

AP® French Language

Syllabus 3

Course Overview

Course objectives:

- To have students become proficient in reading, writing, speaking, and listening, in preparation for the AP® French Language Exam
- To enrich the students' cultural knowledge and experience with the francophone world
- To attain proficiency in the French language in accordance with the National Standards
- To have students become proficient in reading, writing, speaking, and listening, in preparation for the AP French Language Examination, enhanced by the exclusive use of French in the classroom [C1]

C1—The teacher uses French almost exclusively in class and encourages students to do likewise.

Resources

Primary textbooks:

- *Trésors du Temps*
- *AP French: A Guide to the French Language Examination*, text and companion CDs

Supplementary text:

- *Une Fois Pour Toutes* [C2]

C2—The course provides students with a learning experience equivalent to that of a third-year college course in French language. Instructional materials, activities, assignments, and assessments are appropriate to this level.

Other sources and materials:

- Released AP Exams
- Vocabulary: Idiomatic expressions list from AP workshops
- Various sources of reading materials, such as novels, short stories, plays, poetry, newspapers, magazines, Internet articles, and other publications [C4]

C4—Instructional materials include authentic written texts that develop students' reading abilities.

Course Planner

Week 1

Review idiomatic usage of *être*, *aller*, *avoir*, and *faire* in the present tense (TT Ch. 1, UFPT Ch. 1)

Partitive articles, use of “*de*”

Vocabulary and idiomatic expressions (TT Ch. 1)

Assessment: Exam [C6]

C6—The course provides instruction and frequent opportunities to write a variety of compositions in French.

Week 2

Present tense review (TT Ch. 2, UFPT Ch. 1)

Gender and number of nouns and adjectives

Vocabulary and idiomatic expressions (TT Ch. 1)

Assessment: Essay [C6]

Week 3

Irregular verbs in the present tense review (TT Ch. 2, UFPT Ch. 1)

Definite and indefinite articles

Vocabulary and idiomatic expressions (TT Ch. 2)

Assessment: Essay and oral exam with picture sequence (Released AP Exam)

Week 4

Passé Composé (TT Ch. 3, UFPT Ch. 2)

Vocabulary and idiomatic expressions (TT Ch. 2)

Assessment: Quiz and oral picture sequence (Released AP Exam) [C5]

C5—The course provides students with regular opportunities to develop their speaking skills in a variety of settings, types of discourse, and topics.

Week 5

Imparfait (TT Ch. 3, UFPT Ch. 2)

Imparfait versus *Passé Composé*

Vocabulary and idiomatic expressions (TT Ch. 3)

Assessment: Essay

Week 6

Plus-que-parfait (TT Ch. 3, UFPT Ch. 2, APG Unit 5)

Review of all past tenses in combination

Vocabulary and idiomatic expressions (TT Ch. 3)

Assessment: Exam and oral picture sequence (APG Unit 8)

Week 7

Future (TT Ch. 4, UFPT Ch. 3)

Sentences with *si* + future

Vocabulary and idiomatic expressions (TT Ch. 4)

Assessment: Quiz and essay

Week 8

Future and future *antérieure* (TT Ch. 4, UFPT Ch. 3, APG Unit 5)

Sentences with *quand*, *des que*, *aussitôt que*, and *si*

Vocabulary and idiomatic expressions (TT Ch. 4)

Assessment: Exam and oral picture sequence (APG Unit 8)

Week 9

Conditional (TT Ch. 4, UFPT Ch. 3)

Sentences with *si* + *imparfait* + conditional

Vocabulary and idiomatic expressions (TT Ch. 4)

Assessment: Quiz and essay

Week 10

Past conditional (TT Ch. 4, UFPT Ch. 3, APG Unit 5)

Sentences with *si* + *plus-que-parfait*

Vocabulary and idiomatic expressions (TT Ch. 4)

Assessment: Quiz and oral picture sequence (APG Unit 8)

Week 11

Review of past, future, and conditional tenses (APG Unit 5)

Sentences with *si* in all combinations

Vocabulary and idiomatic expressions (TT Ch. 4)

Assessment: Exam and essay

Week 12

The regular subjunctive impersonal expressions (TT Ch. 6, UFPT Ch. 4)

Vocabulary and idiomatic expressions (TT Ch. 6)

