

## LANGUAGE & EXPRESSION

*Instructor:* Sébastien Ruffo, Ph.D, OCT

*Virtual Office:* Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10:30 to 11:30 AM  
(Please sign up before 10:25 at –link to be announced–)

*Communications:* All communications from and for this course are handled **through the Owl website** (tool : Annonces & Messages). Our **Announcements are NOT sent to your email address, so please check the Owl site daily.**

*Office:* AHB 2R – 06, by appointment only  
*Email :* [sruffo2@uwo.ca](mailto:sruffo2@uwo.ca) (for normal course business, please use the Owl Message Tool)

*Anti / Pre-requisites:* <http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2016/pg913.html#47205>

### I – Description et objectifs généraux du cours

#### *Description et objectifs généraux du cours*

Ce cours vise à améliorer les habiletés en langue française en général, tout en mettant l'accent sur des points de grammaire ciblés, sur la communication orale et sur l'expression écrite.

Le cours French 2906B (en complémentarité avec le cours 2905A) s'adresse aux étudiantes et étudiants ayant déjà atteint un niveau intermédiaire (niveau B1 selon le Cadre Européen Commun de Référence pour les Langues, CECRL) en français. Dans l'ensemble de ces deux cours, une importance particulière est accordée au développement du vocabulaire et à l'étude de la grammaire, dans le but d'atteindre un niveau avancé, celui d'un usager B2 selon les critères du CECLR.

L'objectif principal de ces deux cours est d'amener les étudiants à développer leurs compétences communicatives en français ainsi que leur compréhension des formes et des structures de la langue, afin qu'ils deviennent des usagers indépendants, avancés. Le cours 2905A contribue au développement d'un niveau B2 en mettant l'accent sur la compréhension de l'écrit et de l'oral, alors que le cours 2906B se concentre sur la production écrite, ainsi que sur la production et les interactions orales.

Au terme des deux cours, l'usager :

- 1) Sera en mesure de comprendre le contenu essentiel de sujets concrets ou abstraits dans un texte complexe, y compris une discussion technique dans sa spécialité.
- 2) Sera capable de communiquer à l'oral avec un bon degré de spontanéité et d'aisance tel qu'une conversation avec un locuteur natif.
- 3) Saura s'exprimer de façon claire et détaillée sur une large variété de sujets, émettre un avis sur des sujets d'actualité et exposer les atouts et les inconvénients de différentes possibilités.

***Descripteurs spécifiques CECRL et activités visant à développer les compétences :***

Catégorie	Descripteur spécifique CECRL	Activités
Production écrite (2906B)	Peut écrire des textes clairs et détaillés sur une gamme étendue de sujets relatifs à son domaine d'intérêt en faisant la synthèse et l'évaluation d'informations et d'arguments empruntés à des sources diverses .	Travail sur le vocabulaire ; étude de la grammaire ; rédaction de textes de différents types..
Production orale (2906B)	Peut méthodiquement développer une présentation ou une description soulignant les points importants et les détails pertinents. Peut faire une description et une présentation détaillées sur une gamme étendue de sujets relatifs à son domaine d'intérêt en développant et justifiant les idées par des points secondaires et des exemples pertinents.	Travail sur le vocabulaire ; étude de la grammaire ; présentations orales.
Interaction orale (2906B)	Peut utiliser la langue avec aisance, correction et efficacité dans une gamme étendue de sujets d'ordre général, éducationnel, professionnel et concernant les loisirs, en indiquant clairement les relations entre les idées. Peut communiquer spontanément avec un bon contrôle grammatical sans donner l'impression d'avoir à restreindre ce qu'il/elle souhaite dire et avec le degré de formalisme adapté à la circonstance. Peut communiquer avec un niveau d'aisance et de spontanéité tel qu'une interaction soutenue avec des locuteurs natifs soit tout à fait possible sans entraîner de tension d'une part ni d'autre. Peut mettre en valeur la signification personnelle de faits et d'expériences, exposer ses opinions et les défendre avec pertinence en fournissant explications et arguments.	Travail sur le vocabulaire étude de la grammaire discussions synchrones ou asynchrones

