

*Department of French & Italian Studies*

FRENCH 127

**Spring 2025**

Course title: FR127 Office hours: **MW: 9-10 am; TR: 3-4 pm & by appt.**

Semester: Spring 2025 Office: Lovejoy 312

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MESSAGE DE BIENVENUE

Welcome to French 127! This document contains important information about course materials, learning goals, class and college policies, assignments, classwork, exams, and grading procedures. It will be used during the entire semester. **Please read everything carefully. Create a bookmark to the course website, where you will find the syllabus and some online resources:**

[**http://personal.colby.edu/personal/a/ampaliye/FR127/index.html**](http://personal.colby.edu/personal/a/ampaliye/FR127/index.html)**.**

**FR127** is the final course in the required language sequence at Colby College (FR125-127). Since learning a language is closely tied to developing cultural awareness, we will use authentic texts in context to foster linguistic competence while highlighting the diverse cultures of the French and Francophone world. All four skills (reading, listening, speaking and writing) will be practiced and tested throughout the semester. Students are responsible for all assignments which must be prepared **before** every class session. This applies to the vocabulary, grammar, and readings in the book. The online homework via the Supersite Plus/WebSAM platform is to be completed throughout the week and due by Friday.

It may surprise you that the course will be conducted **entirely** in French. Learning another language with no reference to English is, I believe, the most meaningful, the most thorough, and the most enjoyable approach. I do not expect you to understand everything I say, especially at first, but try to focus on the general message rather than the individual words. Try, too, to be willing to make mistakes. You cannot learn a language without making mistakes, so please try to relax and concentrate on getting your message across. Use mistakes as an opportunity to learn! Just try to remember the more appropriate word or expression or form the next time around. With a little patience and perseverance, speaking French will begin to come naturally.

If you have any difficulties with your assignments or cannot follow what is going on in class, do not be afraid to ask for help. Please come see me during my office hours, contact me by e-mail (Adrianna.Paliyenko@colby.edu), or make an appointment to see me. Do not wait until just before a quiz or chapter test to have things explained. In class, we will use French exclusively, but I will be happy to explain things in English during my office hours or appointments. Please see me as soon as possible if you feel you would benefit from working with our language assistant or a departmental tutor.

Last, but not least, let yourself be playful and creative with the language.

COURSE MATERIALS

* In the required language sequence at Colby, we use *Espaces,* an integrated program of language learning materials which includes a textbook, audio MP3’s, a series of short videos, and a textbook-based website for practice and homework. This program serves as the basis for FR125 (units 1-5), FR126 (units 6-10), and FR127 (units 11-15). The textbook and supporting material present both authentic, natural French and an unusually rich cultural context. The online exercises provide you with immediate feedback.

**Required Text**:Mitchell, James G. and Cheryl Tano. *ESPACES*, Fifth Edition, Vista Higher Learning (VHL), 2023.

**Required course materials** include:ESPACES Supersite platform access code: [for SupersitePlus with WebSAM], redeemable at [www.vhlcentral.com](http://www.vhlcentral.com).

FR127: *Espaces* 5th, Student edition (Loose-Leaf) + Supersite Plus + webSAM (online student activity manual) (24 month access) : ISBN 978-1-54337-425-4

* Required course materials are available through the bookstore and also directly from VHL. Find the required materials at the best price here: <https://vistahigherlearning.com/store/school/colby>.
* Shipping is free from VHL and access codes are delivered immediately upon purchase. The account you create to purchase the materials becomes your login to the course program platform.
* **You must register\* for the SupersitePlus in order to access the online exercises and materials**. The access code is included in your textbook package.

**See the tutorials at the top of the course syllabus page, left hand column.**

I will assign a good selection of exercises from the Supersite as required homework **to be completed by every Friday**. The website also includes vocabulary and flashcards.