Assessment: Quiz and oral picture sequence (APG Unit 8)

Week 13

The subjunctive, irregular verbs, and other expressions (TT Ch. 6, UFPT Ch. 4)

Vocabulary and idiomatic expressions (TT Ch. 6)

Assessment: Quiz and essay

Week 14

The subjunctive after conjunctions (TT Ch. 6, UFPT Ch. 4, APG Unit 5)

Vocabulary and idiomatic expressions (TT Ch. 6)

Assessment: Quiz and oral picture sequence (APG Unit 8)

Week 15

The past subjunctive (TT Ch. 6, UFPT Ch. 4, APG Unit 5)

Overall subjunctive review

Vocabulary and idiomatic expressions (TT Ch. 6)

Assessment: Exam and essay

Week 16

Direct object pronouns (TT Ch. 5, UFPT Ch. 5)

Vocabulary and idiomatic expressions (TT Ch. 5)

Assessment: Quiz and essay

Week 17

Indirect object pronouns (TT Ch. 5, UFPT Ch. 5, APG Unit 4)

The pronoun “y”

Vocabulary and idiomatic expressions (TT Ch. 5)

Assessment: Quiz and oral picture sequence (APG Unit 8)

Week 18

Stress pronouns (TT Ch. 5, UFPT Ch. 5, APG Unit 4)

Review of indirect and direct object pronouns

Vocabulary and idiomatic expressions (TT Ch. 5)

Assessment: Exam

Week 19

Semester review (APG Units 4 and 5)

Final exam: Practice AP Exam

Week 20

Relative pronouns (TT Ch. 9, UFPT Ch. 1, APG Unit 4)

Vocabulary and idiomatic expressions (APG Units 1, 2, and 3)

Assessment: Quiz and essay

Week 21

Lequel and *lequel* combinations (TT Ch. 9, UFPT Ch. 1, APG Unit 4)

Vocabulary and idiomatic expressions (APG Units 1, 2, and 3)

Assessment: Quiz and oral picture sequence (APG Unit 8)

Week 22

Relative pronoun review (TT Ch. 9, UFPT Ch. 1, APG Unit 4)

Vocabulary and idiomatic expressions (APG Units 1, 2, and 3)

Assessment: Exam and essay

Week 23

Verb review (APG Unit 5)

Negatives (TT Ch. 8)

Vocabulary and idiomatic expressions (APG Units 1, 2, and 3)

Assessment: Quiz and oral picture sequence (Released AP Exam)

Week 24

Demonstrative articles and pronouns (TT Ch. 9, UFPT Ch. 1, APG Units 4 and 5)

Vocabulary and idiomatic expressions (APG Units 1, 2, and 3)

Assessment: Essay

Week 25

Demonstratives review (TT Ch. 9, UFPT Ch. 1, APG Unit 4)

Vocabulary and idiomatic expressions (APG Units 1, 2, and 3)

Assessment: Quiz and oral picture sequence (Released AP Exam)

Week 26

Verb review (APG Units 4 and 5)

Vocabulary and idiomatic expressions (APG Units 1, 2, and 3)

Assessment: Exam and essay

Week 27

Possessive articles and pronouns (TT Ch. 9, UFPT Ch. 1, APG Unit 4)

Vocabulary and idiomatic expressions (APG Units 1, 2, and 3)

Assessment: Quiz and oral picture sequence (Released AP Exam)

Week 28

Possessive review (TT Ch. 9, UFPT Ch. 1, APG Unit 4)

Vocabulary and idiomatic expressions (APG Units 1, 2, and 3)

Assessment: Quiz and essay

Week 29

Verb review (APG Units 4 and 5)

Vocabulary and idiomatic expressions (APG Units 1, 2, and 3)

Assessment: Exam and essay

Week 30

Overall review (APG Units 4 and 5)

Assessment: Essay and oral picture sequence (Released AP Exam)

Week 31

Overall review (APG Units 1–8)

AP Exam

Weeks 32–36

Vocabulary and idiomatic expressions

Various projects based on films and literature

Assessments: Short essays, quizzes, oral reports, and presentations

Units of study last approximately three weeks, during which time students are exposed to a variety of readings, vocabulary, auditory texts, grammar concepts, etc.—prompted by the theme introduced in each chapter of *Trésors du Temps*. Some of the units include the viewing of French films [C3] that thematically complement the unit studied. Students are expected to perform a variety of tasks that demonstrate their mastery of the course objectives. The following tests and activities are standard and accompany every three-week unit of course content:

- Various in-class writing and vocabulary-building activities and games, reinforcing vocabulary and idiomatic expressions drawn from readings or the AP list.
- Weekly vocabulary quizzes
- Grammar exercises, games, and reviews

C3—Instructional materials include a variety of authentic audio and/or video recordings that develop students' listening abilities.

