

**SYLLABUS
FRENCH 1301
Spring 2024**

Instructor: Christus C. Alapini

Office hours: T/R 12pm-1:00pm Online/In person
and by appointment

Office: Graham Hall 210

e-mail: ccalapini@miners.utep.edu

Course description

This is the first course in beginning French. It is intended for students who have no previous experience with French. We will work in the four major areas of language learning – oral comprehension, speaking, reading and writing – and study different aspects of the French-speaking world and culture. Much importance is given to oral communication.

Placement into a higher level of French

There is no placement test for lower division French. However, if you have had previous instruction in French, you may request a placement interview. Speak with your instructor if you would like to have a placement interview during the first week of school.

Course materials

Required materials: MindTap for Atelier (by Jansma/Kassen/Denié-Higney)

How to buy your Course Materials for FREN 1301

You may purchase MindTap through the UTEP bookstore or directly from the publisher. To purchase directly from the publisher:

Step 1: Sign into **Blackboard** and click on the **FREN1301** course link.

Step 2: Click on the Cengage link: **MindTap for Atelier - eBook and online assignments.**

Step 3: Create or sign into your Cengage account to access or purchase the materials for this course.

Need help? Visit <https://startstrong.cengage.com/mindtap-blackboard-ia-no/> for step-by-step registration instructions and videos.

Purchasing Cengage Unlimited to access **MindTap for FREN1301**, will allow you to keep access for the FREN 1302 course even after your Cengage Unlimited plan ends. However, any physical textbook rental is due back by the end date of your Cengage Unlimited plan.

Beware of sites that are selling discounted codes. These sources are likely unauthorized sellers who have acquired access codes illegally, and transactions with such sources may pose a risk to your personal information.

FAQ's:

- No Course Key is required. If prompted for a Course Key, you need to access your course materials via Blackboard.
- Purchase your Cengage Unlimited subscription with the same email as your Cengage Username. (If you sign into Cengage using your UTEP email address, purchase with the same email address.) If you have any issues accessing the textbook, **please** join Cengage Student Office hours - https://www.cengage.com/coursepages/Fall2022_Students2

Course objectives. In French 1301, you will learn to express yourself in basic French to:

- Greet different people and introduce yourself and others
- Describe yourself and your daily schedule and various free time activities
- Give basic information like your age, dates, time of day
- Talk about life at the university
- Describe physical characteristics and personality traits of people you know
- Talk about your family
- Describe where things are located
- Obtain information from other people
- Talk about future plans
- Talk about work and leisure activities

We will also explore different aspects of French culture and the cultures of other countries and regions in the world that use French.

Scope of the course. Modules 1-4 of *Atelier*.

Class guidelines

- a) **Come to class ready to learn and participate in all classroom activities.** You may use a tablet or laptop computer to access the website in class, and, if necessary, your phone but do not use your phone for other purposes. Finally, please don't eat in class.
- b) **Complete assignments on time.** You will have homework assignments after each class. Most will be done on Mindtap. There will also be several writing assignments to hand in at the beginning of class. Please place your homework on the front table as you arrive. **No late homework will be accepted.**

Observe the following when you do writing assignments,

- i) **Use white, 8 1/2 x 11 paper.**
- ii) **Double space (leave a blank line between each line of writing)**
- iii) **Remove the "curlies" from spiral binder paper**
- iv) **Write neatly in pen or prepare your assignments on the computer using 12 point type and double space.**

Any assignments that do not conform to these standards may be returned ungraded. In a language class, it is essential not to use online translators for any of your writing submissions other than looking for individual words. Do not write a paragraph in English or Spanish and then pass it through an online translator. This constitutes submitting work that is not your own and is considered plagiarism. A good resource to use to look up individual words that you need is wordreference.com.

Your instructor does not expect a perfect or advanced language paragraph. He expects writing typical of a very beginning language learner. Any paragraph that will not comply with these guidelines or use vocabulary learned in class will get a grade of 0 (zero).

Consult Mindtap regularly to see due dates for online activities. No extensions will be given on these due dates. You may complete them after the due date, and a slight penalty will be imposed on your grade.

- c) **Prepare for each class.** In addition to completing specific assigned homework, you should review the material presented in each class prior to the next class, mastering vocabulary and structures in order to be able to actively use this material in class.
- d) **Academic integrity.** Your instructor will adhere strictly to the university's policy on academic integrity. The following section from the College of Liberal Arts website gives a full explanation of the college's policy regarding Academic Integrity:

The University of Texas at El Paso prides itself on its standards of academic excellence. In all matters of intellectual pursuit, UTEP faculty and students must strive to achieve excellence based on the quality of work produced by the individual. In the classroom and in all other academic activities, students are expected to uphold the highest standards of academic integrity. Any form of scholastic dishonesty is an affront to the pursuit of knowledge and jeopardizes the quality of the degree awarded to all graduates of UTEP. It is imperative, therefore, that the members of this academic community understand the regulations pertaining to academic integrity and that all faculty insist on adherence to these standards.

Any student who commits an act of scholastic dishonesty is subject to discipline. Scholastic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, and any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts. Proven violations of the detailed regulations, as printed in the [Handbook of Operating Procedures \(HOP\)](#) (available through the [Dean of Students Office](#)) may result in sanctions ranging from disciplinary probation, to failing a grade on the work in question, to a failing grade in the course, to suspension or dismissal, among others.

