

Department of World Languages and Cultures

University of Nevada, Las Vegas

FREN 401-1001: Advanced French Composition & Conversation I Course Syllabus

Course Rationale

Bienvenue to FREN 401 ! There are many reasons to explore the French language and its cultures. Whether you want to discover its rich cultural heritage, are interested in living or working in one of the 84 countries which share the official use or teaching of French, or even if you just fell in love with it, there is no doubt that learning French will open more doors than you can imagine.

Mastering a language takes time and our faculty members are there along the way to help you on your language journey. Take a look at our [programs](#) and think about adding a great skill to your resume; after all, French is poised to become one of most spoken languages in the world by 2050 according to [Forbes!](#) And do not forget to check out the wonderful opportunities to put your language skills into practice offered by the [UNLV French Club](#), the [UNLV Language Resource Center](#), the [UNLV International Programs](#), the [Alliance Française de Las Vegas](#), and the [French Consulate in Los Angeles](#).

FREN 401 applies to the French minor or major. If you have not already done so and are interested in declaring a French minor (18 FREN credits) or French major (36 FREN credits), you can register at the College of Liberal Arts' Wilson Advising Center (702-895-1997 [Wilson Advising Center](#))

For details on the programs, please go to: [French degree programs](#)

Course Prerequisite(s):

FREN 401 is designed for learners who have completed FREN 302 or equivalent exposure to the language. Learners who have had other exposure to French are required to take a [free online placement test](#) no later than the end of the first week of classes. FREN 401 fulfills the UNLV International Core Requirement.

Course Description

FREN 401 expands the language skills acquired at the high intermediate level, with emphasis on speaking, listening, interacting, reading, writing, and cultural awareness. Based on real-world themes and authentic texts, FREN 401 takes an integrated, communicative approach to language and culture development. Learners will hone their skills in the three modes of communication (interpretive, interpersonal, and presentational) and participate in activities corresponding to the University [Undergraduate Learning Outcomes](#) and the [Department of World Languages and Cultures Student Learning Outcomes](#) in the areas of communication, cultures, connections, comparisons, and communities.

Learning Outcomes/Course Objectives

This course is designed to increase learners' knowledge about the French language and its cultures. Drawing from the objectives corresponding to the B2 level of fluency as established by the [Common European Framework of Reference for Languages](#), specific curricular goals are targeted.

At the end of this course, successful students will be able to:

- understand the main ideas of complex text on both concrete and abstract topics, including technical discussions in his/her field of specialization.
- interact with a degree of fluency and spontaneity that makes regular interaction with native speakers quite possible without strain for either party.
- produce clear, detailed text on a wide range of subjects and explain a viewpoint on a topical issue giving the advantages and disadvantages of various options.

Required Texts

The following books will be used daily and are available from the UNLV bookstore.

FREN 401 covers Unités 0-4.

- C. Gibbe, J. Girardet, M-L Parizet, J. Pécheur. *Tendances : méthode de français niveau B2*. Clé International, 2016.
ISBN: 978-2-09-038534-2
Order a physical copy: [Tendances B2](#)
Order a digital copy: [Tendances B2 version numérique](#)
- J. Girardet, J. Pécheur. *Tendances : Cahier d'activités niveau B2*. Clé International, 2017.
ISBN: 978-2-09-038535-9

There is one more required purchase:

- 1) An account with [TalkAbroad](http://www.talkabroad.org) (www.talkabroad.org) for two 15-minute conversations.

Our class section code is: Harp2021-373803

Finally, please have ready access on your computer to the [free online dictionary](http://www.wordreference.com), www.wordreference.com

Evaluation Methods

Homework (15%)

Most of the effort put into language learning happens outside of class when you do your homework assignments. They are designed to review and reinforce in-class activities, prepare you for participation the following day, and give you opportunities to independently increase your knowledge base in French. To be successful in this course, you should expect to complete approximately two hours of homework per class meeting and to study at least one hour outside of class daily. Dr. Harp will always correct homework so please consult her notes/corrections. The last two homework assignments will consist of 1) a short presentation made in class on an ecological subject, following the project assignment guidelines found on pages 70-71 and 2) the accompanying slides presentation.