- Weekly essays, scored with the AP Exam rubrics [C2, C6]
- Daily oral activities
- AP Exam-style oral proficiency examinations, some tape-recorded. [C5]
- Daily homework assignments
- Weekly listening activities from *AP Guide* text [C3]
- Reading comprehension exam [C4]
- Oral reports/presentations, scored with scoring guidelines [C5]
- Unit tests

Final exams are given at the end of both semesters with components that resemble the AP Exam.

Teaching Strategies

Reading: Reciprocal Teaching

The most valuable reading strategy I have used with students is reciprocal teaching. There are five steps in reciprocal teaching: read, clarify, summarize, question, and apply. In order to use reciprocal teaching, the instructor must first select and divide a text into smallish sections of 6 to 10 lines each, compile a list of difficult/new vocabulary, and review the new vocabulary with the students before reading the selection. The instructor should also provide pre-reading background or contextual information necessary for students' comprehension of the text. The students then read the text aloud in pairs, completing each of the following steps before going on to the next one:

1. Student A reads the first section out loud to student B, and stops.
2. Student B tells student A 3 to 4 things he or she understood/remembers from the first section read.
3. Student B reads the next section to student A, and stops.
4. Student A tells student B 3 to 4 things he or she understood from that section.
5. At the end of the reading, students discuss/list any vocabulary words they didn't know, and attempt to clarify the vocabulary for each other using context clues if possible.
6. Students write a brief summary of the reading.
7. Students write 3 to 5 questions about the reading they will share with the group.
8. Students apply the information gleaned from the readings by using it in a writing assignment, debate, skit, or oral presentation.
9. Students are evaluated with a multiple-choice quiz on the reading.

Although going through all the steps in reciprocal teaching can be time consuming, it is well worth the effort. Eventually, the students begin to clarify, summarize,

C2—The course provides students with a learning experience equivalent to that of a third-year college course in French language. Instructional materials, activities, assignments, and assessments are appropriate to this level.

C6—The course provides instruction and frequent opportunities to write a variety of compositions in French.

C5—The course provides students with regular opportunities to develop their speaking skills in a variety of settings, types of discourse, and topics.

C3—Instructional materials include a variety of authentic audio and/or video recordings that develop students' listening abilities.

C4—Instructional materials include authentic written texts that develop students' reading abilities.

question, and apply the reading on their own, and the activity can be modified to fit the students' diminishing need for assistance. Once students have mastered the five skills of an experienced reader, they are ready to face the challenge of reading AP texts on their own, and their proficiency can be assessed with multiple-choice reading activities. [C4]

C4—Instructional materials include authentic written texts that develop students' reading abilities.

Cooperative Learning for Oral Proficiency

The National Standards expect students at a level IV or level V speaking proficiency to be able to speak fluidly, accurately, and intelligently on a variety of topics. This is also required to succeed in the oral portion of the AP Exam. In order to achieve this level of performance my students:

C1—The teacher uses French almost exclusively in class and encourages students to do likewise.

- Speak and hear nothing but French starting in French 1.
- Spend a large portion of every day in conversational exchanges with a partner, or with a group.
- Narrate, describe, and explain images, picture sequences, and other visual cues to a partner, the teacher, or a tape.
- Discuss a variety of topics with a partner or a group, and make presentations in front of the class.
- Talk in small groups to plan skits, dialogs, or presentations.
- Work in small groups to solve problems.
- Play games in groups and pairs, such as Password, Pictionary, Mille Bornes, 20 Questions, etc. [C1, C5]

C5—The course provides students with regular opportunities to develop their speaking skills in a variety of settings, types of discourse, and topics.