CORE LEARNING GOALS

By the end of the course, students will have developed solid competencies in each of the five goal areas (the five C’s): Communication, Cultures, Connections, Comparisons, and Communities. Main objectives include:

1. Ability to comprehend and respond to basic conversational patterns  
2. Proficiency and knowledge of basic grammatical structures and terminology  
3. Basic proficiency in reading and writing the language  
4. Knowledge of significant cultural practices and historical events from the French-speaking world  
5. Ability to use technology for e-mail and research on selected topics in French  
6. Ability to use the Supersite for oral and written practice of French

Specific outcomes of the course are the following:

* Talk about technology and transportation
* Express reciprocal actions
* Discuss errands and places around town
* Talk about the future
* Discuss professions
* Describe hypothetical situations
* Add relative details to descriptions
* Talk about environmental problems
* Say what is necessary, urgent, important
* Express emotions, attitudes
* Compare quantities of various items
* Discuss film and the fine arts
* Express doubt, disbelief, uncertainty
* Refer to previously mentioned things
* Describe how, when, where and why an action takes places
* Write a composition
* Write a letter
* Gain knowledge about the French-speaking world
* Develop strong reading comprehension

LEARNING ASSESSMENT

20% — Attendance, preparation and participation; “**no absence” policy observed**

15% — Supersite/webSam Friday homework  
15% — Dictées and quizzes

15% — 3 writing assignments  
20% — 4 Unit tests  
15% — Final exam

**Class policies:**

-Attend every class and be on time. Be courteous.

-**No cell phone use** in the classroom. Any student who violates this basic rule of etiquette will receive a 0 for class participation that day. A student who insists on violating this rule will be asked to drop the class.

-Participate **only in French**; (ask questions in English outside of class; see office hours on syllabus page).

-**Late assignments will not be accepted**. This includes any written assignments handed in during class and the online exercises on the *Espaces* Supersite.

-No make-up quizzes or exams, except in the event of serious illness.

-Email: Students must check the online syllabus and their emails every day for any updates and/or changes to assignments.

**Attendance, preparation, participation (20%):**

**Attendance** You must come to class prepared for the day’s lesson. Since most of what really matters in life is discovered, absorbed and/or understood when one is present at an event, **class attendance is mandatory four times a week**, Monday through Thursday. Tardiness, as well as any disruptive behavior such as cell phone use, will not be permitted. Any unexcused absence will result in the student losing any points associated with that day’s in-class work. If you have a planned excused absence for university activities such as a team sport, you will be responsible for consulting the professor well in advance about the homework assignments.

**Participation** Learning a language does require patience and willingness to work, but it can be lots of fun. Participation is one of the keys to success in this course. In a language class, it is not enough to listen and take occasional notes. **Active participation is crucial**. Thus, you must be prepared to answer questions, *ask* questions, use grammatical structures we are studying, engage in role play, and communicate spontaneously. It is a good idea to prepare for class by writing out new vocabulary, grammar rules, and exercises and by practicing your French *out loud*, so you will begin to feel comfortable saying French words, and by rehearsing role play with a classmate. You will find that, for most people, working with a partner, even outside of class, is an easier, more efficient, and more enjoyable way to learn the material.

You are also **required to attend the weekly French table at least 3 times over the course of the semester**. The French table provides an opportunity to converse informally with French faculty members, our French Language Assistant, and fellow students. You will be expected to participate, as much as you are able, in the general conversation (but I certainly do not expect you to chatter away at first!) Each semester, students in the 125-126-127 language sequence attend the French table on a fairly regular basis and not only make significant strides in their spoken French, but also contribute to the atmosphere of “convivialité.” Venez nombreux ! You will receive more information about the French table at the start of the semester.

**Preparation** Your success in this course begins with how well you prepare. For each class session, you should consult your syllabus to verify what lesson to prepare before coming to class. You should plan on doing more than simply reading the pages assigned. For example, for new vocabulary, you can make flash cards or create some other study system to help yourself memorize that lesson’s words; for new grammatical structures, you can take notes and practice using the structures on your own. Write out answers to the exercises in the textbook.