***Au terme des deux cours, et suivant le descripteur global du Niveau B2, l'utilisateur :***

- Sera en mesure d'identifier et utiliser des stratégies d'acquisition des éléments lexicaux pour développer un vocabulaire d'une grande étendue.
- Sera en mesure d'utiliser à bon escient le métalangage (la terminologie) grammatical pour identifier ses difficultés au niveau des structures morphosyntaxiques du français.
- Sera en mesure d'identifier la structure de textes de différents types et faire une analyse critique des arguments d'un texte.
- Sera en mesure de comprendre le contenu essentiel de sujets concrets ou abstraits dans un texte

complexe, y compris une discussion technique dans sa spécialité.

- Sera capable de communiquer avec un degré de spontanéité et d'aisance compatible avec les besoins d'une conversation avec un locuteur natif.
- Saura s'exprimer de façon claire et détaillée sur une variété de sujets, émettre un avis sur des sujets d'actualité et exposer les atouts et les inconvénients de différentes possibilités.

### III – Manuels obligatoires

- C. Dollez & S. Pons, *Alter Ego 4. Méthode de français B2*, Hachette, 2007, ISBN:978-2-01-155516-8 (Manuel + CD)
- David STILLMAN & Ronni GORDON, *The Ultimate French Review and Practice [Paperback]*, New York, McGraw-Hill, 3E. isbn 9780071849296.

### IV – Methodology & Evaluation

#### **Breakdown**

1. Participation et discussions (written and video)	20%
2. Online Tests (3*10%)	30%
3. Online Dictations (2*5%)	10%
4. <i>Written Composition</i> (1*10%)	10%
5. Oral Presentations, in <i>VoiceThread</i> (2*15%)	30%

There is no final exam for this online course.

#### **Calendar**

Please refer to the **detailed week-by-week, step-by-step calendar** of all work required for this course that is available in **Owl** from the first day of the course (page "Modules du cours"). It lists all the readings, exercises and homework in *Alter Ego* and *Ultimate French Review*.

#### **1. Participation et discussions (20%)**

**Discussions.** Every Monday, you will receive an announcement in Owl explaining the **weekly requirement** for « Discussions », to be fulfilled before the next Sunday at 23h55. Typically, you will be given a subject and asked to post a minimum number of short messages in our Forum (written) or *VoiceThread* (video), and to reply a minimum number of times to posts from your fellow students.

**Criteria** for these postings are that they be: short; expressed in good French; constructive, collaborative, respectful; sound, objective, relevant to the question asked; making use of course material or other material pertaining to Francophonie at large, in the French language.

**Grade** for "Discussions" is based on quantity, assiduity and general quality (criteria). Grade is given for the ensemble of your postings: individual postings are not graded. The "Minimum Number" of postings asked will secure an AVERAGE grade if average assiduity and quality are also met. EXCELLENCE is achieved by higher standards in quantity, assiduity and general quality.

**Participation** is evaluated based on the use you make of the material offered to you weekly through our Owl site, including the interest you demonstrate for the discussions, survey questions, links leading to material inside or outside our owl site and VoiceThread postings. This evaluation make use of the quantitative Statistical Analysis provided by Owl.

Please make sure to **click on "Read"** in every individual Forum posting that you actually read; failure to do so will prevent your instructor from knowing that you did read the posts. Assiduity is important, so do participate evenly through the weeks.

## **2. Online Tests (3\*10%)**

These 3 online, 45 minutes, cumulative assessments will test grammar and vocabulary. An exam study plan will be announced for each test.

- **Test #1** covers week 1 and is open to take between Sunday June 25 at noon and Tuesday **June 27** at noon.
- **Test #2** covers weeks 1, 2, 3 and is open to take between Sunday July 9 at noon and Tuesday **July 11** at noon.
- **Test #3** covers weeks 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and is open to take between **Wednesday** July 26 at noon and **Friday July 28** at **22h00**.

Tests are short answers or multiple choice. They assess grammar and vocabulary acquisitions from the Owl site, from *Alter Ego* (book and cd) and from *The Ultimate French Review and Practice* (book and cd).