Student Activities

Cultural Projects

Students prepare cultural projects to familiarize themselves and their classmates with a cultural topic of their choice. Project sources can be books, the Internet, or personal experiences, such as visiting a French restaurant, exhibit, or store, interviewing a francophone person, etc. Every month, students select a topic from a given list, research it, and present their findings on an 8½ x 11 sheet of construction paper. They must create a scrapbook-type page, with an even but busy balance of images and original writing. They must prepare a 3- to 4-minute oral presentation to accompany their project, which they perform in class on the day the project is due. [C5]

Assessments [C2]

Reading: Reading comprehension is assessed through multiple-choice tests; written responses to literature or readings such as summaries, questions, or essays; and free-response/essay vocabulary tests. Students are also given reading exams, which consist of 2 to 3 text selections and a variety of questions in many styles, including matching, true/false, fill-in, and free response. [C4]

C2—The course provides students with a learning experience equivalent to that of a third-year college course in French language. Instructional materials, activities, assignments, and assessments are appropriate to this level.

Writing: Writing proficiency is assessed through multiple-choice and free-response grammar tests, and writing assignments such as sentences, paragraphs, and a variety of essays (expository, narrative, persuasive, etc.). The AP nine-point rubric is used to evaluate all essays, or writing assignments of substantial length.

[C6]

Listening: Listening skills and comprehension are assessed through multiple-choice exams and activities based on a variety of recordings: the companion CDs to the *AP Guide* text, old *Grand Concours* CDs, songs, movies, etc. [C3]

Speaking: Oral skills are assessed daily. Students receive weekly points for participating in routine class activities. In addition, students often prepare oral presentations, which are scored using a 30-point rubric. They are also tested with AP-style picture sequences twice a month, on which they are scored using the five-point AP rubric. [C5]

C6—The course provides instruction and frequent opportunities to write a variety of compositions in French.

C3—Instructional materials include a variety of authentic audio and/or video recordings that develop students' listening abilities.

C5—The course provides students with regular opportunities to develop their speaking skills in a variety of settings, types of discourse, and topics.

Technology in the Classroom

The most valuable technology accessible to students is the Internet. Students are encouraged to use the Internet to fulfill their monthly cultural project requirement. They are also expected to research sites independently and responsibly. They are provided with a short list of worthwhile sites, but they are primarily on their own when doing Internet research. Students also use technology at home when they prepare their cultural projects, often downloading music from the Internet, burning CDs, designing Web pages, or using software programs and digital photo equipment to create publications and presentations. [C4, C7]

C4—Instructional materials include authentic written texts that develop students' reading abilities.

C7—The course provides frequent opportunities for students to integrate the four language skills through the use of authentic materials.

Reading, Vocabulary, News, and Music

French college and *lycée* reviews, with literary excerpts and activities:

Passeport, Editorial Hachette

www.amazon.com

www.amazon.fr

Nathan Vacances

www.amazon.com

www.amazon.fr

Cinélive magazine

<http://www.cine-live.com/>

Première magazine—to subscribe:

<http://www.expressmag.com/pages/products.asp?pr=1&id=1PREMI&langID=FR&locID=US>

France-Amérique, Edition Internationale du Figaro. News, current events.

1560 Broadway, Suite 511, New York, NY 10036-1525

(212) 221-6700, fax (212) 6997

franceame@aol.com

www.france-amerique.com

Rouyer, Dominique Alice. *Le Dico des Filles 2004*. Fleurus, Paris, 2003.
Articles and information on topics of interest to teenagers.
www.amazon.fr

“Complainte de la Butte.” Moulin Rouge Soundtrack. Interscope Records.
www.amazon.com

Song Lyrics
www.paroles.net

Exam Banks, Information, Study Guides

National French Contest : Le Grand Concours
www.frenchteachers.org

AP Exam questions and information
apcentral.collegeboard.com

Online Text Sources

La Reine Margot, text online:
www.dumaspere.com/pages/biblio/sommaire/php?lid=r38

Le Hussard Sur le Toit, excerpts online:
<http://pages.videotron.com/poibru/giono>

Jean Baud: Un Gétois en Indochine, letters online:
www.stella-galaxy-usa.com/jeanbaud

L'Ecornifleur d'Artigat, Martin Guerre excerpts and information:
<http://Martin.guerre.free.fr/>

Literary resources
www.alalettre.com

Literary texts online (Flaubert, Verne, Stendhal, etc.)
<http://abu.cnam.fr/BIB/>