

UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA  
DEPARTMENT OF MODERN LANGUAGES AND CULTURAL STUDIES  
[www.uab.ca/mlcs](http://www.uab.ca/mlcs)

2019-2020 *FREN 111: Beginners' French I*  
Fall 2019  
September 3 – December 6

Section: \_\_\_\_\_

Place and Time: M \_\_\_\_\_ T \_\_\_\_\_ R \_\_\_\_\_ F \_\_\_\_\_

**Instructor**

**Acting Coordinator**

Name:

*Mathieu Martin-LeBlanc*

Office:

*Arts 242-B*

E-mail:

*MRL8@ualberta.ca*

Office Hours:

*by appointment*

**French program website:**

<https://www.ualberta.ca/modern-languages-and-cultural-studies/undergraduate-program-information/current-undergraduate-students/french>

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**Course Prerequisite:** None. This course is not open to students with French 30 (and its equivalent), immersion experience, or native or near native proficiency in French. Please note that **students must register in the course recommended by the placement test** (unless they have received the coordinator's permission) or they may not be granted credits for the course.

It is your responsibility as a student to ensure that you have the appropriate prerequisites for the course.

**Course-based Ethics Approval** in place regarding all research projects that involve human testing, questionnaires, etc.?

Yes  No, not needed, no such projects approved

**Community Service Learning** component

Required  Optional  None

**Past or Representative Evaluative Course Material available**

Exam registry – Students' Union

<http://www.su.ualberta.ca/services/infolink/exam/>

See explanations below

Document distributed in class

Other: eClass “*Activités dans la communauté et ressources en français*”

**Course Description, Objectives and Expected Learning Outcomes:**

The aim of the course is to enable students to develop elementary proficiency in oral expression, listening comprehension, reading, writing, and cultural understanding in French on topics related to daily activities and topics of personal relevance such as university life and family. In class, emphasis will be placed on the acquisition of oral skills, but attention will also be given to written skills. Students will acquire basic grammatical and lexical knowledge pertaining to the Francophone world. At the end

of the course, they are expected to have developed the ability to communicate in predictable and common situations at the sentence level and achieve a good control of the most frequently used grammatical structures and vocabulary.

**Required Text:**

- *Nouveau Rond-Point 1*. Livre de l'élève + CD. Éditions Maison des langues.
- *Nouveau Rond-Point 1*. Cahier d'activités + CD. Éditions Maison des langues. (Chapters 1 to 6 will be covered, and the same book will be used in FREN 112.)

Note: Both books are sold as a package at the UofA bookstore OR **for digital option only, students can buy a premium access code at the bookstore** to gain access to the e-text and all audio/video component that accompany the books. To redeem a full access code or to gain access to limited free additional materials, go to <https://espacevirtuel.emdl.fr/>

*Nouveau Rond-Point 1* is also available at the Rutherford Library reserve desk.

**Optional Texts:**

- **Premium access code for *Nouveau Rond-Point 1* (which includes e-text) sold at UofA bookstore.**
- **French/English Dictionary or App:** *Larousse, Collins, or Oxford* are all good dictionaries. Avoid purchasing miniature pocket dictionaries; these have limited vocabulary and are not the best for this course.
- *Le Condensé:* Nouvelle grammaire en tableaux - Les éditions CEC
- *Sans Détour:* A complete reference manual for French Grammar – Prentice Hall

**Additional Course Fees**

Yes    No

**Important Dates:** [See Academic Schedule in current Calendar](#)

First Day of Class: September 3, 2019  
Add/Delete Date: September 16, 2019  
50% Withdrawal Date: October 3, 2019  
Withdrawal Date: November 29, 2019  
Last Day of Class: December 6, 2019  
Final Exam Date: TBA

**Deferred Final Examination:** Place and time TBA

Deferred examinations cannot be granted by instructors. Students must apply for a deferral to his / her Faculty office with adequate documentation substantiating the absence due to incapacitating illness, severe domestic affliction, and other compelling reasons including religious convictions. See the University Calendar for details.

