

Department: Modern and Classical Languages

Course No: 3267W [267W]

Credits: 3

Title: Grammar and Culture

Contact: Roger Travis

Content Area: CA1-Arts and Humanities

WQ: Writing

Catalog Copy: FREN 3267W. Grammar and Culture Either semester. Three credits. Recommended preparation: FREN 164 or 175 or three years of high school French or consent of instructor. The study of French and Francophone culture through fiction, non-fiction, journalism and film. Emphasis on perfecting both oral and written expression through discussion, presentations, and composition on assigned topics.

Course Information: A. Description. The course associates the study of French grammar with the discovery of the specificity of French culture through various kinds of texts, news articles, short fiction, narratives, songs, etc. It promotes the articulateness of the students by training them to write and speak in a grammatically correct, culturally accented French.

B Course requirements: Weekly writing assignments (2 drafts before the final version) ; one mid-term and one final examination; one oral presentation.

C. Major themes, issues, topics, etc., to be covered. Les styles - les genres littéraires Le traitement de textes La correspondance I: lettre personnelle - La correspondance II: lettre professionnelle Le récit I: description - Le récit II: actions et sentiments - Le récit

III: dialogues Le rapport oral - L'article de journal - Le résumé - Le compte-rendu de lecture - La discussion - Le commentaire littéraire

Meets Goals of Gen Ed: The course engages students in a broad spectrum of texts and audio-visual material: fiction, non-fiction, including journalism, essays, film reviews, documentaries and films. They are taught to differentiate between different genres and to both recognize and use the attributes of that genre. The emphasis is placed on written and oral capacity to both criticize and replicate the material under study. In addition students are required to evaluate the objectives of the material. By learning how texts and films are constructed and disseminated, that is, how they reach their objective, students learn not only the contents of the material, they also learn how to use the same techniques.

CA1 Criteria: This course focuses on the rhetorical dimension of language: it shows how all texts are conceived as tools, not only to communicate — which is the basic function of languages — but also to persuade and to seduce. It develops the capacity for dialectical analysis and trains the student to address a wide range of possible audiences in different styles.

W Criteria: The course involves the writing in French of the equivalent required of an English-language W course. Students write drafts that are corrected by the instructor with close attention to organization, grammar and syntax, in addition to critical and literary content. The 'explication de texte' method (close reading and analysis of a text taking stylistics and grammar into account) intrinsic to the study of literature in French, brings an additional dimension to students' writing.

Role of Grad Students: This course is normally taught by faculty. However, it may be taught by a graduate (Ph.D.) student. These students have previously taught 100 and 200-level courses in the French section, and are supervised by the Supervisor of the Teaching Assistants.