

Department of French Studies
French 4900A
Language (Advanced Level IV, Special Topic) - Fall 2024

French 4900A Language (Advanced Level IV, Special Topic) - 001

Course Location: MC17

Course Day/Time: Monday 12:30-2:30
Wednesday 12:30-1:30

Format: In person

Antirequisite: French 4901A/B.

Prerequisite(s): French 3900 or French 3300 or 1.0 credit from French 3306A/B, French 3307A/B, French 3905A/B, French 3907A/B, French 3908A/B, or permission of the Department based on Placement Test. Placement Test results do not guarantee admission into the course. Written permission must be obtained from the Department.

Unless you have either the prerequisites 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.

Instructor:

Name: Dr. Nadine de Moras (she)

E-mail: ndemora@uwo.ca

Office: UC 2121

Phone number: 519-661-2111 Ext. 28277

Office hours: Monday 2:30-3:30
Wednesday 1:30-2:30 + Appointments
Can be in person or on Zoom depending on students' availability

Office hours

Office hours are to discuss what was not clear in the course, or in the coursebook, to discuss grades and comments about the midterm or assignments, or to discuss any other issue related to the course. Office hours are not intended for catching up on missed classes. If you miss a class, you can find the PowerPoint presentations on OWL Brightspace, and you may also ask fellow students for additional information.

Current calendar course description

Study of specific problems in French language.

Note: Because this course is a course in “ Special Topics in Language” there is no precise calendar description. The content of the course depends on the professor. (Please see the description below.)

Course description

French 4900A offers students a comprehensive opportunity to develop all aspects of oral language. In this course, students will learn and practice contemporary colloquial French as spoken in France today. It focuses on enhancing oral communication skills, both in production and comprehension, and enables students to understand, identify, and use various language registers and sociolinguistic features, such as the relationships between age, social class, and language. Additionally, the course aims to improve pronunciation and specific features of colloquial language, familiarize students with aspects of French culture, and refine certain grammatical elements, including gender, tenses, and agreement. While the majority of the vocabulary is typically used in France, the course also incorporates words and expressions used in most Francophone countries, and highlights many pronunciation features common in Canadian French (Laurentian and Franco-Ontarian French), such as assimilations, schwa deletion, and negation deletion.

Learning Outcomes / Course Objectives

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Demonstrate oral language skills.
 - Demonstrate a certain ease in understanding authentic dialogues between French speakers and demonstrate the ability to participate actively in authentic conversations.
 - Demonstrate knowledge of pronunciation rules, using them appropriately during recordings and in authentic conversations.
 - Recognize, identify and use different language registers in French.
 - Explain concepts specific to oral language by answering complex questions concerning vocabulary, grammar and pronunciation.
 - Examine various phenomena concerning language variation, and oral language in general.
 - Compare and explain linguistic phenomena in oral English and French.
 - Demonstrate the ability to understand, use and apply theories of oral language (syntactic and phonetic rules) and to apply new vocabulary in exercises and authentic written and spoken conversations.
 - Demonstrate an appreciation of French culture, explaining French cultural phenomena, and comparing them to particular phenomena in a Canadian context.
 - Apply knowledge and skills in oral and written comprehension and production in authentic communication situations.
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Methods of Evaluation

The overall course grade will be calculated as listed below:

- 7 quizzes 14%
The best 7 quizzes (out of 8) will be counted (2% each). All quizzes are due on Mondays at 12:00pm (before the classes start).

Quiz 1 - Sept 23	Quiz 2 - Oct. 02	Quiz 3 - Oct. 07	Quiz 4 - Oct. 21
Quiz 5 - Nov. 04	Quiz 6 - Nov. 11	Quiz 7 - Nov. 18	Quiz 8 - Nov. 25
- 1 written composition (in class) 10% Date: (Wednesday) October 9.
- 1 midterm 16% Date: (Monday) October 28.
- 2 recordings (15 % each) 30% Dates: October 23; November 27.
Recordings are due on Wednesdays at 10:00pm.
- Final exam 30% Date: December 9-22 (to be announced).

