

SACRED HEART PREPARATORY

SCOPE & SEQUENCE

COURSE TITLE: AP French Language & Culture
INSTRUCTOR: Department Assignment

DEPARTMENT: World Languages
TERM OFFERED: Full Year Course

I. ENDURING UNDERSTANDINGS

1. Language is a powerful tool for communicating cultural issues and inferences, social and political ideas and opinions and personal expression.
2. Compositions and oral presentations are composed of a variety of written and audio sources of information.
3. Written correspondence and spoken interactions involve either formal or informal communication.
4. Cultural and social elements influence written and spoken communication.
5. Effective communication in written and spoken form demands coherence and organization, appropriate content and correct grammar, syntax and linguistic techniques.

II. COURSE CONTENT

Conducted in French, this course is designed for students who have distinguished themselves in French 4 or in French 4 Honors in the three modes of communication introduced previously: interpersonal, interpretive and presentational.

The general focus of the class is to prepare the students for the AP French Language and Culture Exam given in the spring. In addition, the students develop their reading, writing, speaking and listening skills through the study of a novel.

This course is organized around thematic units of study guided by essential questions that focus on the following themes: families and community, global challenges, science and technology, contemporary life, individual and public identities, beauty and esthetics.

These units of study continue to develop the five C's of world language learning (Communication, Cultures, Comparisons, Communities, and Connections) as they guide students to connect and compare their own culture(s) and communities with those of French-speaking communities and cultures, and to **produce interpersonal, interpretive and presentational communication.**

Authentic materials, which include printed, audio, and audio-visual resources, are used for a variety of speaking, listening, reading and writing activities that help students hone their **21st century world Language skills.**

Communicative skills are practiced in a variety of ways: students share their ideas and opinions through debates, and engage in meaningful discussions about the novel; students also give oral reports on a variety of topics.

The cultural component of the class is taken from the novel as well as from films, music, articles, videos, and textbooks.

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Specifically:

- **Communicative skills** stressed include: narration and description in the present, past, future, conditional and subjunctive; expressing likes, hopes, desires, opinions, commands, emotions, and doubt in the present and past; making cultural comparisons; persuasive essay writing; and synthesizing common themes and topics from a variety of sources.
- **Oral skills** stress: perfecting pronunciation and gaining oral fluency while increasing listening comprehension and spoken presentational and interpersonal communication skills.
- **Reading skills** stressed include: reading comprehension (e.g., character development, setting, plot), literary analyses, and cultural comparison analyses.
- **Cultural topics** studied in this course include: daily and contemporary life; personal and public identities; literature and the arts; global challenges; beauty and the aesthetic; and family and communities. These topics invite students to make linguistic and cultural comparisons between their own culture and those of French-speaking communities and cultures.
- **Grammar topics** reviewed and expanded upon include: all the verb moods and tenses, pronouns, demonstrative and possessive adjectives, the comparative and the superlative, articles and gender.
- **Vocabulary** is learned in conjunction with the course units' global themes and cultural topics.

III. INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

- Thèmes (from Vista Higher Learning): textbook and Website access.
- Art by Yasmina Reza (play, photocopies)
- L'Etranger by Albert Camus (novel)
- Other materials selected by the teacher

IV. COURSE OBJECTIVES *(Aligned with the 2012 ACTFL Performance Descriptors for Language Learners¹)*

Upon completion of this course, the student will improve performance in each of the three modes of communication below for the **ADVANCED** ranges of performance:

INTERPERSONAL: Speaking and listening (conversation, debates); reading and writing (text messages or via social media, e-mail replies)

- Expresses self fully to maintain conversation on a wide range of topics.
- Can communicate in conversation about events with great detail and good organization.
- Comprehends and produces a broad range of vocabulary related to everyday life, current events and other topics.

¹ ACTFL Performance Descriptors for Language Learners Copyright ACTFL, Inc., 2012

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- Can understand and produce discourse in oral paragraphs that are organized and cohesive, with great detail.
- Can ask detailed questions.
- Shows conscious awareness of differences in cultural behaviors and perspectives.

INTERPRETIVE: Reading (websites, articles, books), listening (speeches, messages, songs, radio), or viewing (video clips, films) of authentic materials

- Understands main ideas and supporting details on different topics, from a variety of texts.
- Comprehends complex stories, correspondence, texts pertaining to real-world topics of general interest relevant to personal, social, community, national and international contexts.
- Demonstrates advanced control of language (vocabulary, structures, conventions of spoken and written language, etc.) in order to understand fully and with ease articles, literary works, personal and work-related correspondence, and other texts.
- Comprehends specific vocabulary and advanced structures related to a wide range of topics.
- Can comprehend target culture(s) and can compare with own culture in order to interpret texts that are heard, read, or viewed.

PRESENTATIONAL: Writing (articles, reports, essays), speaking (telling a story, giving a speech, cultural comparison), or visually representing (video or PowerPoint)

- Communicates information and expresses own thoughts about a wide range of topics, with good details and organization.
- Produces narrations and descriptions in all time frames while demonstrating a good command of grammatical forms and syntactic patterns.
- Creates messages effectively in contexts both personal and general.
- Produces paragraphs that are organized and detailed.
- Can use vocabulary related to a wide range of topics.
- Uses culturally appropriate vocabulary, expressions, and gestures.
- Reflects knowledge of cultural differences related to written and spoken communication.

V. METHODS OF ASSESSMENTS

The “products” created for each of the three modes of communication (interpersonal, interpretive, presentational) are assessed using rubrics that are based on the *2012 ACTFL Performance Descriptors for Language Learners*.

VI. PRE-REQUISITES

Completion of French 4 with a grade of A – or higher;
Completion of French 4 Honors with a grade of B+ or higher.