

CROSS-LISTED COURSE. MAY BE TAKEN AS POLITICAL SCIENCE OR FRENCH:

French 383/Political Science 383, “French Language News”

THIS COURSE MAY BE REPEATED

CLASS:	PROFESSOR: Dr. Michael Morris
French Language News	Office: Brackett Hall 232
Political Science 383, Section 1	Office Hours: Mon: 3:30-5:00 pm;
French 383, Section 1	TU: 1:30-5:00 pm; WED: 3:30-5:00 pm
TU, 12:30 AM-1:20 PM	FRI: 3:30-5:00 pm. Other times by appointment.
Classroom: 235 Brackett	Office phone (direct): 656-3545
Fall semester 2009	Office phone (secretary for messages): 656-3233
	e-mail: morrism@clemson.edu

COURSE SYLLABUS

I. Cross listing of course:

Course materials and class discussions will all be in French. The course is listed in the catalogue as Political Science 383, Section 1 (one credit) as well as French 383, Section 1 (one credit), and may be taken either as a Political Science course or as a French course.

II. Course incentives

While this is only a one-credit course, the course materials and class discussions are all in French. So this is a good way to build on your existing level of French without having to take a full-blown three-hour course. In particular, the grade will be based on class participation plus out-of-class assignments with no exams given (no mid-term and no final).

The course focuses on analysis of current news, which can help position you well for any other Political Science (or Social Sciences) courses you may take. Exposure to foreign language news is also a good way to appreciate differences in cultures, which should be valuable for other courses including those in French.

The course may be taken to satisfy either Humanities or Social Science requirements. Taken as a French course it qualifies for a Humanities requirement, while taken as Political Science it qualifies as a Social Sciences requirement. This one-hour course will be given every semester and MAY BE TAKEN REPEATEDLY. FOR EXAMPLE, IF TAKEN THREE

TIMES, THIS WOULD COUNT AS A REGULAR THREE HOUR CREDIT COURSE. This would satisfy a three hour Humanities or Social Sciences requirement or part of each if the student desires to split the credits by taking the course on alternative occasions as either Political Science and Spanish.

No purchase of any materials is required. As indicated in the other class handout, Class Participation, you will need to access French-language materials on the internet.

III. Course incentives for French 202 students

It is expected that a number of students will take this one-credit course who have only completed French 202 while others will have studied the language more than this. This need not handicap either group of students. The grading method (see below) stresses class participation and a journal (see separate Class Participation handout). This allows students to be assessed in terms of materials they choose and assemble in consultation with the instructor depending on their language level. Moreover, class participation in French by intermediate level language students is gradually phased into the course, while more advanced students begin immediately with class participation exercises in French. **STUDENTS' GRADES WILL NOT BE DETERMINED ON THE BASIS OF THE LEVEL OF THEIR FRENCH IN COMPARISON TO OTHER STUDENTS. THE KEY CRITERION IS HOW WELL STUDENTS COMPLETE ASSIGNMENTS GEARED TO THEIR INDIVIDUAL LANGUAGE LEVELS.** Since intermediate level students will be phased into French-language assignments, their language capabilities should suffice for what is required and should not constitute a handicap.

This course, especially if repeated, can be a way to build a credible record of a vital marketable skill -- competency in French -without having to take the additional step of fulfilling requirements for a French minor or major. Those who do choose to add a specialization in French can also add credibility to their linguistic background by having taken a cross-disciplinary course in French.

IV. Basic course materials:

Without charge, the class may rely on:

(1) T'V videotapes of news in French. See: broadband-television.com

Euronews.net

<http://mediahopper.com/portal.htm>

(2) Tapes of radio broadcasts in French.

(3) Films about topics of contemporary relevance.

(4) Articles from the French-language press accessed from the world-wide web. For example, the instructor has a list of French-language newspapers available on the internet. Similarly, the governments of France as well as other French-speaking countries have good web

sites, which include speeches and documents mostly in French but also some in English translation. For radio news on the internet, consult BROADCAST.COM

V. Supplementary materials

It is strongly recommended that students either have access to a good French-English dictionary or otherwise purchase one. Also try and go regularly to the French Club of Clemson University. Some audiovisual materials used in the course can be accessed by students in the Language Lab (Daniel Hall) for additional practice.

VI. Examinations and Grading

(1) 20% of total course grade for class exercises and participation. This includes reports, exercises and responses in class as well as general class participation. This portion of the course will lead to many separate grades for class activities. The instructor will determine an overall trend of these separate grades. The instructor will rely on his discretion regarding overall class participation performance when an overall trend is not easily identifiable. Students are invited to consult with the instructor to determine class participation grades at that point.