Class Activities (20%)

Continuous and spontaneous participation during group activities and class discussions is vital to your success in this class. Much like you need to exercise to build muscle mass, you need to practice in real-time to navigate the joys and pitfalls of language learning. Participate and don't be afraid to make mistakes – just try to make new ones every day. Class activities may include but not be limited to textbook and/or workbook activities and exercises, skits, and presentations. If you have an excused absence, you may record and submit assigned oral exercises for credit.

One facet of class activities is checking in with Dr. Harp. Please make an appointment with her at least twice during the semester at a mutually convenient time. These talks needn't be long nor in French and can be during office hours or via WebEx or Zoom. They give you a chance for clarifications and one-on-one practice.

Talk Abroad (10%)

Twice in the semester you will talk to a native speaker via the program TalkAbroad. Each 15-minute conversation will be on a general topic. Dr. Harp will grade the interview.

Tests (15%)

You will be able to measure your learning with four comprehensive tests throughout the semester. These tests are formatted to prepare you for the qualifying tests to earn the French language diploma bestowed by the French government, the [DELFL](#) (*diplôme d'études en langue française*). You can take this test at the [Alliance Française de Las Vegas](#). Recipients of DELF diplomas are highly sought after by recruiting Francophone companies and universities.

Midterm (15%) and Final Exam (25%)

The midterm and final exams are comprehensive and formatted to give a holistic appraisal of your language skills. Dr. Harp will confirm the time and date of the final exam during the semester. For more information on final exams, please visit this [page](#).

Grading Scale

A	93 – 100	B-	80 – 82	D+	68 – 69
A-	90 – 92	C+	78 – 79	D	63 – 67
B+	88 – 89	C	73 – 77	D-	60 – 62
B	83 – 87	C-	70 – 72	F	0 - 59

Attendance Policy

FREN 401 is a skills course so punctual arrival and attendance in every session is mandatory. Only pre-arranged absences (see *Absences due to Religious Holidays and Extracurricular Activities*) will be allowed and graded work will be accepted without a penalty. Partial attendance (late arrival, early departure) will lower your class activity grade. Should you miss a class for any reason, you are still responsible for the material and the content of the class and for any assignment given for the next class. All assignments are found in the weekly Modules on the Canvas Home Page.

Absences due to Religious Holidays and Extracurricular Activities

If you cannot attend class due to a religious observance, you will be excused from attendance and be allowed to make up any missed work. However, this policy applies only to absences that are arranged with Dr. Harp within the first fourteen calendar days of the course of any such absences. For additional information, please consult this [page](#).

Student who represent UNLV at any extracurricular activity – good for you! - at the time the class meets will be excused from attendance and will have the opportunity to make up assignments. In such a case, the students must provide the instructor with an official notification no later than one week prior to the missed class.

Late Submission and Makeup Assignments

Since homework assignments are there to support language learning in the subsequent class, homework assignments submitted after their deadline will not receive full credit but will be

checked by Dr. Harp. Homework submitted over one week late will not be accepted for credit. Makeup assignments (tests, exams) will only be permitted for absences due to religious holidays and extra-curricular activities, or for extraordinary circumstances (e.g. jury duty) for which formal original documentation will be needed.

Course Site, Online Platforms, Email

This course is supported by [Webcampus](#), a Canvas site where you can access supporting documents for in-class and at-home activities, study guides for all tests and exams, your grades, as well as organizational documents such as the syllabus. **Consult your Canvas site daily** to keep up to date with assignments, due dates, and announcements. For students who do not have the equipment, the laptop with camera loaner program is ready to provide equipment: laptop@unlv.edu. Please visit the [Office of Information Technology](#) for general tech and Canvas support.

