

## FREN S999: French for Reading Knowledge

Session A: May 27-June 28  
M and Th 10:00am-12:00pm  
Classroom on Zoom: TBA

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Office Hours: Before and after class and by appointment on Zoom. Please notify me if you wish to meet.

### Course description:

*French for Reading Knowledge* is a synchronous online non-credit course intended primarily for graduate students who need to conduct research in French, to pass French translation exams, or to fulfill departmental second-language requirements. It assumes no previous study of French and since it presents a strictly text-based approach to the French language, there will be little emphasis on pronunciation. We will instead focus on learning the structural essentials of French grammar and syntax, as well as acquiring basic vocabulary for a variety of academic fields. You will gain practice in close reading and translation of texts written in journalistic, literary, and scholarly styles on a variety of topics.

Because of the compressed time frame of the course and our limited number of contact hours, students are expected to spend significant time outside of class reading, building vocabulary, and studying grammar. Becoming a competent and attentive reader in any language is an ongoing process. While this course provides an introduction to the basics, in order to be truly proficient, you will need to continue reading in your field and acquiring vocabulary after the class ends. You should keep a running list of frequently used words and phrases in your discipline and quiz yourself on them regularly.

This course will employ a flipped classroom model. Students are expected to study the assigned chapters *before* coming to class as our time together will be devoted to activating and practicing new material through reading and translation exercises. Again, due to our tight schedule, the amount of class time devoted to presenting and explaining grammar will be limited. However, I am always happy to meet with students individually or in groups outside of class to provide additional help and answer questions.

### Required Texts:

1. Karl C. Sandberg and Eddison C. Tatham, *French for Reading*, 1997 (Prentice-Hall) – any edition (print or electronic)
2. A good French-English dictionary (print or electronic). If you plan to take a translation exam where you will be required to use a hardcopy bilingual dictionary, you should invest in one now and use this course as an opportunity to become comfortable with using it. Otherwise, there are several options for online dictionaries such as [linguee.com](http://linguee.com) and [wordreference.com](http://wordreference.com). If English is not your first language (or you speak other Romance languages), it can also be useful to purchase a bilingual dictionary between French and whichever language you prefer.

### Recommended Texts:

1. Bescherelle, *Complete Guide to Conjugating 12000 French Verbs*, English Edition, 1995 (Hatier)
2. Mary E. Crocker, *Schaum's Outline of French Grammar*, 7th edition, 2018 (MacGraw Hill)
3. Jacqueline Morton, *English Grammar for Students of French*, 7th edition, 2013 (Olivia and Hill Press)

### Course requirements:

**Attendance:** This is an intensive course, and presence in class every day is essential. No absences are permitted. Since this is an online class, you should still attend class even if you are feeling a bit under the weather. I do not expect you to be at your best (or even feeling fully prepared) every single day, but I do want you to be present. Only in rare circumstances of a true emergency should you miss class.

**Class participation:** This class runs in part as a workshop and you are expected to participate actively. Asking questions when you do not understand something is just as important (and useful to others!) as providing answers when you do.

**Homework:** Daily homework consists of reading beforehand the chapters in the textbook that will be presented in class and working through the assigned reading preparation and exercises for each chapter. Each exercise is self-graded so you can check your work as you go. You should also translate the reading passage at the end of each chapter. The translation of the reading passage will be discussed in the following course.

### Tests, Midterm Project, and Final Project:

**Tests: (due June 10, June 17, and June 24)** There will be 3 tests throughout the course, which will be administered as “take home” exams to be written outside of class time.

**Midterm Project: (due Monday, June 17)** A 1-page translation of an excerpt from an article or chapter of a text in your field of study chosen in consultation with the instructor.

**Final Project: (due Friday, June 28)** Your final project will be a combination of a summary and translation of an article or chapter in your field. You may continue working on the text you selected for the midterm project or choose a new one in consultation with the instructor.

### Grading:

1.	Attendance and participation	20%
2.	Tests	20%
3.	Midterm project	20%
4.	Final project	40%

**Syllabus:**

All homework assignments are from *French for Reading*; homework, tests, and projects are due in class on the day it is listed.

Date	Homework	Main topics
May 27	Introduction Chapter 1	Class introduction and presentation; Cognates, nouns, adjectives
May 30	Chapters 2 & 3	Verbs ending in –er, prepositions, definite articles, <i>être</i> , <i>avoir</i> , negation
June 3	Chapters 4 & 5	Verbs ending in –ir and –re, past participles, <i>Passé composé</i> (past indefinite), <i>Pouvoir/vouloir</i> , <i>qui</i> , <i>que</i>
June 6	Chapters 6 & 7	<i>Faire</i> , demonstrative pronouns, passive & impersonal constructions, <i>savoir</i>
June 10	<b>Test 1</b> Chapters 8 & 9	<b>Test 1 due at start of class</b> Reflexive verbs (past and present), <i>falloir</i> , <i>venir</i> , negation, <i>ne...que</i> , <i>suivre</i>
June 13	Chapters 10 & 11	<i>Passé simple</i> (past definite), present participles, imperfect, <i>plus-que-parfait</i> (past perfect), past anterior
June 17	<b>Test 2</b> <b>Midterm project</b> Chapter 12	<b>Test 2 due at start of class</b> <b>Midterm project due at start of class</b> Present and past subjunctive, idioms with <i>mettre</i>
June 20	Chapters 13 & 14	Object pronouns, imperative, <i>aller</i> , relative pronouns, idioms with <i>venir</i>
June 24	<b>Test 3</b> Chapters 15 & 16	<b>Test 3 due at start of class</b> Interrogatives, future, conditional, <i>devoir</i>
June 27	Chapter 17	Future conditional perfect, imperfect and past perfect subjunctive, review of all verb tenses
June 28	<b>Final project</b>	<b>Final project due by 12:00 PM</b>