



FR 377 – PHONETICS AND CONVERSATION
IES Abroad Nantes

DESCRIPTION:

This course consists of two parts: (1) Phonetics, which includes the study of French phonetics theory and pronunciation exercises practiced in the Language Laboratory, and (2) Conversation, including vocabulary study and discussions on topics specific to life in France.

CREDITS: 4 credits

CONTACT HOURS: 60 hours

LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION: French

PREREQUISITES: No previous knowledge is required for this course

ADDITIONAL COST: None

METHOD OF PRESENTATION:

Phonetics:

- Presentation of the concepts
- Phonetic transcription exercises
- Pronunciation exercises

Conversation:

- General discussions
- Simulations
- Acts of language

REQUIRED WORK AND FORM OF ASSESSMENT:

Phonetics:

- Midterm - 20%
- Final exam (theoretical phonetics) - 20%
- Final exam (practical phonetics) - 20%
- Attendance, participation, activities on Moodle - 10%

Conversation:

- Participation in discussions and activities on Moodle - 10%
- Final exam - 20%

Midterm

Verification of the understanding and assimilation of concepts seen in progress; detection of difficulties in order to proceed with possible remediation.

Final Examination

Evaluation of the assimilation of the different concepts studied during the course of the semester.

Attendance and Participation

Active participation in class, attendance, regularity in the execution of exercises, and activities on Moodle are all included in the attendance and participation grade.

Grading

The total Phonetics score is composed as follows:



- A midterm in theoretical phonetics: transcript exercises, definitions, course questions, description of phonemes, reflection questions
- A final exam in theoretical phonetics: graphic and API transcriptions, definitions, course questions, reflection questions
- A final exam in practical phonetics in the laboratory: auditory discrimination, oral production
- A current participation note reflecting active participation in class, attendance, regularity in the delivery of the given exercises

The Phonetics score accounts for 70% of the final score of the entire “Phonetics and Conversation” course.

The total Conversation score is composed as follows:

- Final exam: a short, individual conversation of 10 minutes, during which the acquisition of expressions seen in different communication situations (language acts), the ability to be understood (pronunciation), and to understand (auditory discrimination, understanding of communication intentions) will be assessed
- A current participation note reflecting active participation in class, attendance, and activities on Moodle

The Conversation score accounts for 30% of the final score of the “Phonetics and Conversation” course.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

- Understand and be understood in an oral communication situation
- Read known and unknown words without making pronunciation mistakes
- Know the main expressions allowing the student to express their opinion in different situations

ATTENDANCE POLICY:

The courses offered by IES Abroad are designed to take advantage of the teacher's unique collaboration, and the lecture/discussion format is the main teaching modality. At the end of the course selection period, classroom attendance is therefore mandatory. Absences can only be excused for valid reasons. It is the students' responsibility to provide proof of these absences, for example a medical certificate. Absences due to travel or visits by friends or family members are not excused.

Absences that are not excused for valid reasons will have consequences on your final grade in the course: each non-excused absence will lead to a half letter reduction of the final grade (e. g. B+ will be reduced to B, A to A-) and may also lead to a lower participation grade. Seven absences in a course will result in an "F" for that course. Each examination, test, presentation, research work or other exercise not carried out because of an absence may only be rescheduled in the event of a duly justified medical or family emergency.

PHONETICS CONTENT:

Choose an item	Content	Assignments
Week 1	• Introduction: what is phonetics? • What is used to produce sound? Description of the phonatory system	• Memorize the different organs of the phonatory system
Week 2	• When reading, how to cut out a text? • From text to phenome: concept of rhythmic group (intonation), syllable, phoneme	• Identifying rhythmic groups in a text to mark intonation
Week 3	• Phoneme classification • Phonetic alphabet transcription	• Introduction to transcription: “decoding” an API transcription using the phonetic alphabet