By policy, faculty and staff are to email students' Rebelmail accounts only so please use this address to contact Dr. Harp. Rebelmail is UNLV's official email system for students, who all receive a Rebelmail account after admission at the university. It is the primary way students receive official university communication such as information about deadlines, major campus events, and announcements.

BEST Tips for the Language Learner

Be patient with yourself. No muscle is developed without stress and rebuilding, which is not unlike your brain as it rewires itself to accommodate new language codes. Be kind to yourself – and be kind also to others, as everyone in our class is going through a similar process.

Sleep. You need this time to recover – you are actively creating new passageways in your brain! You also need deep sleep to move information from your short-term memory (what you are filling up during the day) into long-term storage.

Take notes, especially during class discussion. The perfect time to process new information is when we are using language in class to convey personal meaning. The more information is contextualized, the more effectively your brain can process and remember it. So, lean in and engage in conversation, and make sure you have a pencil in hand to record the new words and language structures that come up.

University Policies

Public Health Directives

Face coverings are mandatory for all faculty and students in the classroom. Students must follow all active UNLV public health directives while enrolled in this class. UNLV public health directives are found at [Health Requirements for Returning to Campus](https://www.unlv.edu/coronavirus/health-requirements), <https://www.unlv.edu/coronavirus/health-requirements>. Students who do not comply with these directives may be asked to leave the classroom. Refusal to follow the guidelines may result in further disciplinary action according to the [UNLV Student Conduct Code](#), including being administratively withdrawn from the course.

Academic Misconduct

Academic integrity is a legitimate concern for every member of the University community. We all share in upholding the fundamental values of honesty, trust, respect, fairness, responsibility, and professionalism. By choosing to join the UNLV community, students accept the expectations of the Student Academic Misconduct Policy, and are encouraged to always take the ethical path whenever faced with choices. Students enrolling at UNLV assume the obligation to conduct themselves in a manner compatible with UNLV's educational mission. An example of academic misconduct is plagiarism. Plagiarism is using the words or ideas of another person, from the Internet or any other source without proper citation of the source(s). See the [Student Conduct Code](https://www.unlv.edu/studentconduct/student-conduct), <https://www.unlv.edu/studentconduct/student-conduct>.

Auditing a Course

Auditing a course allows a student to continue attending the lectures and/or laboratories and discussion sessions associated with the course, but the student will not earn a grade for any component of the course. Students who audit a course receive the same educational experience as students taking the course for a grade, but will be excused from exams, assessments, and other evaluative measures that serve the primary purpose of assigning a grade.

Classroom Conduct

Students have a responsibility to conduct themselves in class and in the libraries in ways that do not interfere with the rights of other students to learn, or of instructors to teach. Use of devices such as cellular phones and pagers, or other potentially disruptive activities are only permitted with the prior explicit consent of the instructor. Students are specifically prohibited to record classes without instructor authorization, including online/remote classes (either audio only, or video and audio). The instructor may rescind permission at any time during the class. If a student does not comply with established requirements or obstructs the functioning of the class, the instructor may initiate an administrative withdrawal of the student from the course.

Since the COVID-19 pandemic forced some instruction to be delivered remotely starting in Spring 2020, numerous students have asked instructors to record their synchronous classes, so that they can access them at their convenience. Instructors who agree to record their classes (audio only, or video and audio) should inform students in advance. Recorded lectures may not be broadly released to anyone, but made available exclusively to those students enrolled in the class during the particular academic term. Recorded lectures must be stored securely, and are subject to the Nevada System of Higher Education's Records Retention Policy, meaning that the recordings can only be deleted 120 days after the end of class (i.e., after grades are posted). Once this requirement is met, the recordings should be deleted. Class recordings are protected from

disclosure, as they are deemed part of an educational record under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).

