

**SYLLABUS  
FRENCH 1301  
FALL 2018**

**Instructor:** Mme Valérie Rasmussen

**Office hours:** Mondays and Wednesdays 9-11  
Tuesdays and Thursdays 9-10  
and by appointment

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**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.

If you have already studied French, you may wish to take the **UTEP French Placement Test**. The placement test is not mandatory in French, but if you have taken French before, you may wish to take the test to see if you could possibly place into French 1302 this fall. We have some space left in 1302. Five test dates are available that would permit you to transfer to French 1302 this semester:

Friday, August 24, 8:30 a.m.

Wednesday, August 29, 1:30 p.m.

Monday, August 27, 1:30 p.m.

Thursday, August 30, 1:30 p.m.

Tuesday, August 28, 1:30 p.m.

Go to <http://testing.utep.edu/Testing/SpanishFrench> for more information on the French Placement Test. The test costs \$15 and includes a multiple-choice written section and a brief listening comprehension section.

**Course materials.** *Promenades*, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition, by Mitchell and Tano, Vista Higher Learning, 2018 – Loose-leaf pages of textbook and Access Code for Supersite Plus, available in the UTEP bookstore or at <http://vistahigherlearning.com/schools/utepaso>

There are two different course packages – one for students only planning to take French 1301 and 1302 and the other for students planning to take further levels of French. You should choose your package according to your own study plans.

The 1301-1302 package includes loose-leaf pages for *Promenade* chapters 1-7 and 12 month access to the Supersite Plus which includes the webSAM (Student Activities Manual) and the vText. The 1301-2302 package includes loose-leaf pages for the entire book as well as 36 month access to the Supersite Plus. ***Promenades* will be used for the entire lower division French course sequence – French 1301-2302.**

A third package is available on the Vista Higher Learning website, which includes the hardcover textbook and the Supersite Plus access code, for students who desire a more durable textbook.

It is absolutely mandatory to have the course materials and to be enrolled in your instructor's on-line class by the end of the second week of school. Otherwise, you will be dropped from the course. You are required to have loose-leaf textbook pages in class every day. Laptops, tablets and phones may not be used during class. Emergency textbook loans are available. See <https://loans.utep.edu/>

It is also mandatory to have the correct Access Code – the Supersite Plus Code, which includes webSAM and vText. Otherwise, you will not be able to complete homework activities in your instructor’s on-line class. Be very careful about purchasing materials other than at the UTEP Bookstore or the VHL site because many such books do not come with the access code.

**Course content.** 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

Additionally, *Promenades* has rich cultural sections that introduce us to numerous places and personalities in the wide French-speaking world.

**Scope of the course.** Modules 1-4A of *Promenades*, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition.

### **Class guidelines**

- a) **Come to class ready to learn and participate in all classroom activities.** Turn off and put away cell phones and do not eat in class. Bring your loose-leaf text pages with you to class daily. Laptops or tablets may not be used in class. Failure to have text pages will negatively impact your class participation grade.
  
- b) **Complete assignments on time.** You will have daily homework assignments. Most will be done on the Supersite. There will also be several writing assignments to hand in in class. Please place your homework on the front table as you arrive. **No late homework will be accepted. When you do writing assignments, use white, 8 1/2 x 11 paper and double space. Remove the “curlies” from spiral bound paper. Any assignments that do not conform to these standards may be returned ungraded. Write neatly, in pen, or prepare your assignments on the computer using 12 point type and double space.**

Consult the Supersite daily to see due dates for on-line SAM activities. No extensions will be given on these due dates. You may complete them after the due date, but a slight penalty will be imposed on your grade for each day an assignment is late.

- 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.

**In a language class, it is essential not to use online translators for any of your writing submissions other than 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.**

- e) **Cell phones should always be turned off and put away during class, but especially during exams. Failure to do so could suggest impropriety and lead to allegations of academic dishonesty.**
- 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.

**The attendance policy will be followed rigorously.** 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

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 6<sup>th</sup> 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.

### **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](mailto:cass@utep.edu), or visit their office located in UTEP Union East, Room 106. For additional information, please visit the CASS website at [www.sa.utep.edu/cass](http://www.sa.utep.edu/cass)

## Composition of final grade

Homework (On-line activities 20%, Writing 5%)	25%
Attendance/Class participation	6%
Oral Evaluations	6%
Quizzes (lowest grade will be dropped)	6%
Chapter tests (4 tests, lowest grade dropped)	42%
Final Exam	15%

## Comments on components of final grade

**Homework.** There will be assignments after each class – both from the Supersite and separate writing or reading assignments. Consult the Assignment Calendar on the Supersite regularly for on-line assignments and the course calendar for writing 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 and failure to have text loose-leaf pages will lower your class participation grade.

**Oral evaluations** will include on-line 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 are noted on the course calendar. These quizzes may not be made up, but the lowest grade will be dropped.

**Chapter tests.** There will be 4 chapter tests and the lowest test grade will be dropped. There will be no make-up chapter tests.

**Final Exam.** The final exam is comprehensive and mandatory. The date and time are noted on your course calendar.

## 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 – F1301, 1302, 2301 and 2302. Most students who are completing the Language Requirement for a Bachelor's degree in Liberal Arts need to successfully complete all courses through French 2302. 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.

There will be a **French tutor** available several hours a week. The tutor's office is in the Ellis Lab, LART 238. You may review class work or homework with the tutor, or just go to practice conversational French.

The **Club français (French Club)** meets every week 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. You may speak to Dr. Evans, the French Academic Advisor, about the major or minor (LA 126).

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. You may speak with Mme Nodjimbadem regarding study abroad in France (LA 230). It is recommended that you begin to think about Study Abroad immediately and contact the Study Abroad office in the Office of International Programs in Union East on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor.