Course Title: Introductory French  
Course Code: FRN 01  
Instructor: Heather Howard

Course Summary:  
_Bienvenue au cours de Français 1!_  
*Please see course page for full description and additional details.*

I. THE APPROACH TO LANGUAGE LEARNING USED HERE AT STANFORD CONTINUING STUDIES:

The program at Stanford Continuing Studies seeks to help language learners develop the ability to communicate and interact in French. Communication and interaction, of course, involve two important processes: the ability to produce language _to say what you mean_ and the ability _to understand language when others speak to you_. This is achieved through the memorization and repetition of key vocabulary, immersion in the target language through an exposure of a wide variety of oral and visual aids (images, video clips, music, and written texts), and continuous interaction with your instructor and classmates.

This program will seek to develop your ability to carry out a number of functions in French, while also providing the opportunity to understand what others say in French. Introductory French will target a variety of communicative strategies such as:

- Greeting people and introducing oneself in a variety of settings
- Understanding and making typical classroom requests; identifying classroom objects
- Asking for and giving basic personal information (personality, age, physical description, clothing, and colors)
- Discussing favorite activities, sports, hobbies, and preferences
- Describing a university and a campus, fields of study, and preferred courses
- Expressing family relationships; talking about where people are from.

The focus in class will be on developing oral proficiency and aural comprehension, while also reinforcing the "backbone" of the language—form and structure. Students are encouraged to study key grammatical rules outside of class to better prepare for class participation.
II. CLASS STRUCTURE AND OBJECTIVES:

A. Class format:

Typically, you will spend about one quarter of class time listening to spoken French. As your instructor, I will be your first contact with the language. You will learn through repetition, association with images, intonation, body language, and other cues. In addition, we will supplement the text with a variety of audio and visual materials such as: songs, video clips, maps, and other realia. All materials used in these presentations will be directly related to the topics covered in the text. You will be amazed how quickly you will begin to understand what you are hearing!

The class will also have a strong interactive component, as you will be learning and practicing key phrases that you can use to communicate with others in a variety of social settings, both interpersonal and more formal. Typically, you will work with partners or in groups to practice vocabulary and structures.

I encourage you to also take the time outside of class to practice vocabulary, review new structures, and avail yourselves of the resources that accompany the text. In addition, I will provide you with a variety of Internet sources to supplement the text.

B. Requirements:

**Class attendance:**
Class attendance is essential to develop proficiency in the language. Hearing spoken French geared to your level of acquisition in class will help you develop the skills needed to comprehend oral French. Interacting with others in the language will enable you to develop beginning communicative strategies in French.

**Self-study and preparation:**
The text is designed to present the grammar separately. (See the green pages in each chapter labeled “Structures utiles.”) You should read ahead and study these pages before the next class session (see Chapter Schedules below). We will do some of the written exercises together in class and others will be assigned in class. I will provide the answer key for these exercises.

**Quizzes and class assignments:**
There will be take-home (email quizzes) that will focus on assessing your learning of key phrases, vocabulary, and structures. In addition, there will be “mini-contrôles” in class to test your comprehension and allow you to self-correct with a partner. I will also assign homework to be turned in the following week.
C. Grade Options and Requirements:

If you choose to take the course for a grade or CR/NC, I will take into account the following factors:

- class attendance and participation: 40%
- average of quizzes: 40%
- any additional class preparation or homework: 20%

D. Tentative Weekly Outline:

**Week 1:** How to introduce oneself and exchange basic information: greetings (familiar vs. formal). The alphabet and numbers from 0 to 60. Review of greetings. Identifying people and classroom objects.

**Week 2:** The verb "être" and basic descriptions. Classroom expressions. Physical descriptions and describing one’s personality. Clothing and colors.

**Week 3:** Saying what you like to do: preference verbs. Describing one’s preferred activities in the present tense (-er verbs). Expressing preferences (adverbs, negation). Discussing one’s favorite pastimes (compared with the French). Describing what one does on the weekend. Describing a university campus (places on campus).

**Week 4:** The Sorbonne, a French university. Describing what you study (used to study) and preferred subjects. Calendar: days of the week, months, and seasons. Expressing age, hair color, eye color (the verb *avoir*).

**Week 5:** Talking about one's family and family relationships. Reading about the French family. Learning personal adjectives to describe personality. Furniture and the location of objects in a room (prepositions of place).