Copyright

The University requires all members of the University Community to familiarize themselves with, and to follow copyright and fair use requirements. You are individually and solely responsible for violations of copyright and fair use laws. The University will neither protect nor defend you, nor assume any responsibility for student or employee violations of fair use laws. Violations of copyright laws could subject you to federal and state civil penalties and criminal liability, as well as disciplinary action under University policies. Additional copyright policy information is available at <https://www.unlv.edu/provost/copyright>.

Disability Resource Center (DRC)

The [UNLV Disability Resource Center](https://www.unlv.edu/drc) (Student Services Complex, SSC-A, Room 143, <https://www.unlv.edu/drc>, telephone 702-895-0866) provides resources for students with disabilities. Students who believe that they may need academic accommodations due to a permanent disability, temporary or permanent medical need, or academic support due to pregnancy are encouraged to contact the DRC as early as possible in the academic term. A Disabilities Specialist will discuss what options may be available to you. Students who are already registered with the DRC should request their accommodations online each semester, and make an appointment to discuss their accommodations with their instructors.

Final Examinations

The University requires that final exams given at the end of a course occur on the date and at the time specified in the Final Exam schedule. The Final Exam schedule is typically available at the start of the semester, and the classroom locations are available approximately one month before the end of the semester. See the [Final Exam Schedule](https://www.unlv.edu/registrar/calendars), <https://www.unlv.edu/registrar/calendars>.

Identity Verification in Online Courses

All UNLV students must use their Campus-issued ACE ID and password to log in to WebCampus-Canvas.

UNLV students enrolled in online or hybrid courses are expected to read and adhere to the [Student Academic Misconduct Policy](https://www.unlv.edu/studentconduct/misconduct/policy), <https://www.unlv.edu/studentconduct/misconduct/policy>, which states that “acting or attempting to act as a substitute for another, or using or attempting to use a substitute, in any academic evaluation or assignment” is a form of academic misconduct. Intentionally sharing ACE login credentials with another person may be considered an attempt to use a substitute, and could result in investigation and sanctions, as outlined in the Student Academic Misconduct Policy.

UNLV students enrolled in online courses are also expected to read and adhere to the [Acceptable Use of Computing and Information Technology Resources Policy](https://www.it.unlv.edu/policies/acceptable-use-computing-and-information-technology-resources-policy), <https://www.it.unlv.edu/policies/acceptable-use-computing-and-information-technology-resources-policy>, which prohibits sharing university accounts with other persons without authorization.

To the greatest extent possible, all graded assignments and assessments in UNLV online courses should be hosted in WebCampus-Canvas or another UNLV-managed platform that requires ACE login credentials for access.

Incomplete Grades

The grade of “I” (Incomplete) may be granted when a student has satisfactorily completed three-fourths of course work for that semester/session, but cannot complete the last part of the course for reason(s) beyond the student’s control and acceptable to the instructor, and the instructor believes that the student can finish the course without repeating it. For undergraduate courses, the incomplete work must be made up before the end of the following regular semester. Graduate students receiving “I” grades in 500-, 600-, or 700-level courses have up to one calendar year to complete the work, at the discretion of the instructor. If course requirements are not completed within the period indicated, a grade of “F” will be recorded, and the student’s GPA will be adjusted accordingly. Students who are fulfilling an Incomplete grade do not register for the course, but make individual arrangements with the instructor who assigned the “I” grade.

Library Resources

Librarians are available to consult with students on research needs, including developing research topics, finding information, and evaluating sources. To make an appointment with a subject expert for this class, please visit the [Libraries’ Research Consultation](https://guides.library.unlv.edu/appointments/librarian) website, <https://guides.library.unlv.edu/appointments/librarian>. You can also [ask the library staff](https://ask.library.unlv.edu/) questions via chat and text message at <https://ask.library.unlv.edu/>.

