

*Department of French & Italian Studies*

Course: FR231 Office hours: **M: 9-11; W: 3-4 & by appt.**

Semester: Fall 2024 Office: Lovejoy 312

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**MESSAGE DE BIENVENUE**

Welcome to French 231! This document contains important information about learning goals, course materials, class and college policies, assignments, classwork, and assessment. 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/FR231/index.html**](http://personal.colby.edu/personal/a/ampaliye/FR231/index.html)**.**

**Learning Goals:**

This course, required for French studies majors and minors, offers in-depth study of French grammar and style, with special attention given to advanced structures and difficulties the language poses for native and non-native speakers alike. The chief **learning goal** of the course is to apply these structures with increasing accuracy and fluency to listening comprehension, speaking, reading and especially to writing.

The theme of the course, “**Le français par les médias**,” gives each student the opportunity to report on current news in the French-speaking world. You will have the opportunity to read and write about current events in la Guadeloupe, Haïti, la Polynésie française, le Sénégal, le Maroc, Madagascar, Québec, la France, la Suisse, les États-Unis (vus par les Francophones), and a French-speaking country of your own choosing.

Being immersed in a foreign language with no reference to English is what one experiences when traveling to the country where the language is spoken. **Enjoy the challenge of** exploring a language other than your native tongue, **support** each other, and **concentrate on** getting your message across. **Use mistakes as an opportunity to learn**!

The textbook I have chosen is **an excellent reference** and will help you to understand the appropriate form, turns of phrase or word to use for more correct and fluent expression in French. **With patience and perseverance, discipline and (lots of) memorization, expressing yourself in French will come more naturally**.

Weekly summaries of news articles from French-speaking countries, short in-class writing practice and four compositions will help you to develop your written expression in French over the course of the semester.

**CLASS AND COLLEGE POLICIES**:

**Course materials**:

-Students are expected to purchase **a hard copy** of the required text, *Grammaire progressive du françaus B2-C2* and bring their text to each class.

-**A three-ring binder is also required**, with four sections:

1-**grammaire** (handouts and “tableaux” for each grammar point)

2-**interros** (bi-weekly quizzes)

3-**expression écrite** (weekly summaries of news articles, short writing practice and compositions)

4-**loose leaf paper or a notebook**

- **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.

-Unless requested for a writing workshop, there is no use of laptops or tablets in class.

-It is your responsibility to **check the online syllabus** and **your emails** in the event of any changes to assignments before preparing for each class.

- **Late assignments will not be accepted**. Print assignments to be handed in **before coming to class**.

-Please take care of personal needs and fill water bottles before coming to 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, unless a question arises pertaining to the entire class. 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 as Professor Paliyenko in an email, using a greeting, full sentences, and an ending salutation. I will do the same.

**Assessment**:

**Collaborative learning** is at the heart of this course. All students’ contributions are vital to this type of experience where active learning via practice and discovery takes place in the class. This means that everyone needs to be fully prepared for class and **arrive on time** **with all materials in hand** (textbook, binder and printed assignments).

-**Preparation and participation**: 20%

**Preparation** for class involves **studying** and **committing to memory\*** the main grammar points indicated on the syllabus **along with** completing the **three to four** “fill in the blank” exercises that accompany each grammar point. You may choose **to write the answers in your textbook** or **on a separate sheet**. There are other exercises and assessments in the text that we will use for practice in class.

**\*Unless you have a photographic memory, it is not realistic to think that you will be able to retain all the details in our grammar reference.** I will expect, however, that you have a grasp on the main structures and representative examples of how they are applied. Divide the material in a given section into small units for memorization, then put all of them together. What I hope is that each of you will develop the reflex of checking a conjugation, preposition, expression and so forth in order to improve your writing in French.

It is also 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 feel comfortable participating in class.

I will provide the answer key for the exercises in the textbook, using a shared Google Drive.

**Active participation** means always speaking French in class; showing interest in class activities; asking questions and volunteering answers; and working productively with peers. To do so, **one must come prepared for class**! A pleasant attitude toward the professor and all classmates generates **a welcoming learning environment** and cultivates **positive relationships based on mutual respect**.

