

WESTERN UNIVERSITY
Département d'études françaises

French 2404B/2144B • Civilisation française • 2014
Du XVIIIe Siècle à l'Époque Contemporaine

Prerequisite: French 1900E, French 1910, or by permission of the Department, based on Placement Test.

Antirequisite: The former French 232E/2411E.

Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites. – from Western's *Academic Handbook*

Instructor: Paul Venesoen
e-mail: pvenesoe@uwo.ca (*best way to contact me*)
Office: Room 320, University College
Office hours: Mondays 11:30am-1:00pm
Wednesdays 10:00am-11:30am
or by appointment.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

French 2404A/2144A for 2014 is one of two half-courses designed to give students a better knowledge and understanding of France, its history and its culture. The course is on a yearly rotation of content.

For the Winter Term 2014, the topics covered are:

- the 18th century and the Enlightenment
- the 19th century and the Age of Revolution
- the 20th century, the World Wars and Modernism
- the 21st century and Postmodernity

For the Winter Term 2015, the course begins with a geographical overview of the country, followed by a chronological account of France's history and culture from prehistory to the end of the 17th century

Both courses aim not only to inform students of France's history and culture, but to also shed some light on the complex and culturally diverse *persona* of the French. The course is given in French and consists of lectures incorporating digital slides, Internet content and videos.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

By the end of the course, students will be expected to:

- have a basic understanding of the historical, social and cultural development of the country, from the 18th century to present-day.
- be able to identify some of the important historical, social and cultural figures, events and achievements throughout the centuries.
- have a basic understanding of present-day French society, culture and government.
- acquire a better understanding of what it is to be French, including an appreciation of France's contributions to Western civilization.

Required Texts:

There are no required texts for the course. A web site has been created which includes the majority of the lectures. This "Internet-based textbook" has no multimedia content whatsoever. Also, in-class lectures convey more information than the site.

Students should make sure they have an active Internet account and access to OWL in order to access the web site.

Distribution of marks:

Report and Abstract:	30%
Midterm Test:	25%
Class Attendance and Participation:	10%
Final Exam:	<u>35%</u> 100%

French 2404 students: *This course is **applicable** towards the Program Modules offered by the Department of French Studies. Your Report and Abstract will be done in French, with 80% of your grade for content and 20% for grammar and spelling. Your Midterm Test and Final Exam will also be written in French.*

French 2144 students: *This course is **not applicable** towards the Program Modules offered by the Department of French Studies. Your Report and Abstract will be done in your choice of French or English, with 95% of your grade for content and 5% for grammar and spelling. Your Midterm Test and Final Exam can be written in French or English.*

For all students, grammar and spelling percentages do not apply to the Midterm Test or to some sections of the Final Exam.

Report and Abstract - 30%:

- Each student will prepare a **1,500-word Report (25%)** and an **Abstract (5%)** on a topic of his/her choice. An abstract is a concise summary of the report.
- Report topics and detailed instructions are given the *second* week of classes. Due dates will be assigned the *third* week of classes. There is a **2% per weekday** penalty for late Reports/Abstracts.

- Abstracts will be between 150 and 200 words. Students will read aloud the abstract, which will conclude with 1 fact-based question and answer. Some of these questions will be used in part of the Midterm Test and Final Exam. *Abstracts and questions will be posted on the course web site.*

Midterm Test - 25%:

- A two-hour Midterm Test is given in-class on **Wednesday, March 12th, 2014**. The test includes questions from student Abstracts, and other questions based on course material.

Class Attendance and Participation - 10%:

- The success of your learning experience in any course requires that you regularly attend classes. In French 2404B/2144B, 10% of your mark is based on class attendance. Also, your participation during class, (asking questions, giving answers, participating in discussion), is encouraged and acknowledged.
- **Attendance for each day will be recorded** and every absence will affect your mark, so it is important to **arrive on time** and **stay until the end of class**.
- Each *unjustified* three-hour class absence will result in a deduction of 1.5% from the Attendance mark. If you miss 7 or more classes, your Attendance mark will be zero. Please advise me in cases of unavoidable absence, such as serious illness or family emergencies, and be prepared to provide documentation to me for justification of short-term absences, (1 class missed) or to the Academic Counsellor of your Home Faculty for long-term absences, (more than 1 class missed).
- Here is a link for the downloadable Student Medical Certificate (SMC), which should be brought with you to your medical appointment in case of illness:
<https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/index.cfm>
You'll find the SMC under the Medical Documentation heading on this page.
- **If you miss the Midterm Test**, you must provide medical or other documentation to the Academic Counsellor of your Home Faculty for academic accommodation.

Final Exam - 35%:

- There will be a 3-hour Final Exam covering the entire semester, scheduled during the Exam period in April, 2014.

Important Note:

- There will be no 2404/2144 class on **Wednesday, March 19th, 2014**.

IMPORTANT ACADEMIC AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

1. Plagiarism, Cheating and Other Scholastic Offences

- UWO statement on plagiarism: “Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site:
<http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/scholoff.pdf>. [1]
- The Department of French Studies considers plagiarism, defined as “the act or instance of copying or stealing another’s words or ideas and attributing them as one’s own” (cited from *Black’s Law Dictionary* in UWO Scholastic Offence Policy [2]), to be a serious scholastic offence and will apply the UWO policy to deal with all cases detected.
- Sometimes students commit plagiarism without being fully aware they are doing so. It is each student’s responsibility to become informed about what constitutes plagiarism and to take steps to avoid committing this scholastic offence by learning how to make proper use of sources. If you are uncertain about how to acknowledge sources you have used, consult your instructor before submitting the assignment. The UWO Ombuds Office publishes a useful guide that will help you avoid committing a mistake of this nature that could have serious consequences. [3]
- Please note the following UWO statement on plagiarism checking: “All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (www.turnitin.com).” [1]
- Other forms of academic dishonesty, including but not limited to cheating on tests and examinations, will also be dealt with seriously according to the terms of University policy.
- Please note that when evidence of a scholastic offence is detected, it is the Chair of the Department (or designate) who directs the investigation, and who makes a finding and imposes a penalty if the student is found to be guilty. The policy [2] outlines the process for appealing a Chair’s decision.