**Grade Distribution (see 'Explanatory Notes'):**

Participation and attendance	15%
Assignments (online and/or traditional) and quizzes [2-3 per week altogether]	13%
Cultural events and/or activities (1 per semester)	2%
Tests 1 and 2 (Thursday September 26 and Thursday October 24; 6% each)	12%
Test 3 (Thursday November 7)	8%
Test 4 (Thursday November 28)	10%

Oral mid-session evaluation (Thursday and Friday October 10 and 11)	10%
Final oral exam (Monday and Tuesday December 2 and 3)	10%
Final written exam (3 hours; date TBA; place TBA)	20%

### **Explanatory Notes:**

**Participation and attendance:** Attendance and participation will be assessed based on the use of French during classroom activities, preparedness, and active participation in class. The marking rubrics for participation will be provided electronically. Note that the instructor expects students to have read the relevant materials before coming to class.

**Assignments:** These may include but are not limited to online activities, textbook assignments, workbook assignments, general homework, writing assignments, grammar and vocabulary practice exercises, and oral presentations. The marking rubrics, when relevant, will be provided electronically.

**Quizzes and Tests:** Those are designed to test learning of class materials (grammar, vocabulary) as well as general reading and listening comprehension on themes related to class material.

**Cultural events and/or activities:** Students are strongly encouraged to enjoy and take advantage of Edmonton cultural life in French as a way to improve their linguistic & cultural skills in a stimulating and relaxed atmosphere. A (non-exhaustive) list of different events is available on eClass. Any activities the student finds outside of the eClass page, must get approval from the instructor beforehand, otherwise no credit will be given. To receive the full 2%, students are to attend one activity. Note that, students will be asked to provide verification of attendance. This may include and not limited to an admission ticket, receipt, brochure, signing in, stamp, etc. In addition, to receive the full credit, students are required to complete the handout found on eClass and submit it to the instructor. This may be handed in on or any time before the last day of class. After such date, no credit will be given.

**Oral examination:** The oral exams may be in the format of short conversation, short scenarios prepared in advance and/or oral presentations related to themes covered in class. They will be done individually, in pairs or in small groups.

**Final written exam:** The exam will include a text and reading comprehension, essay writing, and a section on grammar.

### **Final Exam Information:**

**Exam Schedules for the 2019-2020 Academic year** can be found at the following site:

<https://www.ualberta.ca/registrar/examinations/exam-schedules/fall-2019-winter-2020-exam-planner>

### **Required Notes:**

“Policy about course outlines can be found in the [Evaluation Procedures and Grading System](#) of the University Calendar.”

### **Student Responsibilities:**

#### **Academic Integrity:**

The University of Alberta is committed to the highest standards of academic integrity and honesty. Students are expected to be familiar with these standards regarding academic honesty and to uphold the policies of the University in this respect. Students are particularly urged to familiarize themselves with the provisions of the [Code of Student Behaviour](#) and avoid any behaviour which could potentially result in suspicions of

cheating, plagiarism, misrepresentation of facts and/or participation in an offence. Academic dishonesty is a serious offence and can result in suspension or expulsion from the University.

All students should consult [the Academic Integrity website](#). If you have any questions, ask your instructor.

An instructor or coordinator who is convinced that a student has handed in work that he or she could not possibly reproduce without outside assistance is obliged, out of consideration of fairness to other students, to report the case to the Associate Dean of the Faculty. See the [Academic Discipline Process](#).

### **Language courses:**

Students involved in language courses and translation courses should be aware that the use of on-line translation to complete assignments constitutes a form of cheating as the student's own understanding and work is therefore not reflected. Also, students in language courses should be aware that, while seeking the advice of native or expert speakers is often helpful, excessive editorial and creative help in assignments is considered a form of cheating that violates the Code of Student Behaviour.

