Stanford Continuing Studies: Beginning French III

Instructor: Heather Howard
Wednesdays, 7:00-8:50 PM

Bienvenue au cours de Français 3. Please read the course description carefully. It will provide important information about the French Program at Stanford Continuing Studies and the course you have enrolled in. Please note that this course is a continuation of French II (offered in the Winter of 2017) and begins in Chapter 5-6 of Motifs.

I. APPROACH TO LANGUAGE LEARNING:

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. French III will target a variety of communication strategies such as:

• Talking about what you want to, can do and have to do
• Issuing, accepting and refusing an invitation
• Ordering food or drinks
• Describing and asking about the weather
• Speaking about past events
• Using past expressions to narrate a trip
• Discussing ways one accesses current events
• Describing food groups: likes and dislikes
• Learning how to purchase certain quantities of foodstuffs

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 regalia. 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 grammatical structures through context ("Observez et déduisez") and work on listening activities (L'Ecoute) as well as phonetics. We will not have time to cover all of these exercises in class, so I encourage you to use the free audio files on the book web site to get extra practice in comprehension and pronunciation.

**Quizzes and class assignments:**
There will be take-home e-mail 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 regularly assign homework to be turned in the following week.

C. Grades:
If you choose to take the course for a Letter Grade or CR/NC, I will take into account the following factors:

- class attendance and participation: 20%
- oral reports 10%
- on-line activities 10%
- average of quizzes: 40%
- any additional class preparation or homework: 20%

*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.*

D. Quarter Plan

- **Week 1:** Talking about past events and travel: how to narrate a story.
- **Week 2:** How do you stay informed? Media and news.
- **Week 3:** Starting to discuss food choices: likes and dislikes
- **Week 4:** Francophone food traditions, ordering in a restaurant, shopping expressions
- **Week 5:** Describing past events and childhood memories
- **Week 6:** Talking about past and present: comparing events and memories
- **Week 7:** Exploring Francophone countries (geography), negotiating public transportation
- **Week 8:** Talking about vacation activities, how to organize a trip
- **Week 9:** Daily routine and home-life, present and past
- **Week 10:** Review and discussion