

NorthWest Arkansas Community College
Communications & Arts Division
Foreign Language Department

FREN 1003 **Elementary French I**

Catalog Description: Foreign Languages

All foreign language courses, beginning at the FLAN 1003, level are considered electives and can contribute appropriate elective credit to most degree plans of the college with the one exception that the Associate of Science in International Business requires six hours of foreign language. Otherwise, credit from foreign language courses is deemed transfer credit and will be accepted by most four-year colleges especially those in Arkansas. Most four-year institutions require 9-12 hours of foreign language study as part of their BA, BFA, and BS degrees. However FLAN 0xxx and FLAN 1003 will not normally transfer degree credit to a university to satisfy a foreign language requirement.

In order to accommodate students with prior language experience, the Foreign Language Department has established the following guidelines to facilitate enhanced or advanced standing credit. On the basis of prior knowledge of a language and with the approval of the Foreign Language lead faculty, a student can omit one or more of the courses in the basic language sequence: FLAN 1013, 2003, and 2013. The student may receive college credit for omitted courses if they validate their higher placement by passing an advanced course with a grade of "C" or above. Credit will be awarded at the request of the student upon authorization of the Foreign Language Department lead faculty.

A student who chooses to seek credit by examination must take the CLEP (College Level Examination Program) exam in the target language at a CLEP examination site. The University of Arkansas at Fayetteville is the nearest CLEP examination site.

Prerequisites: None. Previous experience in French is not necessary nor anticipated in this class. The pace of elementary French is arduous and students must spend many hours studying, memorizing, and practicing the language to achieve success. Students who are not used to a very demanding academic discipline will often benefit by taking Conversational French I, SPAN 0013, before enrolling in Elementary French I.

Credit: 3 hours Contact: 3 ½ Load: 3 ½

Target Audience and Transfer: Since there is no foreign language requirement for the Associate of Arts degree at NWACC, any foreign language class that a student might take is either a general elective or will be used to satisfy a foreign language requirement at a four-year university. Elementary French I is a preparatory class for students planning to transfer their foreign language credits. In the absence of any other French language preparation such as high school or life experience, Elementary French is a necessary prerequisite for Elementary French II. At most four-year colleges and universities, including the University

Standard Course Outline

of Arkansas, Elementary French I is generally not accepted for transfer credit. Depending on the university, however, Elementary French I may or may not be included as part of the twelve hours of foreign language study that most liberal arts degrees require. We have designed our Elementary French program to fulfill the needs of students that are planning to transfer their credits to the University of Arkansas, with which we have close ties and formal articulation agreements.

General Course Outline: In the face of rapid global integration the study of any foreign language facilitates the break down of language barriers that isolate people linguistically, culturally and geographically which limit their potential to function in an international focused reality. To prepare our students to function in a global economy and society, we offer studies in foreign languages that lead to proficiency in the language while preparing students to successfully transfer into higher degree programs at the university level.

Elementary French I is the first of the four semesters of college-level academic French courses offered at NWACC that lead to proficiency in the French language and that transfer to fulfill most four-year universities' foreign language requirements for a Bachelor of Arts Degree.

In this course you will be introduced to the five parts of language; reading, writing, listening, speaking and culture. It would be beneficial for you to be familiar with some French grammar prior to this class. You will learn communicative language as well as basic vocabulary. You will be introduced to the French culture, as well as to the culture of other francophone cultures. You will have the opportunity to experience "real life" French via Internet activities and other technology. This class, also, presents the basic structure of the language that will better enable you, as a learner of French, to use the language in reading, writing, listening, and speaking. Please feel free to bring to class any "Frenchie" items, which would make our learning experience even more authentic.

Required Texts and Materials:

Amon, Muyskens, Omaggio Hadley; *Vis-à-vis*, 2nd ed., McGraw-Hill, Boston & New York, 2000 Textbook, workbook and student audio cassette or CD-ROM program and a good French/English Dictionary

Topics:

In Elementary French I, we cover the first six lessons of *Vis-à-vis* and more if possible.

Required Activities:

Homework: Do all workbook activities corresponding to the material covered in class after each session, including the listening activities, *Par Ecrit*, and *Journal Intime*. Write out all answers in complete sentences. **Correct your answers in a different color ink.** You will hand in your workbook activities after each chapter test.