### **Learning and Working Environment:**

The Faculty of Arts is committed to ensuring all students; faculty and staff are able to study and work in an environment safe and free of discrimination and harassment. It does not tolerate behaviour that undermines that environment. The Department urges anyone who feels this policy has been or is being violated to:

- Discuss the matter with the person whose behaviour is causing concern; or
- If that discussion is unsatisfactory, or there is concern that direct discussion is inappropriate or threatening, discuss it first with your language instructor, and if still unresolved, the French language program coordinator and, lastly, the Chair of the Department.

For additional advice or assistance regarding this policy you may contact the [Office of the Student Ombuds](#). Information about the [University of Alberta Discrimination and Harassment Policy and Procedures](#) is described in [UAPPOL](#).

It is the policy of the University of Alberta that sexual violence committed by any member of the University community is prohibited and constitutes misconduct. Resources and more information can be found at <https://www.ualberta.ca/campus-life/sexual-violence>

### **Territorial Statement:**

“The University of Alberta acknowledges that we are located on Treaty 6 territory, and respects the histories, languages, and cultures of the First Nations, Métis, Inuit, and all First Peoples of Canada, whose presence continues to enrich our vibrant community.”

### **Recording of Lectures:**

Audio or video recording, digital or otherwise, of lectures, labs, seminars or any other teaching environment by students is allowed only with the prior written consent of the instructor or as a part of an approved accommodation plan. Student or instructor content, digital or otherwise, created and/or used within the context of the course is to be used solely for personal study, and is not to be used or distributed for any other purpose without prior written consent from the content author(s).

### **Attendance, Absences, and Missed Grade Components:**

Regular attendance is essential for optimal performance in any course. In cases of potentially excusable absences due to illness or domestic affliction, notify your instructor by e-mail within two days. Regarding absences that may be excusable and procedures for addressing course components missed as a result, consult sections [Attendance](#) and [Examinations](#) of the University Calendar. Be aware that unexcused absences will result in partial or total loss of the grade for the “attendance and participation” component(s) of a course, as well as for any assignments that are not handed-in or completed as a result.

Deferral of term work is a privilege and not a right; there is no guarantee that a deferral will be granted. Misrepresentation of facts to gain a deferral is a serious breach of the Code of Student Behaviour

*In this course: Students are allowed to miss three sessions without penalty* regardless of the reason for their absence (excusable or not), **after which two percentage point per absence will be deducted** from the 15% attendance and participation grade. It is recommended not to miss a session unless necessary.

Missed grade components due to absences may be taken at another time if they are due to illness or domestic affliction. Instructors can no longer request a doctor's note for absences due to illness, but they may request other adequate documentation at their discretion such as a form from the student's Faculty or a statutory declaration. In other cases, including domestic affliction or religious conviction, adequate documentation must be provided to substantiate the reason for an absence.

The student must notify their instructor by e-mail within two days following the scheduled date of the term work missed or as soon as the student is able to arrange for an extension or make-up test / assignment. Instructors are not required to grant make-up assignments / tests or extensions for unacceptable reasons that include, but are not limited to, personal events such as vacations, weddings, or travel arrangements. When the student misses some term work without an acceptable excuse, a final grade will be computed using a raw score of zero for the term work missed.

#### **Policy for Late Assignments:**

Students who consult in advance with an instructor regarding contingencies preventing the timely completion of an assignment may, at the discretion of the instructor, be granted an extension.

When a test or any other evaluation has been scheduled, any student who misses class on this day and does not have an excusable reason for the absence will get a zero, even though s/he might have been absent the day it was announced as s/he has the responsibility to enquire about what has been missed.

#### **Disclaimer:**

Any typographical errors in this syllabus are subject to change and will be announced in class and posted on eClass. The date of the final examination is set by the Registrar and takes precedence over the final examination date reported in this syllabus.

