



French 1301

Course Syllabus and Expectations, Spring 2025

Instructor: Dr. Camille Kennedy

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Office Hours: lundi/vendredi 8:30–9:30 AM and by appointment, via Zoom

Overview

The course is designed to help students progress in the four major language skills—oral comprehension, speaking, reading, and writing— and to introduce them to different aspects of the French-speaking world and culture. This course will be delivered synchronously over Zoom.

Course Materials

Required materials:

- 1) *A subscription to the En Avant online textbook and accompanying Connect homework platform.* See Blackboard for a link to purchase this subscription.
- 2) *A laptop and internet connection.* UTEP students may check out working laptops for the semester from the Main Library on campus. They may access the internet from campus.

Course Objectives

The scope of the course is *En Avant* Chapters 1–4.

This course introduces students to the French language and culture. In this course, students will learn:

- Basic greetings and introductions
- Phone numbers and dates
- Classroom objects
- Descriptions of people and activities
- Descriptions of families and personal relationships
- Discussions about future plans and activities

This course will give students an introduction to the sounds of French and the most commonly-used words and expressions of the language. By the end, students should feel comfortable saying hello and introducing themselves and their family both orally and in writing.

They should be able to identify spoken French when they hear it, and should be able to parse out simple present-tense texts with the help of a dictionary because of their basic knowledge of French grammar. Students should also understand the sounds of the language they are trying to

produce, though they may not yet be able to accurately reproduce all of the sounds at this stage.

This course will also give students a basic introduction to the French-speaking world and culture. By the end, students should understand what the Francophone world is, who speaks French today, and what basic customs regarding greetings and oral discussion exist in Francophone spaces.

Students can build on these foundational skills by continuing on to French 1302 and beyond.

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.

In a language class, it is essential not to use online translators or AI for any of your writing submissions, though you may look up a few individual words in a dictionary such as *Linguee* or *Wordreference*. **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**

plagiarism. All plagiarism will be taken seriously and may result in disciplinary action at the university level.

Classroom Guidelines

- a) **Respect.** Students will be expected to adhere to all policies outlined in the student handbook. Students will be expected to show respect for the teacher and other students, participate in class, appear prepared and on time, with all required materials and a constructive attitude. All Zoom classes will be recorded, and the professor and university will respond to any reports of inappropriate or disrespectful behavior towards other students, including behavior that occurs in breakout rooms.
- b) **Be willing to participate in all classroom activities.** *Students are expected to turn on their Zoom cameras for the entirety of the class time and to participate in all oral and written classwork activities to the best of their ability.* Students will receive a participation grade for every class period that reflects their presence, timeliness, and participation.

Those students who are unable or unwilling to turn on their Zoom video camera for any reason may turn in the Alternative Participation Assignment, which consists of recording oneself speaking in French using the vocabulary and grammar learned in class that day for at least 30 minutes. For more details on how to complete this assignment, please contact the professor via email. The professor will be the only one authorized to view these recordings.

Students are normally expected to remain attentive during class; however, some obvious exceptions are always allowed. These include brief breaks to care for a minor child or animal or to attend to medical needs. ***Children and other dependents are always welcome to be present during class time,*** and the professor will defer to the student's judgement as to whether their presence impedes the student's ability to participate. The professor reserves the right to mute a student if there is too much background noise.

The professor will not raise a quiz, HW, or test grade of a student who is doing poorly because of the distraction of caregiving, but if the professor ever unknowingly docks a student's participation grade for caregiving during class, the student should contact the professor via email or Blackboard message. *In other words, always err on the side of appearing in class even if your childcare/eldercare situation falls through that day.* Similarly, err on the side of appearing in class even if you are under the weather.

However, students will need to contact the professor *as soon as possible* if they will have any children or dependents present during one of the four tests. The normal course of action will be for the professor to offer the student an alternate, earlier test date.

- c) **Complete HW assignments on time.** You will have homework assignments after each class. Most will be done on Connect. All assignments will be posted on Blackboard. HW is typically posted 2 weeks before it is due in order to accommodate students who need extra time, but students will find them easier to complete within a week of the due date because that is when the topic will be covered in class.

Students who complete the HW after the due date may receive full or partial credit, depending on the assignment, BUT ***Students who have not completed all HW assignments by class time will NOT receive any participation points for the day and will be assigned to a no-HW breakout group for any group activities.***

Students who did not complete the HW should still appear in class, however, in order to avoid a documented absence, which could lead to a grade of Failure Due to Absence.

Attendance Policy

During the course of the semester, you are allowed ***two excused absences***. This allowance will appear when the professor drops the two lowest participation grades for the semester right before grades are due, and there is no need to submit an explanation to the professor.

If a student misses more than two classes, they must submit documentation to the professor attesting to the necessity of that absence, such as a doctor's note or jury summons, in order to receive participation credit for that day. Please do not include personal information in that documentation (e.g. do not include a medical diagnosis, just have the doctor's office write that the student was seen and determined to need to miss X days of work or class). Excused absences include University business, student athlete travel to games, hospitalization of the student, jury duty and the death of an immediate family member.

Students will NOT be counted as present simply because they have completed the Alternative Participation Assignment. That assignment is an option for students who are present in class but do not turn on their video cameras.

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.

Students who are absent for any reason are responsible for completing missing assignments and obtaining class notes from another student. Please refer to the course calendar on Blackboard for help figuring out what we covered that day.

You will be dropped from the class after your 6th unexcused absence. This will appear as a “Failure Due to Absence” grade on your transcript, and is likely to result in the loss of scholarships. In order to avoid this, please contact your professor to discuss better options as soon as you hit the third absence.

You may also be dropped for lack of effort. This includes not having course materials.

Accommodations

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

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, but regular attendance in class and frequent use of the internet can help. The Internet has a wealth of material for language learning, so please explore and share good things you’ve found with your classmates on the Blackboard discussion page!

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 is for your degree plan.

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.**

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 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 (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.

Assessment

Grades will be assigned as follows:

90–100 ----- A, 4.0

80–89 -----B, 3.0

70–79-----C, 2.0

60–69-----D, 1.0

Below 60-----F, 0.0

HW is 30% of the grade. (2%/week)

Quizzes are 8% of the grade.

Tests are 32% of the grade. (8% each)

Compositions are 4% of the grade (1% each)

Participation is 26% of the grade. (Each day is about 1% of your total class grade)

Cultural Opportunities

I may award extra credit for attending lectures, staffing a table at Francophonie Week, attending French conversation groups, or watching and reviewing a French film. I will inform you of such opportunities as they arise throughout the semester.