Missed Classwork

Any student missing class, quizzes, examinations, or any other class or laboratory work because of observance of religious holidays will be given an opportunity during that semester to make up the missed work. The make-up opportunity will apply to the religious holiday absence only. It is the responsibility of the student to notify the instructor within the first 14 calendar days of the course for Fall and Spring courses (except for modular courses), or within the first 7 calendar days of the course for Summer and modular courses, of their intention to participate in religious holidays which do not fall on state holidays or periods of class recess. For additional information, please visit the Missed Classwork policy, under Registration Policies, on the [Academic Policies](https://catalog.unlv.edu/content.php?catoid=32&navoid=8271&hl=) webpage, <https://catalog.unlv.edu/content.php?catoid=32&navoid=8271&hl=>.

In accordance with the policy approved by the Faculty Senate regarding missed class time and assignments, students who represent UNLV in any official extracurricular activity will also have the opportunity to make up assignments, provided that the student submits official written notification to the instructor no less than one week prior to the missed class(es).

The spirit and intent of the policy for missed classwork is to offer fair and equitable assessment opportunities to all students, including those representing the University in extracurricular activities. Instructors should consider, for example, that in courses which offer a “Drop one” option for the lowest assignment, quiz, or exam, assigning the student a grade of zero for an excused absence for extracurricular activity is both contrary to the intent of the Faculty Senate’s policy, and an infringement on the student’s right to complete all work for the course.

This policy will not apply in the event that completing the assignment or administering the examination at an alternate time would impose an undue hardship on the instructor or the University that could be reasonably avoided. There should be a good faith effort by both the instructor and the student to agree to a reasonable resolution. When disagreements regarding this policy arise, decisions can be appealed to the Department Chair/School Director, College/School Dean, and/or the Faculty Senate Academic Standards Committee.

For purposes of definition, extracurricular activities may include, but are not limited to academic recruitment activities, competitive intercollegiate athletics, fine arts activities, liberal arts competitions, science and engineering competitions, and any other event or activity sanctioned by a College/School Dean, and/or by the Executive Vice President and Provost.

Rebelmail

Rebelmail is UNLV's official email system for students and by University policy, instructors and staff should only send emails to students' Rebelmail accounts. Rebelmail is one of the primary ways in which students receive official University communications, information about deadlines, major Campus events, and announcements. All UNLV students receive a Rebelmail account after they have been admitted to the University. Sending emails within WebCampus-Canvas is also acceptable.

Tutoring and Coaching

The Academic Success Center (ASC), at the Claude I. Howard Building, provides tutoring, academic success coaching, and other academic assistance for all UNLV undergraduate students. For information regarding tutoring subjects, tutoring times, and other ASC programs and services, please visit the [ASC website](https://www.unlv.edu/asc), <https://www.unlv.edu/asc>, or call 702-895-3177. The ASC is located across from the Student Services Complex (SSC). Academic success coaching is located on the second floor of SSC A, Room 254. Drop-in tutoring is located on the second floor of the Lied Library, and on the second floor of the College of Engineering building (TBE A 207).

UNLV Writing Center

One-on-one or small group assistance with writing is available free of charge to UNLV students at the [Writing Center](https://writingcenter.unlv.edu/), <https://writingcenter.unlv.edu/>, located in the Central Desert Complex, Building 3, Room 301 (CDC 3-301). Walk-in consultations are sometimes available, but students with appointments receive priority assistance. Students may make appointments in person or by calling the Center, telephone 702-895-3908. Students are requested to bring to their appointments their Rebel ID Card, a copy of the instructions for their assignment, and two copies of any writing they have completed on their assignment.

Diversity Statement

As an institution of higher learning, UNLV represents a rich diversity of human beings among its faculty, staff, and students, and is committed to aspiring to maintain a Campus environment that values that diversity. Accordingly, the University supports understanding and appreciation of all members of its community, regardless of race, sex, age, color, national origin, ethnicity, creed, religion, disability, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, marital status, pregnancy, genetic information, veteran status, or political affiliation. Please see [University Statements and Compliance](https://www.unlv.edu/about/statements-compliance), <https://www.unlv.edu/about/statements-compliance>.

