La grammaire: Prepositions

Syllabus: Spring 2011

Major films for this semester: *La Haine* (continued), *Indochine*

Unit One: Weeks 1-6

Reading:

- “Une visite à l’exposition coloniale” par Michel Ragon (*En bonne forme*)
- « Déjeuner du matin » par Jacques Prévert (*En bonne forme*)
- « Une demande en mariage » par Mariama Bâ (*En bonne forme*)
- Current events article from *Le Monde*

Writing:

Grammar topics:

- Indirect discourse
- Interrogatives

Rédaction: Que faut-il faire ?

Oral Assessment: Verb Tense Review Powerpoint

Unit Two: Weeks 7-12

Reading:

Moderato Cantabile par Marguerite Duras

Writing:

Grammar topics:

- Recognizing the passé simple and review of the passé composé, especially irregular past participles, avoir vs. être, and agreement of the past participle
- Demonstrative pronouns: forms of celui

Rédaction: L’amour, est-ce que c’est de se donner ?

Oral Assessment: Actualité

Unit Three: Weeks 13-end

Reading:

- “Quelques conseils pour avoir de la chance” par Jean-Luc Caradeau and Cécile Donner (*En bonne forme*)
- Current article from *Paris Match*
- Bandes dessinées (selected from *Le Chat*, *Peanuts*, *L’École Abracadabra*, and political cartoons available at www.yahoo.fr)

Writing:

Grammar topics:

- Imperatives
- Concordance des temps
- Final exam review and synthesis

Histoire de rappel: sujet au choix

Oral assessment : Presentation de l'histoire de rappel ; discours improvisé

AP Online Support Units : Spring Semester

Unit 4:

La culture: French Humor

La grammaire: The Passive Voice

Unit 5:

La culture: Women's Rights

La grammaire: Special Uses of Verbs/Verb-based Idioms

Unit 6:

La culture: Comics in France

La grammaire: Review of Relative Pronouns

le contrat: le français AP

- ❖ All students enrolled in AP French *must* take the exam in May.
- ❖ There is no direct correlation between the grade in the course and the exam grade. In other words, the course grade is based on work turned in to me, while the College Board grades its own test.
- ❖ Students will be taking the AP French Language exam (*not* the Literature exam). When filling out college applications, it is important to have the right title to avoid confusion.
- ❖ If you have questions, please don't hesitate to ask.

Étudiant(e): J'ai bien lu et compris les informations par rapport au cours français AP. Car ces informations peuvent m'aider à réussir, je garderai cette fiche et la consulterai quand j'en aurai besoin.

Signature

Nom

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 write your name here

*** To enhance our understanding of French culture and language, we will make frequent use of film. Our major films for the year are *Les Parapluies de Cherbourg* (PG), *La Haine* (R) and *Indochine* (PG-13). We will also view short films and previews which are unrated and/or short clips from other films which may carry an R-rating (though it is highly unlikely that the selected clips would contain the material necessary for such a rating). Please initial below to give your student permission to view this material with us. If you would like more information, have any questions or concerns, or would like your student to have alternate assignments for cultural enrichment, please contact me at the phone number or email above. Thanks!

Initials

Chers étudiants: S'il vous plaît, détachez cette feuille après que vous et vos parents/gardiens l'ont signée et avant de me la donner.

Date de limite : jeudi le 2 septembre