Course Title: French Conversation and Culture  
Course Code: FRN 04  
Instructor: Maria Teodora Comsa

Course Summary and Objectives:
French Conversation and Culture aims to refine the skills learned during the first year of language study and to develop fluency and confidence in speaking at the intermediate level. The focus will be on developing oral proficiency and listening comprehension while reinforcing the mastery of basic grammatical forms and structures. Special emphasis will be placed on vocabulary building and on producing longer and more complex sentences. Using films and songs as content, we will discuss family and friends, work and leisure activities, living arrangements, and personal interests and aspirations. Students will discover and explore recent as well as classical cultural productions of the Francophone world and will focus on discussing them with greater sophistication and accuracy.

The course will target a variety of communicative strategies, including the ability to:

- ask various types of questions
- negotiate simple social situations (making appointments, ordering food, etc.)
- describe people, events, and cultural productions (art, cuisine, traditions, etc.) in detail
- recount a memorable event
- describe past experiences
- discuss future plans and aspirations

Class Structure and Requirements:
Class Format
A great part of the class time will be spent on interactive activities, practicing key structures and vocabulary that will be introduced through authentic materials (videos, music, written texts). Students will work with a partner or in groups to practice the functions and vocabulary. Part of the class activities and discussions will be based on three films that students will watch at home, before class. In addition, songs will be presented each class and will provide more content to discuss. Films and songs are a wonderful way to listen to the language and to develop aural comprehension because they help build vocabulary, reinforce grammatical structures, and present authentic cultural content.

Students are encouraged to watch more films than the few that we will discuss in class. The
instructor will provide a variety of online resources that students can use to practice outside of class.

**Requirements**

Class attendance is essential to developing linguistic proficiency. In class students hear spoken French geared to their level and practice speaking and using the targeted functions. This interaction with others in the language is key to developing communicative skills in French.

**Class assignments and quizzes:** I will assign a manageable amount of homework to be completed before class meetings. This will include vocabulary and grammar exercises and the viewing of films for class discussions and activities. There will be at least three in class or take-home quizzes to check progress in the class.

**Class preparation:** We will work with a vocabulary book and various instructor-provided worksheets. You should read these materials ahead of class as assigned.

**Grade Options and Requirements:**

- **Letter Grade (A, B, C, D, No Pass)**
  - All assignments will be graded on a completed / not completed basis
    - Attendance and Participation 40%
    - Average of quizzes 20%
    - Homework and preparation 40%

- **Credit/No Credit (CR/NC)**
  - A passing grade (for "Credit") = at least 70% of expectations accomplished

- **No Grade Requested (NGR)**
  - This is the default option. No credit shall be received; no proof of attendance can be provided.

*Please Note: If you require proof that you completed a Continuing Studies course for any reason (for example, employer reimbursement), you must choose either the Letter Grade or Credit/No Credit option. Courses taken for NGR will not appear on official transcripts or grade reports.*

**Tentative Weekly Outline:**

**Week 1**
Introductions and presentation of the class
Activities introducing Film 1 / *La famille* - talking about family

**Week 2**
Film 1 - various activities on:
  - Asking questions
  - Talking about the daily routine (*verbes pronominaux*)

Les activités quotidiennes

Please contact the Stanford Continuing Studies office with any questions
365 Lasuen St. Stanford, CA 94305
continuingstudies@stanford.edu
650-725-2650
Week 3
Film 1 - activities on:
   Talking about a past event (*le passé composé*)
*Les loisirs*
Introduction to Film 2

Week 4
Film 2 - activities on:
   Talking about past habits or memories (*l'imparfait*)
*La description physique*

Week 5
Film 2
Describing in detail (present and past tense)
*Le logement; La maison*

Week 6
Film 2
   Discussing the future (*le futur*)
*Faire les courses*

Week 7
Film 3
   Negotiating simple situations
*Produits alimentaires*

Week 8
Film 3
   Discussing food
*Les produits alimentaires*

Week 9
Film 3
   Review of past tenses
*La cuisine; les repas*

Week 10
Final review