A successful learning experience requires mutual respect and trust between the students and the instructor. Accordingly, the instructor asks that students be willing to listen to one another's points of view, acknowledging that there may be disagreements, keep discussion and comments on topic, and use first person, positive language when expressing their perspectives.

Semester Overview

Semaine	Sujet	Devoirs
Semaine 1 23 août 25 août	ETRE AUTONOME Introduction / tv5monde Unité 0 – Leçon 1 – <i>Connaître son profil d'apprentissage</i>	HW 1 HW 2
Semaine 2 30 août 1 ^{er} septembre	Unité 0 – Leçon 2 – <i>Enrichir son vocabulaire</i> Unité 0 – Leçon 3 – <i>Améliorer son niveau de langue</i>	HW 3 HW 4
Semaine 3 6 septembre 8 septembre	Labor Day – No Class Test 1 (U0) / Révisions	
Semaine 4 13 septembre 15 septembre	VIVRE UNE AVENTURE Unité 1 – Leçon 1 – <i>Choisir sa vie</i> Unité 1 – Leçon 2 – <i>Prendre des risques</i>	HW 5 HW 6
Semaine 5 20 septembre 22 septembre	Unité 1 – Leçon 3 – <i>Gérer ses succès et ses échecs</i> Unité 1 – Leçon 4 – <i>Vivre pour sa passion</i>	HW 7 HW 8 TalkAbroad #1
Semaine 6 27 septembre 29 septembre	Test 2 (U0, U1) / Révisions VIVRE EN FAMILLE Unité 2 – Leçon 1 – <i>Vivre une relation amoureuse</i>	HW 9
Semaine 7 4 octobre 6 octobre	Unité 2 – Leçon 2 – <i>Elever des enfants</i> Unité 2 – Leçon 3 – <i>Célébrer les étapes de la vie</i>	HW 10 HW 11
Semaine 8 11 octobre 13 octobre	Unité 2 – Leçon 4 – <i>Comprendre l'évolution de la famille</i> Pratique et révisions	HW 12 HW 13
Semaine 9 18 octobre 20 octobre	Midterm Exam (U0, U1, U2) S'INTERESSER AUX LOISIRS CULTURELS Unité3 – Leçon 1 – <i>Lire un récit littéraire</i>	HW 14
Semaine 10 25 octobre 27 octobre	Unité 3 – Leçon 2 – <i>Raconter une fiction</i> Unité 3 – Leçon 3 – <i>Aller voir une exposition</i>	HW 15 HW 16
Semaine 11 1 ^{er} novembre 3 novembre	Unité 3 – Leçon 4 – <i>Ecouter ou faire de la musique</i> Pratique et révisions	HW 17 HW 18

Semaine	Sujet	Devoirs
Semaine 12 8 novembre 10 novembre	Test 3 (U0, U1, U2, U3) RECHERCHER DES INFORMATIONS Unité 4 – Leçon 1 – <i>Faire une interview</i>	HW 19
Semaine 13 15 novembre 17 novembre	Unité 4 – Leçon 2 – <i>Juger la valeur d'une information</i> Unité 4 – Leçon 3 – <i>Synthétiser des informations</i>	HW 20 HW 21
Semaine 14 22 novembre 24 novembre	Unité 4 – Leçon 4 – <i>Trouver des sources d'information</i> Discussion des projets de recherches	HW 22 TalkAbroad #2
Semaine 15 29 novembre 1 décembre	Pratique et révisions Pratique et révisions	HW 23 HW 24

Final Exam: Monday, 6 December 1:00 – 3:00 PM

For other UNLV calendar deadlines, please consult this [page](#).

This syllabus is based on one written by Dr. Gérard Beck.