

# INTERMEDIATE SPOKEN FRENCH IN CULTURAL CONTEXT (French Conversation II)

FALL TERM 2015 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 practice of oral French in its cultural context.

The focus being essentially on spoken French, this course is aimed at giving students the opportunity to carry on free and spontaneous exchanges about everyday things of interest to them related to French language and culture. It should substantially help develop their listening skills of fluent French; improve their speaking skills (at lexical, syntactical, emotional levels); enhance their reading and writing skills; 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/culture consultant.

Another objective of the course is to appreciate the differences between French and American cultures, and other Francophone cultures as well, since the socio-cultural aspects are part of any language acquisition. It is a fundamental dimension of the class. 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 instance), etc. All these details can not be separated from the language practice and help create the bridge to a broader cultural understanding.

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

**"This is one of the best classes I have EVER taken!", "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," "Wow!!! What a class," "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](mailto:brulotte@usf.edu)

To know more about the professor: [www.gbrulotte.com](http://www.gbrulotte.com) or <http://languages.usf.edu/people/gbrulotte/>

**INTERMEDIATE SPOKEN FRENCH IN CULTURAL CONTEXT**  
**(French Conversation II)**

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

- “Everyone sits in a circle and we learn conversation-style. We take turns reading, talking, and sharing our opinions (...) educate us not only in the French language, but in the culture, food, music, philosophy, politics, religion of France and MUCH more!”
- “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.”
- “I feel as though I am so much closer to reaching my dream of being fluent in French.(...) I really appreciated being in a high level class like this where everyone is there to sincerely learn and is excited about it. (...) I will be studying abroad in France next semester, and I don’t think I would feel confident enough to do so if it had not been for this class. I wish I could take this class every semester because it was so much fun and it made me really able to think and express myself more clearly in French.”
- “This was the best French course I have taken at this university thus far. Learning a language can be embarrassing and uncomfortable, but this class makes the conversation/speaking aspect of learning the language much more comfortable and less harsh. (...) all students are able to communicate freely, and become comfortable talking in a language which we are all still learning.”
- “This has been my favorite French class because of the ideally sized group we had, the content I learned, and the people that were as interested in the subject as I was”
- “We would touch topics from politics to religion to everyday life issues. I loved every minute of it.”
- “This class is a treasure - don't get rid of it!” -“a great stress-free atmosphere that is great for shy students learning French” -“Always looked forward to coming to this class. It made me really want to speak up and practice, not just in this class, but ALL my classes.”
- “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. (...) Everyone had the opportunity to speak and practice using the language.”
- “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.” “My French improved exponentially.”
- “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.” -“The class was delightful. (...) created an atmosphere in which students felt comfortable speaking freely and therefore progressing.”
- “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.” -“The entire class was in French which helped me practice” -“I have definitely improved my ability to respond quickly in French.”
- “I have learned more in this class in the past semester of French than I have in the previous years of French.”
- “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.” -“coming to class was a pleasure”
- “The best way to learn French... period” -“I was able to shed myself of fears that I carried for speaking in public.” -“French never became dull in this class! Lively! Interesting! Awesome!”
- “a great language enhancement and essential for any student of French. (...) I really feel like French is more accessible to me.” -“I appreciated (...) topical treatment, and the energy in the course.”