2. Prerequisites and Antirequisites

- UWO Statement on requisites: “Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you will be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.” [1]
- Please note that you are responsible for ensuring that you have successfully completed the prerequisites for this course. Lack of prerequisites cannot be used as grounds for an appeal. You are responsible for ensuring that this course is not an anti-requisite for another course you have already taken.
- The French Placement Test is a mandatory requirement for any student taking a French course for the first time at Western who has not successfully completed Grade 12U French. You must submit the results of the test to the Department of French Studies office so that they will appear on your academic record. The Department of French Studies reserves the right to place you in a course that is appropriate to your level, based on the level of secondary school French you have completed. For example, if you

have completed grade 12U French, you will not normally be eligible to enroll in French 1002 or 1010.

- Under no circumstances will a student will be allowed to take a language course in the series 1002, 1010, 1900E/1910, 2900, 2905A/B-2906A/B or 3900, concurrently with another language course that is a prerequisite for it.

3. Where to Go for Help

- The website of the Office of the Registrar is a valuable resource for information about many administrative aspects of your studies at Western: <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca/>
- If you have any concerns about your progress with the academic material in a course, you should not hesitate to contact your instructor.
- For advice on courses and programs / modules offered by the Department of French Studies, you should inquire at the Department office (UC 138) to find out the office hours of our academic advisors, who will be pleased to counsel you on your options.
- If, due to circumstances beyond your control such as illness, you have to miss class for an extended period and/or you cannot meet assignment deadlines or write tests/exams at the scheduled times, you should arrange to submit documentation of the circumstances to the academic counseling office of your Home Faculty.
- If you are feeling extremely stressed out or overwhelmed by your studies and/or personal circumstances, or if you feel you might be suffering from depression, the University has services to help you. Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help. After hours, contact the London Mental Health Crisis Service at: (519) 433-2023. The Academic Counsellors in your Home Faculty can also direct you to services where you can get assistance.

4. Accommodations for Work Missed Due to Problems

- Students are required to respect all deadlines for submission of assignments and to write tests, mid-terms and exams on the scheduled dates, unless circumstances beyond their control prevent them from doing so.
- Please take note of the UWO Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness: <http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/medical.pdf>, downloadable Student Medical Certificate (SMC): <https://studentservices.uwo.ca> under the Medical Documentation heading. According to this policy, students seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds for any missed tests, exams, participation components and/or assignments worth 10% or more of their final grade must apply to the Academic Counselling office of their home Faculty and provide documentation. Academic accommodation cannot be granted by the instructor or department. Please note that in all courses offered by the Department of French Studies, this same requirement will also apply to assignments worth less than 10% of the final grade.
- No term work may be submitted after the last day of classes for a course unless the student has successfully petitioned for Incomplete Standing on the basis of documentation submitted to the Academic Counselling office of her or his Home Faculty, with the approval of the Dean's Office, the Department, and the instructor.
- Final examinations must be written at the scheduled time unless formal alternative arrangements for a Special Examination have been approved (by the instructor, the Department and the Home Faculty Dean's Office) based on valid documented grounds.
- Academic accommodation is given for Religious Holidays – students should be careful to check the policy well in advance and be sure to follow the proper steps outlined in the University Calendar. [4]

5. Debarment from Final Examination for Excessive Unjustified Absence

- With the exception of distance studies and on-line courses, attendance in all classes is an obligatory component of all courses in the Department of French Studies.
- The UWO Handbook of Academic and Scholarship Policy [5] states the following: *Any student who, in the opinion of the instructor, is absent too frequently from class or laboratory periods in any course will be reported to the Dean of the Faculty offering the course (after due warning has been given). On the recommendation of the Department concerned, and with the permission of the Dean of that Faculty, the student will be debarred from taking the regular examination in the course. The Dean of the Faculty offering the course will communicate that decision to the Dean of the Faculty of registration.*

6. Academic Appeals

- The UWO Handbook of Academic and Scholarship Policy sets out the policy for grade appeals [6]
- Students should note that the first step to take if they wish to contest a mark is to discuss the matter with the instructor. A student who wishes to pursue an appeal after consulting the instructor must appeal in writing to the Undergraduate Chair of the Department of French Studies, Dr. Karin Schwerdtner, kschwerd@uwo.ca.
- Instructors in the Department of French Studies will **not** entertain requests to have a mark increased when the request is based solely on a student's alleged need for a better mark for external reasons (e.g. maintaining a scholarship or gaining admission to a professional school or other academic program). In order to be given consideration, any academic appeal or informal request for reconsideration of a grade must be based on appropriate grounds of the kind set out in the UWO appeals policy.

7. References

[1] <http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/exam/crsout.pdf>

[2] <http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/scholoff.pdf>

[3] <http://www.uwo.ca/ombuds/student/cheating.html>

[4] http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/accommodations_religious.pdf

[5] <http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/exam/attendance.pdf>

[6] <http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/appealsundergrad.pdf>

<http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/appealsgrad.pdf>