I distribute a lot of handouts and highly recommend a three-ring binder for this class, divided into 4 sections: 1/**Vocabulary**; 2/**Grammar**; 3/**Reading/Writing**; 4/ **Quizzes**, **Tests,** etc. Use whatever strategies work best for you to retain the material that we study. (As an aside, I am happy to meet with you during office hours to help you develop these strategies.) Make note of any questions that you have and bring your questions and notes to class.

I anchor my approach to teaching in the value of inclusivity, with the goal of creating a classroom atmosphere where all students can bring their whole selves to class and do their best academic and creative work. The corollary to this idea is that you should consider your own well-being—including getting enough sleep, eating a healthy diet, and getting regular exercise—as part of your preparation for this and your other classes. While striking this balance may be difficult, there are campus resources for doing so available through the College’s Life at Colby webpage (www.colby.edu/life/).

**Online Homework (15%)**

Short written exercises have to be completed on the website. **Weekly online homework** will be assigned and **due by every Friday**, based on the material covered in class that week. It is absolutely essential that you consult the *Espaces* Supersite at the start of the week and complete the assigned exercises by midnight on Friday.

**Technical Assistance**

This course requires use of online tools. It is your responsibility to contact the appropriate tech support professionals. For questions related to the use of the Vistas Supersite platform, contact the publisher technical support team: From your account Help menu (while completing assignments in your Supersite course):

* + - Report a technical problem/Report a content problem/Chat with an agent
* Submit a [**request for help**](https://support.vhlcentral.com/hc/en-us/requests/new?ticket_form_id=117397) 24/7
* Go to support.vhlcentral.com for technical requirements and more
* Any report of issues to your instructor regarding the Supersite must include a VHL ticket number, showing you have first contacted VHL technical support for help.

**Dictations & Quizzes (15%)**Plan on weekly dictations and short quizzes based on the lessons covered.

**Writing assignments (15%)**

There are 3 writing assignments designed to allow you to use the French language to speak to topics and experiences that matter to you in a meaningful way. These assignments evaluate your use of vocabulary, grammar, and creativity.

**Four Unit tests (20%)**

There will be four tests that will evaluate how well you have retained the grammar, vocabulary, history, and culture in units 11, 12, 13, & 14. Some of the questions you will encounter will assess your ability to recognize (rather than to produce) whether vocabulary terms and grammatical structures are correctly used in the context of the sentence. Information about what topics will be covered and what to study will be available ahead of time.

**Final exam (15%)** Cumulative final exam (units 11-15) evaluates listening, reading and writing skills.

**Grading Scale**

97-100 = **A+** 80-82.99 = **B-** 63-66.99 = **D**

93-96.99 = **A** 77-79.99 = **C+** 60-62.99 = **D-**

90-92.99 = **A-** 73-76.99 = **C** Below 60 = **F**

87-89.99 = **B+** 70-72.99 = **C-**

83-86.99 = **B** 67-69.99 = **D+**

COURSE POLICIES

**Respect for Diversity**

It is my intent that students from diverse backgrounds and perspectives be well-served by this course, that students’ learning needs be addressed both in and out of class, and that the diversity that students bring to class be viewed as a resource, strength and benefit. I expect you to feel challenged and sometimes outside your comfort zone in this course, but it is my intent to present materials and activities that are inclusive and respectful of all persons, no matter their gender, sexual orientation, disability, age, socioeconomic status, ethnicity, race, culture, perspective, and other background characteristics.

Everyone is invited to participate in creating a positive course climate not only by listening respectfully to others, but also by feeling free to voice concerns, complaints, or comments on how to improve inclusivity in the classroom. I, like many people, am still in the process of learning about how to promote diverse perspectives and to be inclusive of diverse identities in the classroom. I will gladly accept suggestions if you think that some perspectives are underrepresented either in the reading material or in class discussion. You are more than welcome to give me feedback during my office hours or via email.

