Advanced Grammar and Composition

French 303 is a course dedicated to the development of literacy skills with an emphasis on academic writing. In this course, learning to write and writing to learn go hand in hand. You will not only learn to make your prose more concise, clear, and elegant, but also use writing as a means of developing your intellect. By the end of FRE 303, students will be able to:

- write descriptive and analytical papers in French (PLO’s # 1 and 4);
- use writing as a means of understanding cultural differences (PLO’s # 2, 3 and 4);
- use writing as a means of understanding literary texts and films (PLO # 3);

Program Learning Outcomes: This course counts toward the Bachelor’s degree in Modern Languages and will address the following Program Learning Outcomes:

PLO # 1 Language Competence: Students will speak, listen, read, and write in the target language at a satisfactory level or higher.

PLO # 2 Cultural Competence: Students will be able to understand the cultural context of communication in the target language.

PLO # 3 Critical Thinking and Expression: Students will analyze language, literary texts, and other cultural products and practices using sound thinking and clear expression.

PLO # 4 Transferable Skills: Students will connect academic experience to personal and professional goals.

Required Textbooks:
*French Grammar and Usage* (Fourth Edition) by Roger Hawkins and Richard Towell

Office hours: Learning does not take place exclusively in the classroom. You should expect to come see me in my office early and often this semester in order to get individualized help on your assignments. I am willing to help you at any stage of the process from getting started to reviewing a draft of a paper. My office hours are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>9:00-9:45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>11:00-12:00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>9:00-9:45</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Assessment of Student Progress

**Class participation.** The success of the class depends on the active participation of each student. You are expected to come prepared to each class and to contribute. At the end of the semester, I will give you a grade based on your participation. Some class time may also be spent on in-class writing.

You should have no more than two absences during the course of the semester. After the first two absences, I will deduct five points per absence from your final participation grade. Use your allowance of absences wisely.

**Minor Papers.** You will write several short papers of two or three paragraphs. These shorter papers will help you prepare for to write the major essays.

**Major Essays.** This semester, you will write four major essays in French.

1) **Cultural Comparison.** For your first essay, you will compare an institution and practice in France with in the United States.

2) **Historical context.** For the second essay, you will explore a French cultural concept in its historical context.

3) **Literary analysis.** For the third essay, you will analyze the different perspectives in a literary text.

4) **Final Essay.** The final essay will require you to synthesize the skills acquired for the preceding three essays. For this essay, you will watch a French film and its American remake. You will compare the different cultural perspectives in the two films and consider the stories in their respective historical contexts.

As an alternative assignment, you may read and write about two novels, *L’Étranger* by Albert Camus and *Mersault, contre-enquête* by Kamel Daoud. Students who choose this assignment will compare the cultural perspectives in the two novels and consider them in their historical context.

**Honors Credit.** Students enrolled in the honors program may earn honors credit for FRE 303. To do so, student must make satisfactory progress in the course (including regular attendance and timely completion of all assignments) and do the alternative assignment (comparing the two novels) for the fourth essay. Please email me for the language to include in the honors contract.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade Components</th>
<th>Final Grade Calculation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class Participation</td>
<td>150 pts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Short Writing Assignments</td>
<td>150 pts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First Three Essays</td>
<td>300 pts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Paper</td>
<td>200 pts</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| A = 720-800 pts         |
| B = 640-719 pts         |
| C = 560-639 pts         |

I hope to enter many A’s and B’s at the end of the semester. However, your final grade will not be a Christmas or graduation present; you must earn it by working hard throughout the semester and demonstrating an ability to write well in French.

**Academic Honesty:** Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated in this course. In this course, academic dishonesty means plagiarism, receiving unauthorized outside help on written assignments, and using inappropriate computer programs to write your essays. Any written work that you turn in for a grade must be your own work. For some assignments, I will ask you to help each other in class, but otherwise, you should come to me for help on your papers. No outside help, including friends, classmates, or tutors is permitted. Computer translation programs and on-line dictionaries of any kind are strictly prohibited.

In this class penalties for academic dishonesty are severe. An egregious act of academic honesty, such as plagiarizing a paper from another source, will earn the student an F for the course. The penalty for other acts of academic dishonesty range from a zero on the assignment to a F in the course. All acts of academic dishonesty will be reported to the the appropriate college dean and the University Provost. (see page 6 of this syllabus for the University’s policy on academic honesty)

**Students with Disabilities** To obtain disability related accommodations, alternate formats and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), Human Services Building, and Room 325, 468-3004 / 468-1004 (TDD) as early as possible in the semester. Once verified, ODS will notify the course instructor and outline the accommodation and/or auxiliary aids to be provided. Failure to request services in a timely manner may delay your accommodations. For additional information, go to http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/.
Other course policies:

1. You must remember at all times that our purpose in the classroom is to learn. Many of your classmates are making great sacrifices to get an education and you are expected to respect their reason for being here.

2. Arriving to class late is disruptive and therefore unacceptable. I reserve the right to lock the door at the beginning of class if tardiness becomes a problem.

3. Be sure to eat before coming to class. Your brain does not function well without a fresh intake of calories.

4. Cell-phones and other electronic devices are to be turned off before class begins.

5. Eating, drinking, and chewing gum interfere with speaking French and are strictly forbidden in the classroom.

6. A grade of WH (withheld) will only be assigned to students who are unable to complete course work because of an emergency arising during the last three weeks of the semester. In order to qualify for a withheld grade, the student must present documentation for the emergency and must otherwise be passing the course. (See page 6 of this syllabus for the university’s WH policy.)

7. At the end of the semester, students are required to complete a course evaluation through MySFA.
Course catalogue description: Development of the reading and composition skills necessary for advanced course work in French. Prerequisites: 232 or equivalent.

FREN 303 “Advanced Composition and Grammar” (3 credit hours) meets twice a week for a total of 150 minutes per week for a total of 15 weeks, and also meets for a 2-hour final examination. Students have regular readings and intensive grammar study assigned in preparation for each class meeting. Students are expected to actively participate in class activities and to write papers in French throughout the semester. Outside assignments in preparation for each class meeting require from six to eight hours per week.

Academic Integrity (University Policy A-9.1)

Academic integrity is a responsibility of all university faculty and students. Faculty members promote academic integrity in multiple ways including instruction on the components of academic honesty, as well as abiding by university policy on penalties for cheating and plagiarism.

Definition of Academic Dishonesty

Academic dishonesty includes both cheating and plagiarism. Cheating includes but is not limited to (1) using or attempting to use unauthorized materials to aid in achieving a better grade on a component of a class; (2) the falsification or invention of any information, including citations, on an assigned exercise; and/or (3) helping or attempting to help another in an act of cheating or plagiarism. Plagiarism is presenting the words or ideas of another person as if they were your own. Examples of plagiarism are (1) submitting an assignment as if it were one's own work when, in fact, it is at least partly the work of another; (2) submitting a work that has been purchased or otherwise obtained from an Internet source or another source; and (3) incorporating the words or ideas of an author into one's paper without giving the author due credit.

Please read the complete policy at http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/academic_integrity.asp

Withheld Grades Semester Grades Policy (University Policy A-54)

Ordinarily, at the discretion of the instructor of record and with the approval of the academic chair/director, a grade of WH will be assigned only if the student cannot complete the course work because of unavoidable circumstances. Students must complete the work within one calendar year from the end of the semester in which they receive a WH, or the grade automatically becomes an F. If students register for the same course in future terms the WH will automatically become an F and will be counted as a repeated course for the purpose of computing the grade point average.