

UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA
DEPARTMENT OF MODERN LANGUAGES AND CULTURAL STUDIES
www.mlcs.ca

FREN 372: FRENCH PHONETICS
Fall 2009

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Time: TR 9:30 – 10:50
Place: CEB 436
Office Hours: T 14.00 – 15.30
R 11.00 – 12.30
Or by appointment

Course Prerequisite

FREN 298 or consent of the department.

Website for the course: This course will be using *eClass* at <https://vista4.srv.ualberta.ca>.

- You will need your Campus Computing ID and password to access the course content.

Course-based Ethics Approval in place regarding all research projects that involve human testing, questionnaires, etc.?

Yes No, not needed, no such projects involved

Community Service Learning component

Required Optional None

Past or Representative Evaluative Course Material available

Exam registry – Students' Union:

http://www.su.ualberta.ca/services_and_businesses/services/infolink/exams

Course Description and Objectives:

This course provides an overview of the pronunciation of French. Students will familiarize themselves with the various sounds and patterns of French and be able to explain the mechanisms involved in the articulation of the French sound system. They will be able to transcribe oral texts using the International Phonetic Alphabet and to better perceive and produce French sounds, including the sounds specific to the French Canadian variety. From a comparative perspective, French vowels and consonants will be contrasted with those of English with the goal of enabling students to improve their pronunciation of French.

Required Text

Dansereau, Diane (2006). *Savoir dire*, 2e édition. Heinle Centage Learning.

Optionnel : CD audio qui accompagne *Savoir dire*, disponible à la librairie universitaire.

Grade Distribution (see “Explanatory Notes”):

| | |
|--|-----|
| Preparation and participation | 10% |
| Devoirs and baseline recording (2% each) | 10% |
| Quizzes (5% each) | 15% |
| Mid-term oral examination (Oct. 22) | 10% |
| Mid-term examination (Oct. 29) | 15% |
| Final oral examination (Dec. 1) | 15% |
| Final examination (Dec. 8) | 25% |

Required Notes:

“Policy about course outlines can be found in Section 23.4(2) of the University Calendar.” (GFC 29 SEP 2003). “The University of Alberta is committed to the highest standards of academic integrity and honesty. Students are expected to be familiar with these standards regarding academic honesty and to uphold the policies of the University in this respect. Students are particularly urged to familiarize themselves with the provisions of the Code of Student Behaviour (online at www.ualberta.ca/secretariat/appeals.htm) and avoid any behaviour which could potentially result in suspicions of cheating, plagiarism, misrepresentation of facts and/or participation in an offence. Academic dishonesty is a serious offence and can result in suspension or expulsion from the University.” (GFC 29 SEP 2003)



Plagiarism and Cheating:

All students should consult the “Truth-In-Education” handbook or Website (<http://www.uofaweb.ualberta.ca/TIE/>) regarding the definitions of **plagiarism** and its consequences when detected.

Students involved in language courses and translation courses should be aware that on-line “translation engines” produce very dubious and unreliable “translations.”

Students in languages courses should be aware that, while seeking the advice of native or expert speakers is often helpful, **excessive editorial and creative help** in assignments is considered a form of “cheating” that violates the code of student conduct with dire consequences. An instructor or coordinator who is convinced that a student has handed in work that he or she could not possibly reproduce without outside assistance is obliged, out of consideration of fairness to other students, to report the case to the Associate Dean of the Faculty. Before unpleasantness occurs consult <http://www.uofaweb.ualberta.ca/TIE/>; also discuss this matter with any tutor(s) and with your instructor.



Attendance, Absences, and Missed Grade Components:

Regular attendance is essential for optimal performance in an advanced undergraduate course. In cases of potentially excusable absences due to illness or domestic affliction, notify your instructor by e-mail within two days. Regarding absences that may be excusable and procedures for addressing course components missed as a result, consult sections 23.4.2 and 23.4.3 of the University Calendar. Be aware that unexcused absences will result in partial or total loss of the grade for the “attendance and participation” component(s) of the course, as well as for any assignments that are not handed-in or completed as a result.

In this course, attendance and participation will be assessed according to the participation grid and rubric given on the first day of class. Students are expected to read the materials assigned for the class prior to this class as this will greatly facilitate class discussions and understanding. Failure to do so will be taken into consideration when assigning participation marks.



Policy for Late Assignments:

Students who consult in advance with the instructor regarding contingencies preventing the timely completion of an assignment may, at the discretion of the instructor, be granted an extension. Otherwise, a 10%-per-class-day penalty will be assessed for each class day of lateness.

