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 in class to 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 will be discussed 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 target language is key to developing communicative skills in French.

*Class assignments and quizzes*: a manageable amount of homework will be assigned before each class meeting. This will include vocabulary and grammar exercises and the viewing of films for class discussions and activities. There will be at least three take-home (most likely online) 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.

**Textbook and Class Materials**

- *Vocabulaire Progressif du Français*, Niveau débutant, 2e edition, by Claire Miquel
- Canvas site for the course available at [https://web.stanford.edu/group/canvas/discovery/](https://web.stanford.edu/group/canvas/discovery/)
  All additional course materials will be posted on this site every week.
- *Three films* in French (with English subtitles): titles will be announced in class and on Canvas. Students should be able to find the films either on Netflix or via another video streaming service. In order to ensure the films are available for streaming, the titles will be announced shortly before the start of the course. Please check the Announcements section on Canvas for updates!

**Grade Options and Requirements:**

- **No Grade Requested (NGR)**
  - This is the default option. No credit shall be received; no proof of attendance can be provided.
- **Letter Grade (A, B, C, D, No Pass)**
  - *All assignments will be graded on a completed / not completed basis*
    - Attendance and Participation 40%
    - Quizzes 20%
    - Homework and preparation 40%
- **Credit/No Credit (CR/NC)**
  - A passing grade (for "Credit") = at least 70% of expectations accomplished

*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.

Please contact the Stanford Continuing Studies office with any questions
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continuingstudies@stanford.edu
650-725-2650
Tentative Weekly Outline of Activities:

Week 1
Introductions and presentation of the class
Activities introducing Film 1
Chapitre 2: La famille – talking about family

Week 2
Film 1 – various activities on:
Asking questions
Talking about the daily routine (verbes pronominaux)
*Chapitre 11: Les activités quotidiennes*

Week 3
Film 1 – activities on:
Talking about a past event (le passé composé)
*Chapitre 27: Les loisirs*
Introduction to Film 2

Week 4
Film 2 – activities on:
Talking about past habits or memories (l'imparfait)
*Chapitre 8: La description physique*

Week 5
Film 2
Describing in detail (present and past tense)
*Chapitre 10: Le logement; La maison*

Week 6
Film 2
Discussing the future (le futur)
*Chapitre 12: Produits alimentaires*

Week 7
Film 3
Negotiating simple situations
*Chapitre 13: Faire les courses*
Week 8
Film 3
Discussing food
Chapitre 14: La cuisine – les repas

Week 9
Film 3
Review of past tenses and vocabulary

Week 10
Final review