Course Schedule

	Dates	Lundi et mercredi	Coursebook	Tests /devoirs	Quiz
1	9-11 sept.	Introduction cours, présentation prof, étudiantes, langue familière, variation sociolinguistique, notions de base	pp. 1-28		
2	16-18 sept.	Renaud, lettres en fin de mots, les enchainements + verlan	pp. 29-44; 81-84 pp. 405-406		
3	23-25 sept.	Texte (chanson) 1 + les liaisons	pp. 45-56; 85-123		Quiz 1
4	30 sept 2 oct.	30 septembre : National Day for Truth & Reconciliation Texte (chanson) 2	pp. 125-167		Quiz 2
5	7-9 oct.	Texte (chanson) 3 + e caduc	pp. 57-60 pp. 169-211	Comp. en classe Merc. 9 octobre	Quiz 3
	14-16 oct.	Semaine de lecture			
6	21-23 oct.	Texte (chanson) 4 + assimilations et effacements	pp. 61-78 pp. 212-240	Enregistrement 1 23 octobre	Quiz 4
7	28-30 oct.	<u>Partiel (lundi 28 oct)</u>		Partiel, lundi 28	
8	4-6 nov.	Texte (chanson) 5	pp. 241-269		Quiz 5
9	11-13 nov.	Texte (chanson) 6	pp. 271-287		Quiz 6
10	18-20 nov.	Texte (chanson) 7	pp. 289-322		Quiz 7
11	25-27 nov.	Texte (chanson) 8 + révisions enregistrement 2	pp. 323-391	Enregistrement 2 27 novembre	Quiz 8
12	2-4 déc.	SMS + révisions	pp. 393-404		

Decembre 9-22: Examination period.

Texts and Materials

Required Text: Custom Course Book **French 4900A - September 2024** - Nadine de Moras (to be downloaded from the Brightspace website).

Attendance

The students' attendance and participation are essential to their learning in this course. There is no separate grade for attendance. Instead, the participation mark is in the quizzes (14%). Coming to class helps students understand, practice and memorize concepts and vocabulary, and improve pronunciation. This, in turn, reflects on the quizzes and the recordings marks. Students need to come to class prepared, having completed the assigned readings and exercises to benefit from the class practice. Please **do not** email me if you miss a class: I take regular attendance, therefore if you're not here, I already know. I will not answer emails sent for the sole purpose of giving me such notice, even if it's advance notice.

Quizzes (14%)

All quizzes are due on Mondays at 12:00pm, before the classes start. Students are welcome to do them earlier. All the information to be learned is clearly explained in the coursebook and the PowerPoint presentations. The class time is for summarizing, explaining, and practicing the most important concepts and vocabulary. The quizzes encourage students to do their homework, come to class regularly, pay attention to activities and provide students with some feedback about what they learned and mastered, and what they did not. The quizzes test the students' preparation, assiduity and mastery of the material. The questions in the quizzes are mainly fill-in the blanks and some multiple-choice questions. The best 7 quizzes (out of 8) will be counted (2% each).

Recordings 30% (15% each)

After reviewing the pronunciation rules and practicing in class, you'll read the texts aloud for the recordings. Very detailed comments will help you improve on various points. The aim is to learn, practice and master the basics of French pronunciation and colloquial language. Consider this as an excellent opportunity to improve your oral French. **You CANNOT redo the recordings.** You need to listen to the sound files, come to class, and practice in class. The professor will give you feedback. You can also go to the Western *Centre d'aide en français* for extra practice. Once you practiced this way, you can come during my office hours to practice with me before the recording.

1 written composition (10%)

During the class composition, students will be given a list of words for each chapter and questions.

1. They will give synonyms, definitions or translations;
 2. They will make sentences using these words. The meaning needs to be clear and precise.
 3. They may answer cultural questions.
 4. The overall quality of French (grammar and spelling) will also be graded.
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1 Midterm (15%)

The midterm tests the students' acquisition of the content of the course taught up to the midpoint of the course. Some questions will be taken from the quizzes; others will be taken from the coursebook, the Power Point presentations, and from what was presented and discussed in class.

The format of the midterm can be found at the end of the coursebook and on Brightspace.

The final exam (30%)

The final exam is cumulative. The content of the whole term will be in the exam. The final exam will have a combination of short and longer answers. Some of the questions may be the same or similar to the ones in the quizzes and the midterm. The questions can test knowledge (short answers, fill-in the blanks), or understanding of a linguistic or cultural concept (explain a phonetic or cultural concept). More details will be given in class with the exact format of the final exam, later during the term.

Classroom etiquette and general considerations

- Students are expected to arrive on time to class, stay the whole class and actively participate in the class activities.
 - Students are expected to come to class fully prepared: having done the homework, which is clearly explained on the website and in the coursebook, in addition to the weekly quizzes, and to come to class with their printed coursebooks.
 - If students are going to be absent for one class, they should NOT contact me. I take attendance; thus, I know that you are absent.
 - However, if students are absent for a long period of time, or drop the course, they are expected to let the instructor know.
 - If students contact their professor, they are expected to be polite, use VOUS, **use their UWO email**, write the correct Professor's name, and indicate their student number if related to more important matters.
 - Students have the responsibility of completing their work each week and have opportunities to improve their grades during the term. **There is no possibility of doing extra work** at the end of the year or **increasing the final grade** to compensate for missed work or low marks.
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Brightspace

All course material will be posted to OWL: <http://owl.uwo.ca>.