-**News article summaries** : 25%

Summaries of news articles selected from the French-speaking country listed on the course syllabus. The summary will incorporate “connecteurs logiques” from *Grammaire progressive du français*, as indicated on the syllabus. A detailed rubric will specify the length and format of the 300-word summaries.

-**Five interrogations écrites** : 15%

Bi-weekly “interros” (20-minute quizzes) will assess your grasp of grammatical structures. No make-up quizzes, except in the event of **serious illness**.

-**Three 2-page compositions** : 25%

Topics will be posted to the syllabus along with a detailed rubric.

-**Final exam** :15%

A comprehensive exam covering the main grammatical structures; the final will include a writing prompt.

**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+**

**Attendance**:

**Class attendance is mandatory**. I follow Colby’s no absence policy. Any unexcused absence will result in **a zero** for that day. If you have a planned absence for university activities such as a team sport, you will be responsible for consulting me well in advance to excuse the absence and discuss related assignments.

**Tardiness is simply unacceptable**. Rather than losing points, a student who does not observe this policy will be asked to drop the class.

**Office hours:**

If you have 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 listed at the top of the first page of this document, make an appointment to see me, or contact me by e-mail (Adrianna.Paliyenko@colby.edu). Do not wait until just before an “interro” 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.

**COLLEGE POLICIES**

**Respect for Diversity:**

I expect you to feel challenged and sometimes outside your comfort zone in this course, but I intend 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 course material or in class discussion. You are more than welcome to give me feedback during my office hours or via email.

I have attempted 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.

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 tending to 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/). If at any point you find yourself struggling with your mental health, please contact Colby Counseling Services by calling (207) 859-4490 (for immediate care, press “0” to reach the on-call counselor) or by accessing their website (https://life.colby.edu/your-health/counseling-services/).

**Academic Dishonesty:**

**All written work must be originally composed in French and only by you**. By this, I mean that you are not to use Google translator or any other software to write either the weekly summaries or your compositions.

**You are not to use any material from any source on the Internet. Should it be appropriate to cite a fact or statement from a news article, you must provide a full citation of your source by way of an endnote.**

**Honesty, integrity, and personal responsibility** are cornerstones of a Colby education and provide the foundation for scholarly inquiry, intellectual discourse, and an open and welcoming campus community.  These values are articulated in the Colby Affirmation and are central to this course. Students are expected to demonstrate academic honesty in all aspects of this course. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to:

\*plagiarism (including quoting sources without quotation marks around the borrowed words and a citation)

\*presenting another’s (this includes generative AI such as ChatGPT) work as one’s own

\*buying or attempting to buy papers or projects for a course

\*fabricating or using generative AI to fabricate information or citations

\*knowingly assisting others in acts of academic dishonesty

\*violating clearly stated rules for taking an exam (e.g., keeping your phone on your person when told to place it in a bag) or completing homework

\*misrepresentations to faculty within the context of a course

\*submitting the same work, including an essay that you wrote, in more than one course without the permission of instructors.

Academic dishonesty is a serious offense against the college. Sanctions for academic dishonesty are assigned by an academic review board and may include failure on the assignment, a significant grade reduction or failure in the course, or suspension or expulsion from the College. All students found responsible for violating academic integrity standards will have a disciplinary letter placed in their file for 6 years after they leave Colby. This letter can be released to requesting parties (e.g., medical/law school, employers). Thus, the consequences of dishonesty far exceed the benefits (not to mention the fact that cheating is a disservice to you and your learning process). For more on recognizing and avoiding plagiarism, see the libraryguide: [**libguides.colby.edu/avoidingplagiarism**](http://libguides.colby.edu/avoidingplagiarism)

I encourage you to meet with me, the French Language Assistant and/or tutors working for the French Studies Department to go over your written assignments. However, anything written and 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 professor’s, tutor’s and language assistant’s advice and comments.

**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/>.