

Syllabus FR CM 325
"French Conversation and Current Events"

DESCRIPTION:

This course will allow students to intensively practice spoken French, to develop their thinking in French, to use more specific vocabulary, and to be able to give their opinion. Each class meeting will have a current theme, directly connected to the events of contemporary France. Students will use the proposed documents (newspaper articles, television and radio clips, newspaper/ political cartoons, etc.) in order to enlarge their knowledge of contemporary France, improve their speaking skills, develop a structured reflection and be able to discuss both in small groups and with the professor. Our objective is to closely follow French current events, so as to facilitate the integration of students into life in Paris. We will cover various elements of French history, geography, sociology, and demographics in order for students to acquire a well-rounded understanding of the country and its culture.

Ce cours va permettre aux étudiants de pratiquer le français oral intensément, afin de construire leur pensée en langue française, d'utiliser un vocabulaire de plus en plus spécifique, et d'être capable de donner leur opinion. Chaque cours aura une thématique actuelle, reliée directement aux événements de la France contemporaine. Les étudiants utiliseront les documents proposés (articles de journaux, reportages de télévision et de radios, dessins de presse,) pour agrandir leur connaissance de la France, améliorer leurs capacités orales, développer une réflexion structurée et pouvoir débattre en groupe et avec le professeur. L'objectif est de rester au plus près de l'actualité française, afin aussi de faciliter l'intégration des étudiants dans la vie à Paris. Il sera en outre nécessaire d'ajouter à ces conversations des éléments d'Histoire, de géographie, de sociologie, de démographie française pour parfaire ces compétences.

CREDIT HOURS: 3

INSTRUCTOR: Baptiste Lebreton

PREREQUISITES: Placement in FR 303 French Language in Context: Emerging Independent Abroad III

METHOD OF PRESENTATION:

We will begin each class by analyzing a few documents related to a specific topic in French current events. We will base our discussion on articles from French newspapers (Le Monde, Le Figaro, Libération,), specialized magazines (Les Echos, L'Equipe, Première, ...), special reports from TV5 (tv5.org) or Radio France Internationale (rfi.fr).

Chaque classe commencera par l'analyse de quelques documents à propos d'un thème de l'actualité française. Nous utiliserons les articles des journaux français (Le Monde, Le Figaro, Libération,), des journaux ou des magazines spécialisés (Les Echos, L'Equipe, Première, ...), des reportages de la chaîne de télévision TV5 (tv5.org), ou enfin des reportages de la station de radio RFI (rfi.fr).

LANGUAGE OF PRESENTATION: French

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

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

- understand and analyze current events through different media outlets
- express their opinions on various subjects pertinent to French society
- use their acquired knowledge to debate in class with native French speakers

À la fin de ce cours, les étudiants seront capables de :

- *comprendre et savoir analyser l'actualité française dans différents médias*
- *exprimer leurs opinions sur des thèmes actuels en France*
- *utiliser les connaissances acquises pour débattre en classe ou avec des Francophones*

REQUIRED WORK AND FORM OF ASSESSMENT:

Class participation and active involvement in discussion - 20 %

Organization and leadership of an in-class debate – 30 %

Midterm oral examination - 20 %

Final oral examination – 30 %

CONTENT:

Every week the theme will be discussed in two sessions: Tuesday and Thursday. The first session will present the theme and open the debate, the second session will be an opportunity to explore the different perspectives and opinions on the theme.

Week & Session	Content	Assignments (Reading, homework, project due dates, exams)
Week 1 01/21 - 01/23 France in 2025	- Session 1: The situation of the country - Session 2: The president and his program	<u>Articles:</u> Le programme du gouvernement https://en-marche.fr/emmanuel-macron/le-programme Les symboles de la République Française https://www.elysee.fr/la-presidence/les-symboles-de-la-republique-francaise
Week 2 01/28 - 01/30 French Media	- Session 1: Introduction to the French media - Session 2: television, newspapers, radio	<u>Articles:</u> Une présentation de la presse en France https://www.french.hku.hk/copy-of-lexique-de-la-presse Analyser un journal télévisé https://enseigner.tv5monde.com/fiches-pedagogiques-fle/le-journal-international
Week 3 02/04 - 02/06 Cultural practices	- Session 1: Cultural Practices - Session 2: The French and museums, exhibitions, the notion of “culture générale” (general knowledge)	<u>Articles:</u> L’offre culturelle française – Campus France https://www.campusfrance.org/fr/l-offre-culturelle-francaise Les pratiques culturelles sur le site du Ministère de la Culture https://www.culture.gouv.fr/Thematiques/Etudes-et-statistiques/Publications/Collections-de-synthese/Culture-etudes-2007-2022/Cinquante-ans-de-pratiques-culturelles-en-France-CE-2020-2
Week 4 02/11 - 02/13 Demonstrations, strikes	- Session 1: Demonstrations, strikes - Session 2: Social dialogue in France	<u>Articles:</u> Une présentation des grèves en France https://francebienvenue1.wordpress.com/2011/11/29/greves-et-manifestations/ La grève en France https://www.podcastfrancaisfacile.com/transcription/vous-faites-greve-pourquoi.html

