

COURSE OFFERING ANNOUNCEMENT
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA, COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES
DEPARTMENT OF WORLD LANGUAGES

FRENCH CONVERSATION II

FALL TERM 2014 FRE 2240-901/ T-R 6:30-7:45pm CPR 347

A COURSE TAUGHT IN FRENCH

By Distinguished University Professor GAËTAN BRULOTTE, Native Speaker

This upper level undergraduate course meets twice a week for 75 minute-sessions. Through real conversations in French on various subjects and tones (from the sad, serious and cynical to the humorous and controversial), this course proposes a revision of French practical vocabulary and oral syntax.

The focus being essentially on spoken French, this course is aimed at giving students the opportunity to carry on free and spontaneous conversations about everyday things of interest to them. It should substantially help develop their listening skills of fluent French; improve their speaking skills (at lexical, syntactical, emotional levels); help them overcome the psychological barriers commonly encountered in speaking a foreign language; encourage as much practice as possible and create total freedom of expression in a student-centred atmosphere (and NOT instructor-centred) so that students react, talk, express opinions, exchange ideas, become involved in asking questions and giving conversational cues while the professor acts as moderator and language consultant.

Another objective of the course is to appreciate the differences between French and Americans, and other Francophone cultures as well, since the socio-cultural aspects are part of any language acquisition. Importance will be given, through a continuous comparative approach between the cultures, to the silent language that accompanies the spoken words such as the body language (gestures and mimics), the proxemics (the distance, the touching), the perception of time and space (for example, what a shut or an open door means in one culture and in another), the different use or meaning of cultural practices such as small talk, silences, jokes, private versus public, critical opinions openly allowed or not, behaviour in crowds (in waiting lines, for example), etc. All these details can not be separated from foreign language acquisition and help create the bridge to a broader cultural understanding.

WHAT DID PAST USF STUDENTS THINK OF THIS COURSE IN THEIR FINAL ANONYMOUS EVALUATIONS?

"The best class I have ever taken while at USF," "awesome," "phenomenal," "priceless," "amazing," "delightful," "fantastic," "outstanding," "superb," "great," "very effective," "well run," "intellectually stimulating," "challenging and fun at the same time," "great atmosphere," "enjoyable," "wonderful conversations," "most interesting," "a joy," "rocks," "Fantastic course all around."

OVER PLEASE FOR MORE STUDENTS' COMMENTS

For info: Walk-ins, CPR 424: T. W. & R: 5:30-6:30pm; Ph.:1(813) 974-2782; E-mail: brulotte@usf.edu
To know more about the professor: www.gbrulotte.com or <http://languages.usf.edu/people/gbrulotte/>

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WHAT DID PAST USF STUDENTS THINK OF THIS COURSE IN THEIR FINAL EVALUATION?

- “I’ve never had such a great experience.” “I was excited to come each week...” -"I feel I learned as much here as I did when I was in Paris." (...) demanding ... and above all else outstanding. An absolute must for any French student!" "I am completely impressed by this class."
- "He doesn't dominate the class. He asks the right questions to stimulate an exchange of ideas. He conducts a student-centered class, which is especially important in a conversation class designed to develop oral skills."
- "I always felt as if I should be paying a little extra. (...) and I always looked forward to this class." -"my proficiency increased significantly"
- "I enjoyed this class very much. (...) I felt very comfortable in this class. I think the small number of students was beneficial considering the nature of the course. Everyone had the opportunity to speak and practice using the language."
- "We would touch topics from politics to religion to everyday life issues. I loved every minute of it."
- "Being in this class not only refreshed my French understanding and speaking, it also gave me a clearer look at the French culture and believes." "This was the best French course I have taken at USF."
- "a great language enhancement and essential for any student of French. (...) I really feel like French is more accessible to me." "My French improved exponentially."
- "French never became dull in this class! Lively! Interesting! Awesome!"
- "Several students have made such a marked improvement as the professor had patience with them and lots of encouragement. I appreciated his topical treatment, and the energy in the course."
- "really helped me to increase my confidence in speaking." -"the relaxed atmosphere is extremely effective for learning" -"Really enjoyed this class and I believe my vocabulary was greatly increased and my conversation skills improved." -"Great class!" -"made learning fun"
- "The class was delightful. (...) created an atmosphere in which students felt comfortable speaking freely and therefore progressing."
- “One of my favorite classes at USF.”."
- "We discussed a lot of topics. I learned more new words and I'm more sure in my abilities to understand other people who speak French." -"makes it fun to come to class"
- "The entire class was in French which helped me practice" -"very interesting and funny"
- "I have definitely improved my ability to respond quickly in French;" "coming to class was a pleasure"
- "I really enjoyed this class and I felt like I improved greatly in my French conversation skills."
- "I truly appreciate this professor's method. In a short period of time I learned as I would never dream to assimilate all because of his style."
- "I have learned more in this class in the past semester of French than I have in the previous years of French."
- "The best way to learn French... period" -"I was able to shed myself of fears that I carried for speaking in public."
- “with a small number of people, everyone has a great chance of improving their language skills, both listening and speaking, as well as vocabulary and expressing themselves.”
- "The professor was able to give equal, one by one, attention to each student. I have learned a lot in this class, not just speaking."
- "I found very useful his methodology, he exposed every student to participate and at the same time the class was fun. He is very respectful with students and provided a good relationship between professor-student."
- "Wow!!! What a class.”

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