**FREN 325**

**Modern Languages**

**COURSE NAME/NUMBER**

**4**

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**FACULTY/DEPARTMENT**

**Modern Languages**

**UFV CREDITS**

**Phonetics and Pronunciation: The Silky Sounds of French**

**COURSE DESCRIPTIVE TITLE**

**CALENDAR DESCRIPTION:**

Conducted entirely in French, this course provides an intensive study of phonetics and develops students’ oral fluency. It helps students learn to understand different accents and idioms which exist in various parts of the Francophone world. There is a considerable “corrective” component to the course, where students are clearly shown the comparative pronunciation between English and French vowels and consonants in order to teach English-speaking students the best way to articulate French sounds and eliminate their English accents.

**PREREQUISITES:**

FREN 219 or instructor’s permission

**COREQUISITES:**

None.

**SYNONYMOUS COURSE(S):**

(a) Replaces: 

(b) Cross-listed with: 

(c) Cannot take: _____________ for further credit.

**TOTAL HOURS PER TERM:** 60

**STRUCTURE OF HOURS:**

| Lectures: | 45 Hrs |
| Seminar: | 15 Hrs |
| Laboratory: | ______ Hrs |
| Field experience: | ______ Hrs |
| Student directed learning: | ______ Hrs |
| Other (specify): | ______ Hrs |

**TRAINING DAY-BASED INSTRUCTION:**

Length of course: 

Hours per day: 

**OTHER:**

Maximum enrolment: 26

Expected frequency of course offerings: Once every year

(every semester, annually, every other year, etc.)

**WILL TRANSFER CREDIT BE REQUESTED? (lower-level courses only)**

[ ] Yes  [ ] No

**WILL TRANSFER CREDIT BE REQUESTED? (upper-level requested by department)**

[ ] Yes  [ ] No

**TRANSFER CREDIT EXISTS IN BCCAT TRANSFER GUIDE:**

[ ] Yes  [ ] No

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**Course designer(s):** Alan Cameron

**Department Head:** Betty-Joan Traverse

**Supporting area consultation**

**Curriculum Committee chair:** Tetsuomi Anzai

**Dean/Associate VP:** Jacqueline Nolte

**Undergraduate Education Committee (UEC) approval**

**Date approved:** January 2012

**Date of meeting:** February 3, 2012

**Date approved:** April 2012

**Date of meeting:** May 23, 2012
LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Demonstrate their expertise with the French symbols of the IPA (International Phonetic Alphabet).
- Transcribe French sentences into phonetic symbols, and the reverse, to provide correct French sentences from phonetic symbols.
- Speak French with reasonable fluency and understand rapidly spoken French from different Francophone regions.
- Demonstrate their acquisition of a good standard pronunciation.
- Demonstrate their knowledge of the differences between various accents and regional idioms as well as slang and colloquial expressions.
- Differentiate between and use different levels of discourse according to the speech-act situation.
- Demonstrate the acquisition of vocabulary and means of creating conversations in small groups about a wide variety of topics.
- Present a formal presentation to peers.

METHODS: (Guest lecturers, presentations, online instruction, field trips, etc.)

All classroom interaction is in French. Much of the time will be spent learning phonetics and practicing the pronunciation of sound groupings, concentrating on correct articulation, rhythm and intonation. Much attention will be focused on particular aspects of French phonology, such as *enchâinement*, *liaison*, *e caduc*, and non-diphthongization of vowels. The other will be spent discussing a specific topic and focusing on specific communicative situations. At regular intervals students will be asked to listen to speeches or view video clips which will feature speakers from different Francophone areas and learn to recognize regional differences, including slang and colloquialisms. There will be individual and group oral projects to provoke discussion of a variety of themes such as current events, cultural phenomena, debates, music and such. They will also work with an interactive multimedia program and learn the importance of facial expressions and gestures, which vary from country to country, as well as intonation in conveying meaning.

In addition to classroom activity, students will meet once a week with a native speaker in small conversation groups for further oral practice in the seminar. Here they are expected to imitate certain types of speech, including appropriate body language, as well as creating their own discussions.

Students will also be expected to work with certain exercises in our multimedia lab which includes a state-of-the-art digitized audio lab.

METHODS OF OBTAINING PRIOR LEARNING ASSESSMENT RECOGNITION (PLAR):

- Examination(s)
- Portfolio assessment
- Interview(s)
- Other (specify): PLAR cannot be awarded for this course for the following reasons:

TEXTBOOKS, REFERENCES, MATERIALS: [Textbook selection varies by instructor. Examples for this course might be:]


Various other readings, news reports, musical selections, internet sources and conversational material may appear at various times, according to the instructor's and students' needs.

SUPPLIES / MATERIALS:

None

STUDENT EVALUATION: [An example of student evaluation for this course might be:]

Regular assignments, presentations and dialogues, skits, class and lab participation, a midterm and a comprehensive final are the basis for determining the final grade.

A sample evaluation scheme might be:

1. Course projects: 12.5%
2. Final and mid-term oral and written exams: 25% (12.5% each)
3. 20 written transcription exercises: 25%
4. 210 pronunciation exercises on the Can-8 interactive platform: 25%
5. Class and seminar participation: 12.5%
COURSE CONTENT: [Course content varies by instructor. An example of course content might be:]

- The organs of speech
- The French symbols in the IPA.
- Recognition, repetition, and practice of the main French sound patterns.
- The basics of the French phonetic system.
- Syllabification, *enchaînement*, *liaison*, *accent tonique*, rhythm, *accentuation*, *intonation*.
- French oral vowels
- French nasal vowels
- French consonants
- French semi-vowels
- *E caduc*
- Understanding various dialogues and discussing them
- Creating conversations within certain speech-act givens
- Using appropriate body language to further communication
- Acquiring certain notions of proxemics and how they vary from culture to culture