<u>Week 5</u> 02/18 - 02/20 Political system in France (Spring Break 02/24 - 03/02)	- Politics in France - Administration, political parties	<u>Articles:</u> Une explication des différents pouvoirs et la politique en France http://jouerfle.blogspot.fr/p/politique_06.html Documents pour présenter les différentes fonctions politiques en France https://ticsenfle.blogspot.com/2014/06/decouvert-e-de-lorganisation-et-du.html
<u>Week 6</u> 03/04 - 03/06 Women in French society	- Session 1: Women in French society - Session 2: Image of women and sexism	<u>Articles:</u> Le site de la journée des droits des femmes: http://8mars.info/ Des chansons, des textes sur le thème de la journée des droits des Femmes http://julieprof.blogspot.fr/2012/03/la-journee-de-la-femme.html
<u>Week 7</u> 03/11 - 03/13 Midterm Exam	- Session 1: Review on Tuesday Session 2: Midterm Exam (oral) on Thursday	
<u>Week 8</u> 03/18 - 03/20 Religion	- Session 1: Religious practices, patrimony - Session 2: holidays and bank holidays	<u>Articles:</u> Une présentation des religions en France http://ressources-cla.univ-fcomte.fr/motsculture/connaissances/religionsFrance/religionsFrance.htm La charte de la Laïcité du gouvernement https://www.gouvernement.fr/sites/default/files/contenu/piece-jointe/2021/03/charte-laicite-ecole.pdf
<u>Week 9</u> 03/25 - 03/27 Sports in France	- Session 1: Soccer, popular sports - Session 2: Traditional sports, the sporty France	<u>Articles:</u> Comment le sport métamorphose la France http://www.slate.fr/story/93121/cartes-france-sport La pratique sportive en France, reflet du milieu social https://www.insee.fr/fr/statistiques/fichier/1371925/donsoc06zu.pdf

Week 10 04/01 - 04/03 Advertising	• Session 1: Advertising • Session 2: Current ad campaigns	<u>Articles:</u> Des exercices sur le concept de publicité http://jetudielacom.com/category/testez-vos-connaissances/exercices-analyse-de-pubs/ La publicité et les enfants https://cdn.opc.gouv.qc.ca/media/documents/con-sommateur/sujet/publicite-pratique-illegale/EnfantsPub.pdf
Week 11 04/08 - 04/10	• Session 1: The Demography of France • Session 2: The age of the population, birth rate, geographical distribution, the working population. • Exam review	<u>Articles:</u> Les infographies de France Info https://www.francetvinfo.fr/sante/maladie/coronavirus/infographies-mariages-naissances-esperance-de-vie-comment-la-demographie-francaise-a-redemarre-en-2021_4920083.html La pyramide des âges https://www.ined.fr/fr/tout-savoir-population/graphiques-cartes/population_graphiques/
Week 12 04/15 - 04/17	• General review : all topics	
Week 13 04/22 - 04/24 Final Exam	• Oral Exam : 10-minute preparation, 10-minute discussion on 1 topic	

REQUIRED COURSE MATERIALS:

- Pens and highlighters of different colors, notebook.

REQUIRED READINGS:

- French newspapers (Libération, Le Monde, Le Figaro,)
- TV5monde.com
- RFI.fr
- france.fr
- For each topic: links to articles will be posted on Moodle

BRIEF BIOGRAPHY OF INSTRUCTOR:

Baptiste Lebreton has been a French teacher for foreign students since 2006. He got his Master's Degree at the University of Nantes, after a Master's Degree in Communication. He has studied sociology, history of arts and communication sciences. He has worked with very different people, in Iceland, Finland, China and France. His practice of teaching is based on oral skills and the reality of the language, as well as intercultural studies and examining stereotypes.



IES Paris Attendance Policy

Your academics are a priority, and regular class attendance is mandatory, respectful, and essential to academic success. Being absent from class will prevent you from maximizing your learning and will negatively affect your participation grade.

Lateness

Please arrive on time for each class meeting. Arriving late for class is disruptive for faculty members and students alike and will prevent you from maximizing your learning.

- 0 to 15 minutes = late
- Over 15 minutes = 1 absence

If you arrive late 3 times, it will be counted as an absence.

Absences

If you must be absent, please email both your professor and the academic team as soon as possible (mfedon@iesabroad.org) and (emaines@iesabroad.org). Absences for medical reasons and/or emergencies will be considered excused, but justification will be required. In this case, we will need:

- a *certificat médical*,
- from a French doctor,
- must be submitted within 24 hours of the absence,
- or proof of upcoming medical appointment.

If you are absent for an exam, presentation, or other graded in-class assignment, you must provide justification for the absence, or you will receive an automatic F.

Our attendance policy allows each student to miss one 3h course and two 1.5h class sessions without it affecting the final grade of the class. Above that, your final grade will be lowered. The following example is for a 1.5h class:

Final grade: A-

1 unexcused absence: A-

2 unexcused absences: A-

3 unexcused absences: B+

4 unexcused absences: B

And so on...

Lastly, an important reminder!

For any and all absences students are required to fill out the **ABSENCE FORM**, which can be found using the following link:

<https://airtable.com/appwRSChoi8XeQUhz/shrkeAL2VXGdy1RH5>

Any documentation FOR AN EXCUSED ABSENCE must be uploaded to this platform.