#### **Student Resources:**

The best all-purpose website for student services is: <https://www.ualberta.ca/current-students>.

#### **Accessibility Resources: (1 – 80 SUB)**

The University of Alberta is committed to creating work and learning communities that inspire and enable all people to reach their full potential. Accessibility Resources promotes an accessible, inclusive, and universally designed environment. For general information to register for services visit the [Accessibility Resources](#) webpage.

#### **The Academic Success Centre: (1-80 SUB)**

[The Academic Success Centre](#) offers a variety of workshops on effective study and exam strategies. There are in-person and online sessions available for a modest fee.

#### **The Centre for Writers: (1-42 Assiniboia Hall)**

The [Centre for Writers](#) offers free one-on-one writing support to students, faculty, and staff. Students can request consultation for a writing project at any stage of development. Instructors can request class visits and presentations.

**Health and Wellness Support:** There are many health and community services available to current

students. For more information visit the [Health and Wellness Support](#) webpage.

**Office of the Student Ombuds:**

The [Office of the Student Ombuds](#) offers confidential interviews, advice and support to students facing academic, discipline, interpersonal and financial difficulties.

**Grading:**

Assessment of the individual course components may be in the form of numerical marks or letter grades. The final letter grade will be based on "a combination of absolute achievement and relative performance in a class" (University Calendar, [Evaluation Procedures and Grading System](#)). The University Grading Procedure mandates that "a student's level of achievement of the goals/outcomes of a course, their grade, and the descriptor of that grade must be aligned" (<https://policiesonline.ualberta.ca/>). The following guidelines have been adopted by the Department of Modern Languages and Cultural Studies:

**“MLCS Undergraduate Grading Scale”**

Descriptor	Letter Grade	Grade Point Value	%
<b>Excellent.</b> A+, A or A- is earned by work which is superior in content and form and demonstrates an exceptional grasp of the subject matter. The grade of A+ designates work that far exceeds course expectations. Grades in the A range are normally achieved by a small number of students.	<b>A+</b>	4.0	<b>97-100</b>
	<b>A</b>	4.0	<b>93-96</b>
	<b>A-</b>	3.7	<b>90-92</b>
<b>Good.</b> B+, B or B- is earned by work that demonstrates a thorough comprehension of the course material and a good command of relevant skills. Grades in the B range are normally achieved by the largest number of students.	<b>B+</b>	3.3	<b>87-89</b>
	<b>B</b>	3.0	<b>83-86</b>
	<b>B-</b>	2.7	<b>80-82</b>
<b>Satisfactory.</b> C+, C or C- is earned by work that demonstrates an adequate grasp of the course material and relevant skills. Grades in the C range designate work that has met the basic requirements of the course.	<b>C+</b>	2.3	<b>77-79</b>
	<b>C</b>	2.0	<b>73-76</b>
	<b>C-</b>	1.7	<b>70-72</b>
<b>Poor/Minimal Pass.</b> D+ or D is earned by work that demonstrates minimal familiarity with the course material. Grades in the D range generally indicate insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the subject matter.	<b>D+</b>	1.3	<b>65-69</b>
	<b>D</b>	1.0	<b>60-64</b>
<b>Failure.</b>	<b>F</b>	0.0	<b>0-59</b>

**Note :** It is our opinion that if a student does not receive a minimum of B- in this course, they should strongly consider improving their language skills (i.e. : tutoring, conversation groups, exchange programs, volunteering, J’Explore [www.jexplore.ca](http://www.jexplore.ca), etc.) before continuing to the next level of our language program.

**Language of Instruction and Communication:**

The language of instruction in the classroom is French. However, students should be aware that it is perfectly normal not to understand everything at once and they are not expected to: they should tell their teacher when they feel lost and s/he will find another way of explaining. It is expected that **most** communication be carried out in the target language. This pertains to daily class time conversation with fellow students and instructor.