Standard Course Outline

Successful performance in Elementary French I requires a thorough understanding and practice of the **dialog**, **vocabulary**, and **exercises** (*Allez-y*) of the lesson. You accomplish this by setting a routine of study which includes:

- Go over covered material soon after class.
- Stay organized. Keep work and notes in a notebook.
- Use tools, such as flashcards, for learning new material.
- Learn by writing things out instead of just looking at them.
- DO the activities in the workbook and YES, check your answers.
- Use French outside the classroom. Par exemple, cook French food, watch French movies, pay attention to French which is written on items you buy, watch the news for events in franophone countries.

Movie Reviews:

- 1e revue - Write a one page (front only) review of a French movie describing the main characters, the plot and your opinion of the film. This one will be in English.
- 2e revue - Write a one page (front only) review of a different French movie, as above, this one will be in English, as well.

FIESTA: In November, there will be a Foreign Language Department cultural FIESTA. You will receive extra credit for attending this function. C'est SUPER COOL!

Optional Activities:

French in Action. A video course that is used as a supplement in our program as a classroom activity after completion of the first three lessons of. Once begun, the first 10-20 minutes of each regular class should be used on the video program. This gives the student a formatted context to observe the spoken target language and, for the instructor, a convenient context for follow-up questions and discussion following viewing entirely in the target language. These tapes are available through the NWACC Library and a set is kept in the lab for convenience.

Procedures for Oral Practice Components of International Language Learning:

In all languages and at all levels of foreign language learning a strong emphasis must be placed on oral fluency. To encourage students to concentrate their efforts on gaining oral proficiency, they must have many opportunities to practice speaking the language both inside and outside the classroom, particularly outside where they have more control and more time. Since we do not at present have a lab credit nor full lab facilities, the lab can only be one of the options that students can take advantage of. Through the use of contracts to award extra credit for oral practice and making certain exercises part of the regular classroom curriculum the instructor can promote oral involvement by the students. Here are some guidelines and suggestions for instructors and students:

Standard Course Outline

Oral Quizzes

All students will be given three oral quizzes during each semester in the Center for Language Acquisition (The Language Lab). Two will be spaced through the semester, i.e. after each 2 or 3 lessons/chapters, and one at the final. The quizzes must be scheduled with the lab assistant and should be listed in the schedule of classes for each. The process for administering the quizzes is for the instructor to record the quiz on the sound recorder of the three PC's that have tape decks in the Lab. The Lab Assistant can assist with the mechanics of the process. At the time the quiz is to be administered the students will take the quiz three students at a time, recording their answers on a single tape in each tape deck. The instructor will take the tapes home and award a grade based on the Speaking Evaluation Rubrics.

Language Lab Practice The International Language Learning Center better known as the Foreign Language Lab, is available for the student to practice on the various French language programs that we have available in the Lab and to log on to the Internet and interact with online resources.

Practice with Native Speakers

There are many native speakers of other languages in our area, particularly Spanish speakers. This is a difficult project for the elementary French student because the **learner** has to carefully control the practice environment to keep the language interaction at his level of competence. I don't encourage it unless the student is very committed. For the contracted extra credit the student must log 10 hours speaking with a native or other instructor-approved French speaker; keep a journal of sessions describing the activity, record sessions on audio cassettes, and submit recordings periodically to the instructor. No session should last longer than one hour. If half of the project is not completed by mid-term, the contract is voided. An approved French speaker would be someone that is very *fluent* in French. Extra credit may be achieved for this activity by contract [see the sample Elementary Enrichment Contract on web page at <http://www.nwacc.cc.ar.us/fldept/French/>].

Internet

There are many opportunities available on the Internet to communicate orally. One of the most effective is to connect with someone through Microsoft NetMeeting whereby the student can have person to person communication by voice and even by live video. Check with the lab assistant in MAT Bldg., Room 13, 986-6922.

Partnering

Learning a foreign language can be very frustrating. The more support the student has the more successful he is likely to be. To have someone to practice and commiserate with has great advantages. The partners can work exercises together or check each other's work. All the oral exercises available in the chapters are more effective when practiced with a real person. Projects can be done jointly. Most of all, the student doesn't feel so isolated in the very challenging process of studying the foreign language. All students are encouraged to establish a partner in the first or second day of classes.

Contract: Extra credit may be achieved by contract [see the sample Elementary Enrichment Contract on web page at <http://www.nwacc.cc.ar.us/fldept/French/>]. The student may choose from various activities to earn up to 25 percent of his final semester grade of 100 points. All of these projects can contribute to your success in understanding and performing in French,

Standard Course Outline

but it is suggested that the student choose activities based on the kinds of things he likes to do, that are compatible with his particular learning style and the amount of time he has available. Work should be turned in for evaluation as it is completed throughout the semester and the contract must be completed by the 14th week of a fall or spring semester. Summer term contract conditions will vary depending on length of term.