

INTERMEDIATE FRENCH I

*I have taught this class at Gettysburg College in the Fall of 2011; what follows is a modified version of the class I taught, since I originally had not added the totality of the primary materials mentioned here. I found that the book *Face-à-face* worked well for this level, and students confirmed my impression in their mid-semester evaluations. However, students could have benefited from more work on external primary materials, which is why I added the two full-length feature films and the final play by Reza.*



COURSE DESCRIPTION

This class will provide a systematic grammar review while offering students the opportunity to discuss and reflect on primary materials from French and francophone cultures. Students will improve their writing and speaking skills via debates, group work, and discussion based on a variety of topics. We will follow the grammatical and thematic progression of the book *Face-à-face* while also working with other primary materials (French stand-up comedy, short stories from *Le Petit Nicolas*, two films – *Le Petit Nicolas* and *Potiche* – and a play titled *Le Dieu du carnage* by Yasmina Reza).

There will be five units for this class; at the end of each unit, students will hand in short essays and take a test on the materials covered. Each unit in *Face-à-face* is composed of a short film, two grammar points, and two or more literary, journalistic, or theoretical texts.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

This course has three main objectives:

- To improve your written and oral skills, and to facilitate your ability to communicate in French.
- To develop and improve your ability to formulate arguments and communicate ideas in a foreign language. To develop and improve your writing skills.
- To give you the opportunity to discover French and francophone films, texts, narratives, and cultural productions. To familiarize yourself with writings of prominent French and francophone writers, playwrights and thinkers.

COURSE MATERIALS

- *Face-à-face*, F. Gillebaert, Vista, 2010.
- Yasmina Reza, *Le Dieu du carnage*.
- Sempé/Gosciny. *Le Petit Nicolas et les copains*.
- Five shorts and two full length films available on our Moodle website and on reserve at the Library.
- A free account on the website <http://www.weebly.com> (instruction on our class's Moodle website).

REQUIREMENTS

Attendance at every meeting and completion in due time of the assigned readings are mandatory. Work in this class will consist of active class participation, five short papers (1-2 pages) on the materials covered in each unit, four Unit tests, and one final test. The grade will be calculated as follows:

-	5 short papers	30%
-	preparation, presence and class participation	20%
-	Unit tests	20%
-	Final exam : Final test	10%
	Final oral exam	10%
-	Blog	10%

About the blog :

Each student in this class will maintain a blog during the course of the semester. The blog will be an informal space where we can communicate with each other ; you are encouraged to make your blog as user-friendly as possible by adding images, videos, soundtracks, or hyperlinks. We will leave comments, questions, and remark on each other's webpage.

I will give blog assignments regularly in the semester; they will consist of short topics/questions that are not necessarily related to our class materials and that you can write about without any formal constraints (minimum for each entry: 100 words, but you should feel free to write as much as you want !). The semester-long blog project will be graded not on the quality of your grammar but rather on your creativity, on the content of your page, and on the quality of the interactions that your blog and comments stimulate on the web. (see the attached grading scale for the blog)

CALENDAR

What follows is a general layout of our program. The homework and detailed description of each assignment for this class will be posted in the calendar on our Moodle website. Our Moodle site also has all the video materials for the class, including the stand-up comedy short films, the face-à-face shorts, the films *Potiche* and *Le Petit Nicolas*, the daily *chansons du jour*, and the hyperlinks to everyone's blogs.

FF : *Face-à-face*.

Monday, August 29th: Introduction

UNIT 1. LES RELATIONS PERSONNELLES

Wednesday, August 31st: In-class preparation for the first short film, *Manon sur le bitume*. FF, pp. 2-5.

Friday, September 2nd: *Manon sur le bitume* : analysis and discussion.

Monday, September 5th: Structure 1.1, FF, pp. 10-13 (grammar). French stand-up comedy : Pierre Palmade and Michelle Laroque, *Ma mère* (excerpt from *Ils s'aiment*).

Wednesday, September 7th: Structure 1.2, FF, pp. 14-17. Introduction to the blog assignments. FF, pp. 32-33.

Friday, September 9th: Littérature, FF, pp. 22-29 : Montaigne on friendship.

Monday, September 12th: Paper 1 due (on blog + one paper copy in class). In class: introduction to *Le Petit Nicolas* : image analysis and reading exercise.

