

DEPARTMENT OF FRENCH & ITALIAN



Beginner's French I FRE 101

Fall
2020-2021
Courses

M T W Th F
9:00 am – 9:50 am
10:00 am – 10:50 am
11:00 am – 11:50 am
12:30 pm – 1:20 pm

Instructor:

Johnny Laforêt, Course Head
Office: 313 EP
Email: jlaforet@princeton.edu

This course helps students develop the basic structures and vocabulary necessary to understand, speak, write, and read in French. Classroom activities promote communication and cultural skills through comprehension and grammar exercises, skits, conversation, and the use of a variety of audiovisual materials.

Workload: Approximately one module per week, including practice with workbook, written exercises, brief reading assignments and role plays. Skits preparation in groups of two in lieu of midterm. Three exams, weekly written assignments, periodic quizzes, final oral presentation.

Required textbook:

Textbook: Motifs! An Introduction to French. Kimberly Jansma and Margaret Ann Kassen. 6th edition. Thomson and Heinle, 2011. Purchase the ebook available at <https://www.cengage.com/c/motifs-enhanced-an-introduction-to-french-enhanced-6e-jansma/9781305257016PF/?searchIsbn=9781305897212> and other online retailers.

The textbook is used in both FRE 101 and FRE 102 - Premium website 2-semester printed access card - Course packet - available online.

Grading:

Attendance, Participation, Homework	20%
Exams (3)	30%
Midterm Oral	15%
Compositions	25%
Final Presentation	10%

Culture

In addition to the teaching of basic structures and vocabulary necessary to effectively communicate in the language, the cultural component of the language plays a fundamental role in the course. As a result, FRE 101 students are exposed to a variety of French and francophone movies and short videos, authentic texts including songs, newspaper articles, radio and TV shows, elements of history, geography and society. French and the francophone world cuisines are also covered during the semester.

Testimonials

“Readings helped my comprehension immensely and allowed us to use our language ability in real world scenarios.”

“I think the readings added some fun to the class, especially the movies, while also helping my French.”

“This class was phenomenal.”

“If you're interested in getting an introduction to French this course is perfect – by the end you'll be able to talk about a variety of topics and form sentences about the present/future/past.”

“Good combination of readings/visuals.”

“The quality of the class is great...”

“Very high quality classes. Kept us engaged with useful language and plenty of practice opportunities.”

“Engaging and improved my French skills quickly”

“Very well taught”

“I understood all the basics to French”

“Classes were great for practicing speaking and listening comprehension. Student participation was strongly encouraged. Student questions were addressed fully.”

“I loved the emphasis on speaking with a partner and practicing getting comfortable with the language. I liked the frequent introduction of French idioms as they added to my education on the culture of the language. I also thoroughly enjoyed the emphasis on pronunciation, as this is an aspect I have struggled with in the past.”