(2) 80% of total course grade for class journal. SEE SEPARATE CLASS PARTICIPATION HAND-OUT FOR DETAILS ABOUT CLASS PARTICIPATION ACTIVITIES AND THE JOURNAL.

CLASS ATTENDANCE: A tardiness or early departure may count as an absence. There is a 15-minute waiting period in the event the instructor is late for class. More than 2 (two) unexcused absences may significantly lower the overall course grade at the discretion of the instructor. Since the class only meets once a week, all students are expected to provide a valid excuse whenever a class session will be missed. Excuses for absences must be approved by the instructor in advance of the class to be missed.

VII. Course objectives: To provide an introduction to the contemporary reality of the French-speaking world through analysis of "authentic" materials (in the original French language version). An interdisciplinary approach emphasizes the humanities (i.e., the historical and cultural legacy of French-speaking countries) as well as social sciences (i.e., contemporary social problems and strengths of French-speaking countries). Reading comprehension and materials emphasizing speaking proficiency will be stressed. Grammar will NOT be emphasized.

VIII. Office Hours. My office is in Brackett Hall 232 and office hours and phone are listed above. Always schedule an appointment in advance, so that no other student overlaps your

assigned time. If you call and I am not in the office, let the phone continue ringing and you can leave a message with the secretary.

IX. Purpose of Assigned Materials. Three different and complementary kinds of materials may be used. (1) Newspaper articles from a selected French-speaking country accessed through the world-wide web help create general cross-cultural awareness as well as appreciation of the specific context of a foreign country. (2) French-language radio broadcasts are very good for language-learning and understanding of current issues. (3) TV videos of current news in French with visual images provide a francophone view as well as oral practice.

DAILY SCHEDULE

Preparation of assignments for the days indicated is strongly recommended. This should facilitate the language-learning process as well as boost performance in the class participation and journal portions of the class grade.

Tuesday, August 25, 2009

Get copy of Class Syllabus and Class Participation handout. Elaborate on class handouts relating to methods and rationale for analyzing contemporary news. Indicate format for class exercises and class journal.

Write and hand in a self-description of your previous background in French. Include how many and which French courses you have taken as well as any residence/study in French-speaking countries.

ALL STUDENTS SHOULD CHOOSE A FRANCOPHONE COUNTRY TO TRACK DURING THE SEMESTER. Compile a list of student choices of francophone countries.

Assign reports to selected students on French-language newspaper articles for subsequent class sessions about their specified countries.

Listen to French-language news on the internet. ASSIGN a student to report next week on the lead story of broadband-television.com (also EURONEWS.NET)

FOR NEXT WEEK: ALL STUDENTS SHOULD HAND IN ONE JOURNAL ENTRY DEALING WITH A FRENCH-LANGUAGE NEWS ARTICLE ON THEIR SELECTED COUNTRY (FOR MORE DETAILS SEE IMMEDIATELY BELOW FOR SEPT. 4 ENTRY).

Tuesday, September 1

TV presentations and discussion of French-language news. Report by student on lead story of the day.

Student reports on French-language newspaper articles from selected countries.

INDIVIDUAL CONSULTATION WITH STUDENTS WHO HAVE ONLY TAKEN FRENCH 202 TO DETERMINE WHEN THEY WILL BEGIN TO MOVE FROM SHORT TO LONGER FRENCH-LANGUAGE ARTICLES ON THE INTERNET INCLUDING INCREASE RELIANCE ON A NEWSPAPER FROM A FRENCH-SPEAKING COUNTRY ACCESSIBLE ON THE INTERNET.

ALL STUDENTS SHOULD HAND IN ONE JOURNAL ENTRY DEALING WITH A FRENCH-LANGUAGE NEWS ARTICLE ON THEIR SELECTED COUNTRY. INTERMEDIATE LEVEL STUDENTS MAY DO THEIR COMMENTARY OF THE FRENCH-LANGUAGE ARTICLE IN ENGLISH AND MORE ADVANCED ONES SHOULD DO THIS IN FRENCH. THIS INITIAL JOURNAL ENTRY WILL NOT BE GRADED, BUT RATHER ASSESSED TO VERIFY THAT THE FORMAT AND ANALYSIS ARE ON TARGET. IF NOT, CORRECTIONS SHOULD BE MADE AT THIS POINT. (See Class Participation handout for specified format for journal entries.)

Continue elaboration from last class relating to class handouts on methods and rationale for analyzing contemporary news.

Tuesday, September 8

TV presentations and discussion of French-language news. Report by student on lead story of the day.