Words found in exercices listed in the calendar as well as in the « Vocabulaire » sections in the Calendar must be studied. Students are expected to know the meaning of the words , their genre (masc. or fem.), their exact spelling (including accents) and their English translation.

If you are not able to write the test for a valid reason, please refer below to the section "Academic Accommodation for 10% or above".

## **3. Online Dictations (2\*5%)**

These are two 20 minute dictations imitated (modified) from longer texts in *Alter Ego* which will be announced 72 hours prior to the opening of the dictation. The dictation is divided in short audio files recorded by the instructor; students listen to the audio file and type the words of the sentences, in Owl.

- **Dictation A** is open to take between Thursday June 22 at noon and Saturday **June 24** at noon.
- **Dictation B** is open to take between Thursday July 13 at noon and Saturday **July 15** at noon.

## **4. Written Composition (1\*10%)**

The « *Composition* » is a 450 words homework where students are asked to write a fiction, based on specific topic and including specific linguistic requirements. Topic and requirements are supplied by the instructor in Owl, two weeks before the due date.

- The **Written Composition** is due Tuesday **July 18** before 22h00.

#### **5. Oral Presentations, in VoiceThread (2\*15%)**

Students are asked to film two 12 minutes oral presentations using the *VoiceThread* video recording tool in Owl. Detailed explanations are found in owl.

- **Oral Presentation A ("Une biographie")** is due Tuesday **July 4** before 22h00.
- **Oral Presentation B ("Cela m'indigne et je m'y oppose!")** is due Tuesday **July 25** before 22h00.

### **V – Hardware, software, Internet connection**

Just as you would prepare yourself for an on-campus course, preparing your computer is your responsibility. Students are **responsible** for these technical requirements for this course:

- a **computer** (or equivalent device) capable of:
  - typing **French accents** (all accent mistakes count, always)
  - **web** browsing
  - **audio** recording
  - **video** recording (through *VoiceThread*)
- a **personal back-up** solution for regularly safeguarding all work they do in this course, including all files, documents, assignments that were sent to the instructor or uploaded by the student to Owl (this does not apply to tests and quizzes).
- an internet **connection** (fast)
- a compatible browser (**Firefox**, **Google Chrome**, and **Internet Explorer** are supported by **OWL**); depending on configurations, students may also need to install supplementary software such as **Java** and **Adobe Flash**.
- access to their personal **OWL by Sakai** UWO student's login
- access to their personal **VoiceThread** UWO student's account (available through our class Owl website)

For general technical issues, please see first: <http://www.uwo.ca/its/helpdesk/>

For issues with **VoiceThread**, see: <https://voicethread.com/support/contact/>

### **VI – Taking Online Tests and Quizzes**

#### **Code of conduct**

Distance learning can only work if students live by the same ethics online as on campus. By registering in this online course, you are agreeing to the *University of Western Ontario Code of Student Conduct* (<http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/board/code.pdf>) and the *Scholastic Discipline For Undergraduate Students* (<http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2016/pg113.html>).

Ultimately, each student is responsible for his or her learning achievements, and this is why we trust that you will take online examinations as you would on campus, and this

includes explicitly **not seeking outside** help (human, printed, software, web, etc.) when no indications otherwise permit you to.

### **A quiet setting**

Some online tests are metered and cannot be interrupted, so make sure to have a **quiet** environment, complete with **earphones** for eventual audio test components.

Turn your **phone off**, as well as all messaging or email software that could distract you with noises or **pop-up** windows.

To avoid possible software glitches, before taking a test online, it is advisable to **restart your computer** and launch only one browser application, with only one window open, and leave **no other programs running** in the background.

At the end, make sure you save all your answers before you submit for grading.

### **Submitting an assignment**

Instructions for assignment in Owl:

<https://owl.uwo.ca/portal/help/TOCDisplay/content.hlp?docId=howdoisubmitanassignment>

When you have finished, click *Submit* at the bottom of the screen. Do not click *Submit* until you are certain that you have completed the assignment. Once you click *Submit*, you will no longer be able to access the assignment (e.g., to add more text or attachments).

