

UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA
DEPARTMENT OF MODERN LANGUAGES AND CULTURAL STUDIES
www.uab.ca/mlcs

2020-2021 *FREN 111: Beginners' French I*
Fall 2020
September 1 – December 7

Note: Remote Delivery

Section: _____
Place (remote) and Time: _____

Instructor	Acting Coordinator
Name:	<i>Mathieu Martin-LeBlanc</i>
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Office Hours:	<i>by appointment</i>

Bachelor of Arts / Major in Modern Languages and Cultural Studies:
<https://www.ualberta.ca/modern-languages-and-cultural-studies/undergraduate-program-information/prospective-undergraduate-students>

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.

Technology requirements (minimum):

It is your responsibility as a student to ensure that you have the appropriate technology for the course. Please review the university's requirements for remote learning: <https://www.ualberta.ca/information-services-and-technology/services/software-hardware-vendors/technology-requirements.html>
In order to participate synchronously in FREN 111 this fall, you need a computer or laptop with video conferencing capabilities (built-in or otherwise), and a very dependable Internet connection.

Experiential Learning Component

- this course has a significant experiential learning component (15% or more of the course grade)

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

- Yes No, not needed, no such projects approved

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*”
- NA

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.

Course Format: The objectives of this course will be learned from a combination of formal lectures, assigned readings and audiovisual materials.

Required Text:

- ***Nouveau Rond-Point 1***. Éditions Maison des langues. **Digital version** (Chapters 1 to 6 will be covered, and the same book is used in FREN 112.)

Note:

- For **digital access, student will have to create a free online account at <https://espacevirtuel.emdl.fr/register> and then upgrade to a premium account.**
- You will have the option to purchase an annual subscription or a one-semester (6 months) subscription (see additional information on eClass).
- The premium account will give you access to the e-text and all audio/video component that accompany the book.
- Both books (student book & workbook) and access codes are also sold at the UofA bookstore.

Optional Texts:

- **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 1, 2020

Add/Delete Date: September 15, 2020

50% Withdrawal Date: October 2, 2020

Fall Term Reading Week: November 9-13, 2020

Withdrawal Date: November 30, 2020

Last Day of Class: December 7, 2020

Final Exam Date: December 10, 2020

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.

For information on how to apply for a missed exam see [“I Missed my Final Exam, Now What?”](#)

Grade Distribution (see ‘Explanatory Notes’):

1. Participation and attendance	10%
Online quizzes (weekly)	15%
Projects (Sept. 15 & 17, 3%; Oct. 13 & 15, 4%; Nov. 17 & 19, 4%)	11%
Unit tests (Sept. 22, 7%; Oct. 20, 8%; Nov. 24, 9%)	24%
Oral mid-session evaluation (Oct. 20 & 22)	5%
Final oral exam (December 1 & 3)	15%
Final written exam (2 hours; December 10, 2:00pm)	20%
2. Participation and attendance	10%
Online quizzes (weekly)	15%
Projects (Sept. 15 & 17, 3%; Oct. 13 & 15, 4%; Nov. 17 & 19, 4%)	11%
Unit tests (Sept. 22, 7%; Oct. 20, 8%; Nov. 24, 9%)	24%
Oral mid-session evaluation (Oct. 20 & 22)	10%
Final oral exam (December 1 & 3)	20%
Final written exam (2 hours; December 10, 2:00pm)	20%

Explanatory Notes:

Importance of Self-Study: Self-study is important in any University course but particularly so in an 100% online learning environment. In this course, your progress with the self-study portion is directly evaluated through quizzes, assignments, participation and any other form of assessment. The synchronous sessions with the instructor are meant to reinforce what is learned through self-study; not substitute it.

Participation and attendance: Attendance and participation will be assessed based on the use of French during activities, preparedness, and active participation during video conferencing sessions. The marking rubrics for participation will be provided electronically. The instructor expects students to have read and completed the relevant self-study materials before coming to class.

Active participation is crucial for learning a language. This is true whether we meet in a physical classroom or remotely. However, we recognize that you live and study in very different environments. [This is why you have the choice between two evaluation options.](#)

- 1. You have the ability and are willing to meet synchronously with a microphone and a camera turned on for each class.** Your attendance and remote participation in activities during our Zoom meetings will be evaluated. In-class participation includes not only evidence of individual preparation and attention, but also contributing to group work. You are expected to attend class regularly and punctually. If you must miss a class, contact another student (or the

instructor) to find out what you missed. It is your responsibility to make up work and learn the material for classes you missed. For more detail, please consult the section Attendance, Absences, and Missed Grade below.

- 2. You are not able to meet synchronously with a microphone and a camera turned on for each class.** Your attendance and participation will not be evaluated. However, you will be required to do the same written activities and to take the same oral exams. The 10% weight of participation and attendance will be moved to mid-term oral and final oral exams.

It is the student's responsibility to communicate clearly and in writing to their instructor if they wish to choose the 2nd grade distribution option within the first week of class. Once they make this decision, it cannot be changed at a later point in the semester.

Note: If persistent technological problems with internet connections arise during the term, the instructor may decide (in consultation with the coordinator) that all students will be evaluated without the participation component. Thus, students will not have to turn their camera on at all times. However, students will still need to have their camera on during the oral exams.

Assignments and Projects: These may include but are not limited to online activities, textbook assignments, workbook assignments, general homework, writing assignments, grammar and vocabulary practice exercises, forum contributions, group projects 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.

Oral examination: The oral exams may be in the format of video, 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. The student's video and microphone will be required to be turned on for both grade distribution options.

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 2020-2021 Academic year can be found at the following site:
<https://www.ualberta.ca/registrar/examinations/exam-schedules/fall-2020-winter-2021-exam-planner.html?>

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 and Translation 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](#).

Sexual Violence Policy:

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.” (*from the beginning of the Calendar*).

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 10% participation and attendance 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	%
Excellent. 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.	A+	4.0	97-100
	A	4.0	93-96
	A-	3.7	90-92
Good. 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+	3.3	87-89
	B	3.0	83-86
	B-	2.7	80-82
Satisfactory. 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.	C+	2.3	77-79
	C	2.0	73-76
	C-	1.7	70-72
Poor/Minimal Pass. 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.	D+	1.3	65-69
	D	1.0	60-64
Failure.	F	0.0	0-59

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, 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.

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