You can also find the same information at <https://westernu.brightspace.com/d2l/home/30847>

Students are responsible for checking the course Brightspace site and their emails, on a regular basis for news and updates. These are the primary methods by which information will be disseminated to all students in the class.

If students need assistance with the course site, they can seek support on the OWL Help page.

Alternatively, they can contact the Western Technology Services Helpdesk.

<https://wts.uwo.ca/helpdesk/>

Technical Requirements

This course requires you to have a reliable internet connection and a computer that meets the technical requirements for accessing the course outline, the coursebook, the lessons for reviews, and for writing weekly online quizzes. You can use the library computers if you don't have your own. The use of laptops (or tablets) is allowed in class for note-taking purposes only, but not necessary. In fact, you don't need to take notes, as all the relevant information is in the coursebook and in the PowerPoint presentations.

You don't need to bring a laptop to classes, but you need to bring the printed coursebook.

Electronic Devices

Cell phones are not permitted in class. If you have valid reasons to use your phone in class, please come talk to me at the beginning of class or at the beginning of the term.

Accommodation for this course

In case students are granted accommodation by an academic advisor (with the instructor's agreement), please see the course accommodation below.

With accommodation	Without accommodation
Quizzes Since the best 7 quizzes out of 8 are counted, students can miss one quiz without penalty and without accommodation. In addition, there is a flexibility period to submit the quizzes (up to a deadline). The quizzes cannot be done later.	Quizzes Since the best 7 quizzes out of 8 are counted, students can miss one quiz without penalty. If students miss more than one quiz, students will receive a 0 for the missed quizzes. The quizzes cannot be done later.
The written composition Students can come to my office to redo the class composition within one week after the due date. Different words will be on the list.	The written composition Students can come to my office to redo the class composition. Different words will be on the list. A penalty of -5% for each day will be applied, up to a maximum of 7 days (-35%)
Recordings Students can submit their recordings later, within one week after the due date.	Recordings Students can submit their recordings within one week after the due date. A penalty of -5% for each day will be applied, up to a maximum of 7 days (-35%)
Midterm There is no make-up exam for the midterm. The final exam grade will be reweighed.	Midterm There is no make-up exam. Students will receive 0 for the missed midterm.

Accommodation for quizzes

All quizzes deadlines have an automatic 48-hour 'grace period'. That is, if you cannot make the original deadline set (Mondays, 12:00pm), you will have an additional 48-hour period during which you can still submit the assessment without requiring any academic consideration from Academic Counseling, or permission from the instructor, and without any late penalty. There is no limit on the number of quizzes for which you 'use' the 48-hour grace period. So, if you need some or all of that extra 48 hours to get these assessments submitted, simply take it—no questions asked. Beyond that 48-hour grace period, late submissions will not be accepted. Note that the 48-hour grace period **does NOT apply to the other assessments**.

The submission deadlines for quizzes already include flexibility in three forms:

1. The 48-hour grace period.
2. The best 7 quizzes out of 8 (and possibility of missing one quiz without penalty).
3. The early availability of quizzes, and the possibility of submitting the quizzes in advance.

This is why the instructor reserves the right to deny extra academic consideration for quizzes which are submitted following the end of the period of flexibility (after the 48-hour grace period). Thus, extra accommodation will not be accepted for quizzes, and quizzes are blocked after the deadline.

All academic consideration requests must include supporting documentation; however, recognizing that formal documentation may not be available in some extenuating circumstances, students can submit **ONE recording up to 24 hours** late without supporting documentation and without penalty. The midterm and the class compositions always require formal supporting documentation when requesting Academic Consideration.

Evaluation Scheme for Missed Final Exam

If you miss the Final Exam, please contact the Academic Counselling office of your Faculty of Registration as soon as you are able to do so. They will assess your eligibility to write the Special Examination (the name given by the University to a makeup Final Exam).

You may also be eligible to write the Special Exam if you are in a “Multiple Exam Situation” (e.g., more than 2 exams in 23-hour period, more than 3 exams in a 47-hour period).

If a student fails to write a scheduled Special Examination, the date of the next Special Examination (if granted) normally will be the scheduled date for the final exam the next time this course is offered. The maximum course load for that term will be reduced by the credit of the course(s) for which the final examination has been deferred. See the Academic Calendar ([Special Examinations](#)), especially for those who miss multiple final exams within one examination period.

Note that supporting documentation is **always** required for academic consideration requests for examinations scheduled by the office of the registrar (e.g. December and April exams).

