

**THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO**  
**Département d'études françaises**

**French 2406B/2146B • Civilisation française • 2015**  
***De Lascaux à Louis XIV***

**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

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**Office:** Room 2R 36D, Arts & Humanities Building

**Office hours:** Mondays 10:00am-11:30am, Wednesdays 11:30am-1:00pm,  
or by appointment.

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

French 2406B/2146B for 2015 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 2015, the topics covered are:

- the geography and climate of the country
- the prehistory and antiquity of France
- the Middle Ages and the early dynasties
- the 16<sup>th</sup> century and the Renaissance
- the 17<sup>th</sup> century and absolutism

For the Winter Term 2016, the course continues from the 18<sup>th</sup> century and the Enlightenment to contemporary France and postmodernity. 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:

- be able to identify some of the major geographical locations and other landmarks in France.
- have a basic understanding of the historical, social and cultural development of the country, up to the end of the 17<sup>th</sup> century.

- be able to identify some of the important historical, social and cultural figures, events and achievements.
- acquire a better understanding of what it is to be French, including an appreciation of France's contributions to early Western civilization.

### **Required Texts:**

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

<b>Report and Abstract:</b>	30%
<b>Midterm Test:</b>	25%
<b>Class Attendance and Participation:</b>	10%
<b>Final Exam:</b>	$\frac{35\%}{100\%}$

**French 2406 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 2146 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.
- 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 11<sup>th</sup>, 2015**. 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 2406B/2146B, 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, and you will receive a warning message from me. Please advise me **by email** in cases of unavoidable absence, such as serious illness or family emergencies, and be prepared to provide a good reason or excuse for justification of short-term absences, (1 day of class). Be prepared to provide documentation to your Home Faculty Academic Counsellor for long-term absences, (more than 1 day of class missed consecutively), or if you have more than 2 nonconsecutive short-term absences.
- Here is the 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 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, 2015.

### **Important Note:**

- There will be no class on **Wednesday, March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2015**.

## **Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness:**

<https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/index.cfm>

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. 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.

A downloadable Student Medical Certificate can be found here:

<https://studentservices.uwo.ca> under the Medical Documentation heading.

## **Support services**

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western [http://www.health.uwo.ca/mental\\_health](http://www.health.uwo.ca/mental_health) for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

## **Statement on Plagiarism, Cheating and other Scholastic Offences**

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence in the Academic Handbook available on the Academic Calendar website, here: <http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2014/pg113.html>

## **Policy on Attendance**

"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." (Academic Handbook)

## **Important Academic Information for Students Taking Courses in the Department of French Studies**

[http://www.uwo.ca/french/undergraduate/counselling/academic\\_information/index.html](http://www.uwo.ca/french/undergraduate/counselling/academic_information/index.html)