Intermediate level French students (generally those having completed only French 202) should begin phasing journal entries from English toward French. CONSULT INDIVIDUALLY WITH INSTRUCTOR TO DETERMINE HOW RAPIDLY AND QUICKLY THIS TRANSITION WILL BE DONE AND ALSO WHEN A SAMPLE FRENCH-LANGUAGE JOURNAL ENTRY WILL BE HANDED IN FOR INSPECTION (BUT NOT FOR GRADING).

Student discussions on French-language newspaper articles on selected countries.

Begin discussion of first category of contemporary news articles: (1) military-strategic issues

HAND IN SECOND SAMPLE ENTRY FROM JOURNAL. Procedure same as that indicated in above description.

Tuesday, September 15

Student reports on French language newspaper articles on selected countries. TV presentations and discussion of French language news. Report by student on lead story of the day.

Continue discussion of first category of contemporary news articles: (1) military strategic issues

Tuesday, September 22

Student reports on French language newspaper articles on selected countries.

TV presentations and discussion of French language news. Student report on lead story of the day.

Begin discussion of second category of contemporary news articles: (2) economic issues

Tuesday, September 29

Student reports on French language newspaper articles on selected countries. TV presentations and discussion of French-language news. Student report on lead article of the day.

Continue discussion of second category of contemporary news articles: (2) economic issues

HAND IN YOUR ENTIRE JOURNAL FOR COMMENTS AND MID-TERM GRADE

Tuesday, October 6

Student reports on French language newspaper articles on selected countries

TV presentations and discussion of French language news. Student report on lead article of the day.

Begin discussion of third category of contemporary news articles: (3) socio-cultural issues.

COMMENT ON MID-TERM JOURNALS

Tuesday, October 13 NO CLASS/FALL BREAK

Tuesday, October 20

Continue discussion of third category of contemporary news articles (3) socio-cultural issues

Continue with same assignments as last week

Tuesday, October 27

Student reports on French language newspaper articles on selected countries.

TV presentations and discussion of French-language news. Student report on lead article of the day.

Begin discussion of fourth category of contemporary news articles: (4) political issues

Tuesday, November 3

Student reports on French-language newspaper articles from selected country (FOCUS ON TOP *FOREIGN POLICY* ISSUE OF SELECTED COUNTRY AND JUSTIFICATION FOR THIS).

Continue discussion of fourth category of contemporary news articles: (4) political issues

TV presentations and discussion of French-language news. Student report on lead article of the day.

Tuesday, November 10

Student reports on French language newspaper articles on selected countries.

TV presentations and discussion of French language news. Student report on lead article of the day.

Student reports on French-language newspaper articles from selected country (FOCUS ON TOP *FOREIGN POLICY* ISSUE OF SELECTED COUNTRY AND JUSTIFICATION FOR THIS).

Begin discussion of fifth category of contemporary news articles: (5) environmental issues and development

Tuesday, November 17

Finish student reports on French-language newspaper articles on selected countries (FOCUS ON TOP *FOREIGN POLICY* ISSUE OF SELECTED COUNTRY AND JUSTIFICATION FOR THIS).

Start student reports on French-language newspaper articles on selected countries (FOCUS ON TOP *DOMESTIC* ISSUE OF SELECTED COUNTRY AND JUSTIFICATION FOR THIS).

TV presentations and discussion of French-language news. Student report on lead article of the day.

Finish discussion of fifth category of contemporary news articles: (5) environmental issues and development

Tuesday, November 24 and Tuesday December 1

Finish student reports on French-language newspaper articles from selected country (FOCUS ON TOP *DOMESTIC* ISSUE OF SELECTED COUNTRY AND JUSTIFICATION FOR THIS).

TV presentations and discussion of French-language news. Student report on lead article of the day.

Have wrap-up discussion about the five categories of contemporary news articles. This includes overlaps between the five categories, interpretations regarding their relative priority, how the historical legacy in each area affects contemporary issues, etc.

Review requirements for final journal *including a section on conclusions* (see Class Participation handout for details).

FINAL EXAM: **hand in your journals by last day of class of spring semester (Friday, December 4).** Leave your journals in mailbox of Michael Morris in the Department of Political Science, Brackett Hall 232 (to the right of my name). Make sure and keep a copy of your journal and also send me an ELECTRONIC COPY.

ACCESSING FINAL COURSE GRADE Once the instructor enters the grades on-line, students can immediately learn their grades using their computer user ID and password and a touch-tone telephone (864) 656-2255, PC connected to the mainframe computer, or ClemWeb [<http://www.clemson.edu/clemweb/>]

N.B. The professor reserves the right to make changes in the course.