When a student receives academic considerations or academic accommodations which overlap with the built-in flexibility of the assessment, the longest period of accommodation will determine the deadline. The built-in flexibility of the assessment should not be taken to extend any considerations or accommodations.

Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI)

In this course, students written assessments (composition, midterm) are done in class, proctored with no documents allowed. Thus, the question of the use of AI does not apply.

General information about missed coursework

Students must familiarize themselves with the *University Policy on Academic Consideration – Undergraduate Students in First Entry Programs* posted on the Academic Calendar:

<https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academicpolicies/appeals/academicconsiderationSep24.pdf>

This policy does not apply to requests for academic consideration submitted for **attempted or completed work**, whether online or in person. The policy also does not apply to students experiencing longer-term impacts on their academic responsibilities. These students should consult: [Accessible Education](#).

For procedures on how to submit Academic Consideration requests, please see the information posted on the Office of the Registrar’s webpage: <https://registrar.uwo.ca/academics/academicconsiderations/>. All requests for Academic Consideration must be made within 48 hours after the assessment date or submission deadline.

Additional Statements

Academic Offences

Scholastic offences are taken seriously, and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, here:

<http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academicpolicies/appeals/scholasticdisciplineundergrad.pdf>.

Statement on the use of plagiarism-checking software

In this course, students' written assessments (composition, midterm, final exam) are done in class, proctored, with no documents allowed. Thus, the question of the use of plagiarism-checking software does not apply.

However, if I notice too many similarities between some students' answers at these assessments, students may be asked to rewrite some questions in my office.

Policy on Accommodation for Religious Holidays

Students should review the [policy for Accommodation for Religious Holidays](#) . Where a student will be unable to write examinations and term tests due to a conflicting religious holiday, they should inform their instructors as soon as possible but **not later than two weeks** prior to writing the examination/term test. In the case of conflict with a midterm test, students should inform their instructor as soon as possible but not later than one week prior to the midterm.

Academic Accommodation and Accessible Education

Academic Accommodation is “a means of adjusting the academic activities associated with a course or program of student in order to permit students with disabilities to participate in those activities at the University and to fulfill the essential requirements of a course or program.”

<https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academicpolicies/appeals/Academic%20Accommodationdisabilities.pdf>.

Students with disabilities are encouraged to register with Accessible Education at the earliest opportunity. “Accessible Education plays a central role in Western's efforts to ensure that its academic programs are accessible for all students”

<http://academicsupport.uwo.ca/accessibleeducation/index.html>

Note: students do not need any accommodation for quizzes as they are not timed, and students can take as much time as they need.

Special Examinations

A Special Examination is any examination other than the regular examination, and it may be offered only with the permission of the Dean of the Faculty in which the student is registered, in consultation with the instructor and Department Chair. Permission to write a Special Examination may be given on the basis of compassionate or medical grounds with appropriate supporting documents. To provide an opportunity for students to recover from the circumstances resulting in a Special Examination, the University has implemented Special Examinations dates. These dates as well as other important information about examinations and academic standing can be found [here](#).

Support Services

Academic Advising

Your Home Faculty's Academic Advising Office will support or refer whenever you have an issue that is affecting your studies, including information on adding/dropping courses, academic considerations for absences, appeals, exam conflicts, and many other academic related matters. Do not hesitate to reach out to them if you are struggling and unsure where to go for help. Contact info for all Faculties is here: <https://registrar.uwo.ca/facultyacademiccounselling.html>

Mental Health Support

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western (<https://uwo.ca/health/>) for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

Gender-based and sexual violence

Western University [is committed to reducing incidents of gender-based and sexual violence](#) (GBSV) and providing compassionate support to anyone who is going through or has gone through these traumatic events. If you are experiencing or have experienced GBSV (either recently or in the past), you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts at the following website:

<https://www.uwo.ca/health/studentsupport/survivorsupport/get-help.html> . To connect with a case manager or set up an appointment, please contact support@uwo.ca.

Learning Development and Success

Counsellors at the Learning Development and Success Centre <https://learning.uwo.ca> are ready to help you improve your learning skills. They offer presentations on strategies for improving time management, multiple-choice exam preparation/writing, textbook reading, and more. Individual support is offered throughout the Fall/Winter terms in the drop-in Learning Help Centre, and year-round through individual counselling.

USC

Additional student-run support services are offered by the USC, <https://westernusc.ca/services/>.

Copyright and intellectual property

PowerPoint lecture slides, the coursebook, in-class activities, assignment guidelines, recordings, quizzes and other components of the course materials are typically the intellectual property of the instructor. Unauthorized reproduction through audio-recording, video recording, photographing, sharing on social media, or posting on course-sharing websites is an infringement of copyright and is prohibited. Such an action may be considered a Code of Conduct violation and lead to sanctions.