You will receive an email message confirming your submission. If you do not receive a confirmation, check to see if you have successfully submitted the assignment or contact your Instructor within 24 hours.

### **VII – Posting in a Forum**

Instructions for posting:

<https://owl.uwo.ca/portal/help/TOCDisplay/content.hlp?docId=howdoiposttoforum>

Instructions for replying:

<https://owl.uwo.ca/portal/help/TOCDisplay/content.hlp?docId=howdoireplytoforumposticonversation>

Some Instructors may not grant permission to edit or delete posts, so make sure you have carefully edited your message before posting. It is recommended to work in a Word or Notepad document and then copy over your message content if your post is long to avoid losing your work if an Internet outage occurs.

Please make sure to **click on "Read"** in every individual Forum posting that you actually read; failure to do so will prevent your instructor from knowing that you did read the posts.

### **VII – Technical difficulty**

Technical difficulties are **not** considered grounds for late or absent submissions. Technical difficulties include: French keyboard issues, audio, video, lost data, internet connection, bottlenecks on busy network, etc. Since these do happen, please **never wait to the last moment to complete work online.**

If you do not receive an automatic confirmation such as “your work has been submitted successfully” after submitting an assignment, or if for any reason you are not sure your work was submitted properly, it is your responsibility to contact the Instructor within 24 hours by email and explain your concern or technical difficulty. You will be requested to provide documentation (screen capture, date stamp, etc.) proving that the assignment was completed on time and that you attempted to submit it.

In rare and exceptional circumstances is accommodation granted by the Department in such a case.

Students are advised to submit their work well before the deadline posted on the site, so as to avoid being caught in a “bottleneck” when many students submit assignments on OWL at the same time.

### **VIII – Communication with the Instructor about course-related matters**

- **Instructors** post regular **announcements** that students receive on the « Announcements » section in Owl. Announcements for this course are **not** sent to your **email**, just to the Owl site, so do check the Owl site daily.
- **Instructors** will send **private messages** to students using the “Messages” tool in Owl.
- **Students** are also expected to use the “Messages” tool in Owl for communicating with the Instructor about all normal course-related matters.
- Please **avoid** using the Instructor’s personal “@uwo” email for normal business pertaining to this online course.
- Students are advised to **keep a copy** of all written correspondence with the Instructor for the duration of the course

### **IX – Late submissions**

- In Owl “**Assignments**” and “**Forum**”: eventual permissions for late submissions of work in Owl “**Assignments**” and “**Forum**” are set by the Instructor in the Assignment tool, and they do vary from one assignment to the other.
- Late submission **penalty** for work submitted in Owl “**Assignments**” and “**Forum**”: 10% of the homework grade is deducted per complete 24-hour period after the normal due date. Please refer to each assignment instructions to see the last possible submission day and time (after which submissions are no longer possible).
- In **VoiceThread**. The **VoiceThread** tool does not include late submission permission settings (yet). Late submission penalty: 10% of the homework grade is deducted per complete 24 hour period after the normal due date, up to 30%. Work submitted after 72 hours after the original deadline will **not** be considered for grading in **VoiceThread**.

- Late submissions are **not** accepted for *Tests* and *Dictées*.

### **X – Academic Accommodation for 10% or above**

Students seeking academic accommodation for any missed tests, participation components and/or assignments worth (each) 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 do not present your Instructor with medical documentation.

[http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/academic\\_policies/rights\\_responsibilities.html](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/academic_policies/rights_responsibilities.html)

### **XI – Missed components under 10%**

For missed components of the course worth less than 10% of the final grade, please contact your Instructor.

### **XII – General Policies (French Studies)**

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

[http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/academic\\_policies/rights\\_responsibilities.html](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/academic_policies/rights_responsibilities.html)

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:

[http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/academic\\_policies/rights\\_responsibilities.html](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/academic_policies/rights_responsibilities.html)

#### **Support services**

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Health and Wellness website [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/2015/pg113.html>

#### **General 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."

[http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/academic\\_policies/examinations.html](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/academic_policies/examinations.html)



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)

*Bienvenue et bon travail au cours 2906 !*

*\* Non final \**