- e) **Cell phones should always be turned off and put away during class and especially during exams, unless you are consulting VHL Central, or another document provided by your instructor. Having your phone out during a test could suggest impropriety and lead to allegations of academic dishonesty. Remove earbuds during class.**
- f) **Regular attendance is required.** It is essential that all students be present and punctual in a language class. Do not leave class during the class period unless absolutely necessary. Late arrivals and leaving class are a disturbance for other students.

Attendance Policy

During the course of the semester, you are allowed two absences without affect to your grade. Further absences will incur a 1.5 deduction from your final grade average, as follows:

3 total absences	minus 1.5 points
4 total absences	minus 3 points
5 total absences	minus 4.5 points
6 total absences	minus 6 points

Attendance will be taken starting from the second week of class. Every late arrival or early departure will be counted as half of an absence. If you arrive late, it is your responsibility to notify the instructor that you were present. Please let the instructor know if you have some special circumstance that will prevent you from being on time to class.

You will be dropped from the class after your 6th unexcused absence.

Excused absences include University business, hospitalization of the student, jury duty and the death of an immediate family member. If you experience health problems during the semester, you will need documentary proof of your doctor/hospital visits for your instructor.

You may also be dropped for lack of effort. This includes not having course materials. You will be dropped from the class if you have not registered in your instructor's online class by the end of the second week of class.

These are our normal attendance policies, but we realize that these are complicated times due to COVID and these guidelines will not be strictly applied if your life is affected by COVID. The most important thing is to keep in good contact with your instructor for instructions on what to do if you have to be absent from class.

Accommodations for students with disabilities

If you have a disability and need classroom accommodations, please contact The Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS) at 747-5148, or by email to cass@utep.edu, or visit their office located in Union East, Room 106. For additional information, please visit the CASS website at www.sa.utep.edu/cass

Composition of final grade

Homework	25%
On-line activities 20%, Writing 5%	
Attendance	6%
Class participation	5%
Oral Evaluations	10%
Quizzes	6%
Chapter tests (4 tests, lowest grade dropped)	30%
Final Exam	18%

Comments on components of final grade

Homework. There will be assignments after each class – both on Mindtap and, sometimes, extra writing or reading assignments. Check Mindtap regularly for online assignments.

Class participation. Your grade for class participation will be given based on the following considerations:

- Participation in class activities with enthusiasm and a positive attitude
- Participation in small group activities
- Attentive listening when others speak.
- Using as much French as is possible for you at this point.

**Use of your phone in class for any reason other than accessing course materials will count against your class participation grade.

Oral evaluations will include online speaking activities, individual interviews that you do with your instructor and dialogs that you perform with other students to present to the instructor or the class as well as evaluation of in-class speaking.

Quizzes. We will have several brief vocabulary or grammar quizzes. These will be announced in class, so make sure that you check with a classmate about assignments if you are absent. These quizzes may not be made up, but the lowest grade will be dropped.

Chapter tests. There will be four-chapter tests. The lowest test grade will be dropped. There will be no make-up chapter tests. Check Blackboard for the date of our final exam.

Final Exam. The final exam may be an oral or written exam. We will talk about it later.

Extra credit

There are two possible extra credit activities in F1301. Option 1 may be done at any point in the semester. Option 2 should be done in the last few weeks of the semester. You may complete **one** of these activities and a very well-done submission may add up to 1 point to your final grade.

- 1) Watch a French film and write a brief paper in English to summarize the film and give your reaction both to the film and to the experience of watching the film (how much French you understood, what you learned about culture, etc.) Do not lift something from the Internet about your film. Prove to me that you have indeed watched the film with your own personal comments. This may be done at any point during the semester.
- 2) Interview the French tutor, or another native French speaker on campus (student or faculty). Prepare interview questions, conduct the interview and turn in your interview questions to me. The tutor will report to me that you have done the interview. This assignment should be done toward the end of the semester. If you choose to interview someone other than the tutor, please have this person send your instructor an e-mail that they have done this interview with you. There are many native French-speaking students and faculty members at UTEP. You may ask your instructor for a suggestion.

French at UTEP

The only way to improve your ability to understand and express yourself in French is by exposing yourself to the language as much as possible. This is a challenge in El Paso, so regular attendance in class and frequent use of the website is important. The Internet has a wealth of material for language learning also, so explore and share good things you've found with your classmates.

The **basic French language sequence at UTEP** is made up of 4 courses – FREN 1301, 1302, 2301 and 2302. Please consult your academic advisor to know exactly what the language requirement for your degree plan is.

Although it is possible to continue to the next level of French if you receive a “D” in your course, it is not at all recommended. If you have difficulty in your French class, please meet with your teacher during office hours and/or the tutor for help.

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The **Club français (French Club)** meets regularly and offers many opportunities to increase your knowledge of French language and culture and to meet other French students and perhaps students from France. The time and place of meetings will be announced at the beginning of the semester.

We encourage you to think about a **minor, a major or a double major in French**. The requirement for the minor is four courses beyond F2302. These could include Advanced Composition, Advanced Conversation, Phonetics, and other language and culture courses and some of these may count as block electives. You may speak to Dr. Jane Evans, the French Academic Advisor, about these possibilities (LART 126; jeevans@utep.edu).

Finally, UTEP encourages all students to take advantage of **study abroad** opportunities – for the summer, a semester, or an entire academic year. There are many possibilities in French speaking locations. Some financial aid and scholarship may be available. Visit the Study Abroad Office in the Office of International Programs on the second floor of the Union for more information.