I have intended to avoid scheduling tests during major religious holidays. If, however, I have inadvertently scheduled an exam or major deadline that creates a conflict with your religious observances, please let me know within two weeks of the start of classes so that we can make other arrangements. Colby College is supportive of the religious practices of its students, faculty, and staff. The college is committed to ensuring that all students can observe their religious beliefs without academic penalty.

**Office Hours**

You are encouraged to use my office hours whenever you need help with your assignments, and whenever you have questions about the course. If you cannot make office hours, I would be happy to set up an appointment to meet with you; if that is the case, please give me a 24-hour notice. Come prepared when we meet; this means that you should prepare specific questions to address some of the problems you are facing in class.

**Email Policy**

I can be reached by email Monday through Friday, from 8 am to 5 pm. I do not send emails over the weekend. If you have an urgent matter, however, please indicate that in the subject heading should you need to contact me over the weekend. I expect my students to address me in an email as Professor Paliyenko, use a greeting, full sentences, and an ending salutation. I will do the same.

**Academic Dishonesty**

Your written assignments are to be original. A text generated by an AI platform, Google translator, or revised by a person other than you will fall into the category of “Academic Dishonesty.” The Language Assistant and Tutors are NOT allowed to revise your compositions for you. They are to guide you and help you understand your errors, but they are not to write for you. You are responsible for the revisions/corrections, taking into account the tutor’s and language assistant’s advice and comments. Plagiarism and academic dishonesty will automatically result in a failing grade for the course and will carry academic and judicial consequences (see Colby College Academic Dishonesty and Plagiarism policy). According to the Colby Farnham Writers’ Center, other forms of academic dishonesty include (as indicated on their website): (Source: <http://web.colby.edu/farnham-writerscenter/academic-honesty/>) “Plagiarism, cheating, and other forms of academic dishonesty are serious offenses. For the first offense, the instructor may dismiss the offender from the course with a mark of F (which is a permanent entry on the student’s academic record) and will report the case to the department chair and the dean of students, who may impose other or additional penalties including suspension or expulsion. This report becomes part of the student’s confidential file and is destroyed six years after graduation of the last date of attendance. A second offense automatically leads to suspension or expulsion. […] The College also views misrepresentations to faculty within the context of a course as a form of academic dishonesty. Students lying to or otherwise deceiving faculty are subject to dismissal from the course with a mark of F and possible additional disciplinary action. […]” (Source: excerpts from <http://libguides.colby.edu/avoidingplagiarism>)

**Accommodations**

I am available to discuss academic accommodations that students with a documented disability may require. Please note that you will need a letter from the Dean of Studies Office documenting your approved accommodations. Consult <https://life.colby.edu/get-support/access-disability-services/> if you have questions related to educational testing and documentation.

**Athletic Participation**

While Colby College is supportive of athletic participation by its students, academics takes priority over athletics. Bothe NCAA and Colby rules prohibit missing class for practices. In the case of overlapping commitments between class and athletic competitions, the student must meet with the professor as soon as possible to discuss these overlaps. The student may request permission to miss class and make up the missed work; the instructor has final authority either to grand or to withhold permission.

**Sexual Misconduct / Title IX Statement**

Colby College prohibits and will not tolerate sexual misconduct or gender-based discrimination of any kind. Colby is legally obligated to investigate sexual misconduct (including, but not limited to sexual assault and sexual harassment). If you wish to speak confidentially about an incident of sexual misconduct, please contact Colby Counseling Services (207-859-4490) or the Director of the Gender and Sexual Diversity Program, Emily Schusterbauer (207-859-4093). Students should be aware that faculty members are considered responsible employees; as such, if you disclose an incident of sexual misconduct to a faculty member, they have an obligation to report it to Colby’s Title IX Coordinator. “Disclosure” may include communication in-person, via email/phone/text, or through class assignments. To learn more about sexual misconduct or report an incident, visit <http://www.colby.edu/sexualviolence/>.