Grading:

Marks for assignments, tests, and exams are given in percentages, to which letter grades are also assigned, according to the table below (“**MLCS Undergraduate Grading Scale**”). The percentage mark resulting from the entire term work and examination then produces the final letter grade for the course.

MLCS Grading Scale:

| Letter | % | Pts | Descriptor |
|---------------|----------|------------|--|
| A+ | 95-100% | 4.0 | Outstanding: Superior performance showing understanding and knowledge of the subject matter far exceeding expectations. |
| A | 90-94% | 4.0 | Excellent: Superior performance showing comprehensive understanding of subject matter. |
| A- | 86-89% | 3.7 | Very good: Clearly above average performance with complete knowledge of subject matter. |
| B+ | 82-85% | 3.3 | Very good |
| B | 75-81% | 3.0 | Good: average performance with knowledge of subject matter generally complete. |
| B- | 70-74% | 2.7 | Good |
| C+ | 66-69% | 2.3 | Satisfactory: Basic understanding of the subject matter |
| C | 61-65% | 2.0 | Satisfactory |
| C- | 58-60% | 1.7 | Satisfactory |
| D+ | 55-57% | 1.3 | Minimal Pass: Marginal performance; generally insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the subject matter. |
| D | 50-54% | 1.0 | Minimal Pass: Marginal performance; generally insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the subject matter. |
| F | 0-49% | 0.0 | Fail: Unsatisfactory performance or failure to meet course requirements. |

Explanatory Notes:

Assignments and quizzes: Four “devoirs” and three quizzes will be given throughout the term. The “devoirs” will be collected and marked as indicated on the calendar, but minor assignments focusing on practical aspects of transcription and pronunciation will be required as well and counted as part of “preparation and participation.”

Mid-term and final examinations: Both will test knowledge of the theoretical and practical aspects of the materials covered. The final examination will cover the entire semester, but with greater emphasis on the materials learned in the second half.

Mid-term and final oral examinations: At the beginning of term, students will be asked to make a baseline recording (*enregistrement de base*) of their speech by reading short sentences and paragraph the best they can. This will serve as the baseline upon which they will be judged on how much they improved their pronunciation at the mid-term and final oral examinations. The examinations will also include a spontaneous speech sample.

Language of Instruction and Communication

The language of instruction for this course is French. It is expected that **all** communication be carried out in the target language, inside and outside the classroom. This pertains to daily class time conversation with fellow students, instructor, and email.

FRENCH 372 :

Calendrier provisoire

| Date | Lectures (à compléter AVANT chaque cours) | Devoirs / Évaluation |
|----------------------|--|---------------------------|
| 3 sept. | Introduction (syllabus et matériels) | --- |
| 8 sept. | Les organes de la parole (p. 2 ; notes de cours) | --- |
| 10 sept. | Les symboles et la transcription phonétiques (p. 3) | Enregistrement de base |
| 15 sept. | La joncture, l'enchaînement et l'accentuation (p. 20-30) | Devoir 1 |
| 17 sept. | L'intonation (p. 30-38) | --- |
| 22 sept. | La liaison (p. 38-53) | --- |
| 24 sept. | Les voyelles orales, 1 ^e série (p. 59-88) | Quiz 1 |
| 29 sept. | Les voyelles orales, 2 ^e série (p. 88-105) | --- |
| 1 ^{er} oct. | Les voyelles orales, 3 ^e série (p. 105-125) | Devoir 2 |
| 6 oct. | Les voyelles nasales (p. 130-155) | --- |
| 8 oct. | Le e muet (p. 164-184) | Quiz 2 |
| 20 oct. | Les semi-voyelles (p. 185-197) | --- |
| 22 oct. | --- | Examen oral de mi-session |
| 27 oct. | Révision pour le test de mi-session | --- |
| 29 oct. | --- | Examen de mi-session |
| 3 nov. | Introduction aux consonnes (p. 199-207) | --- |
| 5 nov. | Les occlusives (p. 208-215) | --- |
| 10 nov. | <i>Congé d'automne – pas de cours</i> | --- |
| 12 nov. | Les fricatives (p. 215-224) | Devoir 3 |
| 17 nov. | Les liquides (p. 224-230) | --- |
| 19 nov. | Les nasales et la lettre h (p. 230-233) | Quiz 3 |
| 24 nov. | Les consonnes finales (p. 233-241) | --- |
| 26 nov. | Révision | Devoir 4 |
| 1 ^{er} déc. | Révision | --- |
| 3 déc. | --- | Examen oral final |
| 8 déc. | --- | Examen final |