Choose an item	Content	Assignments
Week 4	Syllabic division of words: open syllables, closed syllables, accented syllables	Identification of vowel phonemes in an API transcription and syllable splitting
Week 5	- Description of vowel phonemes by their relevant features - Graphical representation of vowel phonemes - Phonetic transcription	Placing vowel phonemes on the vowel trapeze to graphically represent the relevant features
Week 6	- Vowels with 1 stamp and nasal vowels: phoneme grapheme correspondence - Transcription	- Memorization of vowel phonemes with 1 timbre - Transcription into API of vowel phonemes with 1 stamp without the help of the alphabet
Week 7	Midterm Exam	
Week 8	- Remediation following the correction of midterm - Vowel phonemes with 2 timbres and transcription difficulties	- Memorization of vowel phonemes with two timbres - Solve the difficulties of transcription into API
Week 9	- Semi-vowels - Transcription exercises, various questions	- Identification of semi-vowels and memorization of symbols - Transcription exercise
Week 10	- Consonants: relevant features to describe consonants - Table of consonant phonemes location	- Memorization of consonant phoneme symbols - Graphical representation of consonant phonemes according to their relevant features
Week 11	- Consonants continued: Correspondence phoneme grapheme - Phonetic assimilation	Transcription exercise without the help of the alphabet
Week 12	The links, sequences, and elections	Identification of links in a text and translation during transcription into API
Week 13	“e” obsolete and shortened	- Use shortcuts to transform text from everyday language into familiar language - Revisions for the final review
Week 14	Final Exam	

CONVERSATION CONTENT:

Choose an item	Content	Assignments
Week 1	- Expressions used to introduce the speech - Give an opinion, express agreement or disagreement	Broaden your vocabulary: simple expressions used to express your thoughts
Week 2	- Simulation of an unfaithful partner: making a judgement and justifying oneself - Work in subgroups - Pooling	Learn expressions to make judgements and justify themselves
Week 3	- Debate 1, Bioethics Issue: - Viewing a video - Division of the class into 2 groups - Discussion and sharing of arguments in subgroups	Develop an oral argument in a group
Week 4	- Debate 1, continued: - Presentation of the arguments of each group and debate - Express their true opinion on the subject	Express your opinion and justify yourself
Week 5	Simulation, the alibi: relating events from the past, suspecting, questioning, and expressing doubts	Learn to express doubts and ask questions to verify information
Week 6	- Debate 2, topic on French society: - Study of source documents - Division into subgroups - Find arguments in subgroups	- Learning vocabulary related to the subject to nuance one's remarks - Prepare an argument
Week 7	- Debate 2, continued: - Presentation of the arguments of the 2 groups - Discussion - Express your personal opinion	Be able to express opinions and cite examples, nuance your words orally
Week 8	Simulation, survival situation in the desert: make choices, proposals, justify yourself	Learn expressions to explain your choices, propose alternatives
Week 9	- Male to female ratios - Video presenting the subject - Discussion	Make observations, argue
Week 10	- Debate 3, current affairs: - Brainstorming - Synthesis of opinions in mini groups	Learning vocabulary related to the subject

Choose an item	Content	Assignments
Week 11	- Debate 3, continued: - Exposure of the ideas of the mini groups - Confrontation of ideas and discussions on real opinions	Reuse of expressions seen during the semester
Session 12	Simulation, Noah's rocket: make choices in mini groups, compare the arguments in order to reach an agreement	Synthesize
Week 12	Review of a semester in France	
Week 13	Final Exam	

RECOMMENDED READINGS:

Phonetics:

- F. Carton, *Introduction à la phonétique du Français*, Boras, 1974
- B. Malmberg, *La Phonétique, que sais-je ?* n°637
- Pierre Leon, *Prononciation du Français standard*, Ed. Didier, 1978

Conversation :

- Gerard Mermet, *Francoscopie*, Larousse
- French newspapers, weeklies, magazines
- It is also advisable to watch the French news