Wednesday, September 14th: *Le Petit Nicolas* (short stories, 2 excerpts).

Friday, September 16th: *Le Petit Nicolas*. In-class revisions for the first test. Corrected version of paper 1 due.

Monday, September 19th: Test on Unit 1 (20% grammar, 80 % writing composition).

UNIT 2. LES MÉDIAS ET LA TECHNOLOGIE

Wednesday, September 21st: Blog assignment 2 due. In-class preparation for the short film: *Idole*. Preparation FF, pp. 36-39.

Friday, September 23rd: *Idole*, analysis and discussion, FF, pp. 40-43.

Monday, September 26th: Structures 2.1 et 2.2, FF, pp. 44-51 (grammar).

Wednesday, September 28th: In-class discussion and debate on stars and “red carpet” culture. Article, FF, pp. 52-55. Blog assignment 3.

Friday, September 30th: Littérature, FF, pp. 56-63. French stand-up comedy: Gad Elmaleh, *Les textos et les SMS*.

Monday, October 3rd: Paper 2 due. *Le Petit Nicolas* (excerpt 3).

Wednesday, October 5th: French and francophone celebrities: Céline Dion and L’Abbé Pierre (videos on Moodle). Revisions for the test.

Friday, October 7th: Test on Unit 2.

UNIT 3. LES GÉNÉRATIONS

Monday, October 10th: Reading days – no class.

Wednesday, October 12th: *Le Petit Nicolas* (film). Corrected version of Paper 2 due.

Friday, October 14th: *Le Petit Nicolas* (film). Short film: *Il neige à Marrakech*. Analysis and discussion, FF, pp. 74-77.

Monday, October 17th: Structure 3.1, FF, pp. 78-81. Blog assignment 4.

Wednesday, October 19th: Structure 3.2, FF, pp. 82-85. French stand-up comedy : Florence Foresti, *Le Petit Poucet*.

Friday, October 21st: David Foenkinos (Article, FF, pp. 86-89) and Andrée Chédid on father-son/Mother-daughter relationships (FF, pp. 90-92).

Monday, October 24th: *Potiche* (film).

Wednesday, October 26th: *Potiche* (film). Paper 3 due. Revisions for the test.

Friday, October 28th: Test on Unit 3.

UNIT 4. LES VOYAGES ET LES TRANSPORTS

Monday, October 31st: Corrected version of Paper 3 due. French stand-up comedy: Gad Elmaleh, *L'avion*. In-class preparation for the short film *Pas de bagages*.

Wednesday, November 2nd: *Pas de bagages*, analysis and discussion, FF, pp. 106-109.

Friday, November 4th: Structures 4.1 et 4.2, FF, pp. 110-117.

Monday, November 7th: Claude Lévi-Strauss on travels and travelers : Essai, FF, pp. 118-121.

Excerpt 2 from *Tristes Tropiques*, “La leçon d’écriture,” 1page handout.

Wednesday, November 9th: Claude Lévi-Strauss: interview (video). Jean-Jacques Rousseau on inequality and ownership: excerpt from *Discours sur l'origine et les fondements de l'inégalité* (handout).

Friday, November 11th: Diderot, excerpt from *Supplément au voyage de Bougainville*: Littérature, FF, pp. 122-129.

Monday, November 14th: Paper 4 due. Revisions for the test.

Wednesday, November 16th: Test on Unit 4.

UNIT 5. LA SOCIÉTÉ

Friday, November 18th: Corrected version of Paper 4 due. Blog assignment 5. In-class preparation for the short film *Blabla*.

Monday, November 21st: *Blabla*, analysis and discussion, FF, pp.

Wednesday, November 23rd: Thanksgiving recess

Friday, November 25th: Thanksgiving recess

Monday, November 28th: Yasmina Reza, *Le Dieu du carnage*, part 1. Blog assignment 6. Structure 5.1, FF, pp. 144-147.

Wednesday, November 30th: Yasmina Reza, *Le Dieu du carnage*, part 2. Structure 5.2, FF, pp. 148-151.

Friday, December 2nd: Yasmina Reza, *Le Dieu du carnage*, part 3.

Monday, December 5th: Yasmina Reza, *Le Dieu du carnage*, part 4. Paper 5 due.

Wednesday, December 7th: Final oral exam.

Friday, December 9th: Revisions for the final exam