

**TENNESSEE TECH UNIVERSITY**  
Department of Foreign Languages  
**FREN 4810 Advanced Conversation in French**  
3 credit hours  
Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays  
**11:00 – 11:50am**  
**Oakley Hall 214**

**Instructor:** Dr. Elena Kazakova

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**Phone:** 931-372-3776

**Office Hours:** Tuesdays, Thursdays 12:00pm – 2:00pm [over Zoom \(no appointment needed\)](#)

If you would like to speak with me at a different time, please schedule an appointment over email.

**Texts and References:**

There are no materials to purchase. The materials, including links to all publicly available YouTube videos used in the course, will be available on iLearn and/or in our course Google Doc.

**Course Description:**

The course will focus on three main areas of communicating in French: 1) phonetics, pronunciation, intonation; 2) vocabulary and pitfalls of translation; 3) formal and casual speech.

**Course Objectives:**

Through their efforts on homework assignments, in-class activities, and assessment activities, the students will work towards the following goals:

1. Speak with pronunciation sufficiently accurate as not to impede communication.
2. Demonstrate mastery of the spelling-sound correlation and phonetic symbols in pronouncing unfamiliar words.
3. Maintain a regular speaking pace and use appropriate intonation to enhance communication.
4. Speak with appropriate vocabulary as not to impede communication.
5. Produce natural, context-appropriate translations in casual, non-specialized situations.
6. Present information orally with appropriate vocabulary and minimal grammatical errors.
7. Reproduce essential characteristics of the formal and the casual speech.

**Methodology:**

The course is in person. We will meet every scheduled day of the semester in the classroom. We will follow all the guidelines provided by the University regarding health and safety measures.

Students are expected to come to class, having completed all preparatory work on phonetics and vocabulary. Class time will be dedicated to clarifying the more challenging aspects of the assigned material, oral practice, and written work with a dictionary.

### **Materials:**

Course materials will be available either on iLearn or in our course Google Doc. If something is available only in the Google Doc, a link and instructions to go there will be posted on iLearn under the corresponding date. All materials for the week will be available by the end of the day on Friday of the previous week.

We will use VoiceThread for speaking practice. Each student will receive a free account. A link to each individual VoiceThread activity will be available on iLearn and in our course Google Doc under the corresponding date.

### **Grading criteria:**

15% - assessments - phonetics  
15% - assessments - translations  
15% - VoiceThread activities  
15% - iLearn activities (exercices rendus sur iLearn)  
10% - preparation for Friday lessons  
15% - general participation  
15% - examen final / projet final

### **Grading scale:**

A = 89.51 – 100  
B = 79.51 – 89.50  
C = 69.51 – 79.50  
D = 60.00 – 69.50  
F = 0.00 – 59.99

### **Attendance:**

As a rule, regular attendance is expected. There is no minimum number of excused and unexcused absences allowed (see below, “Participation”).

You are encouraged to stay home if you don’t feel well. However, you are responsible for all material covered in the classes that you miss. This includes completing all readings and activities on iLearn, VoiceThread and, if assigned, in our course Google Doc.

If you need to miss class for health-related reasons, please contact [Health Services](#).

If you are unable to complete the work missed during the absences, please contact the professor to discuss accommodations.

### **Participation:**

Students are expected to participate each class. This includes coming to class having completed all assigned readings and activities, participating in all activities during the class period, and showing

respect towards all people present. Please make an effort to address your peers by the names and pronouns that they prefer.

The use of electronic devices is allowed for class-related purposes, such as consulting the readings, consulting materials and exercises on iLearn and in our course Google Doc, consulting an online dictionary, completing any online activities as instructed by the professor, and taking notes.

Unauthorized use of electronic devices during class includes but is not limited to: browsing the Internet when not instructed by the professor, accessing social media, texting, accessing any materials that are not related to class. Using electronic devices for non-class-related purposes will constitute disruptive behavior and will negatively affect your participation grade. **The instructor reserves the right to see, at any time, the screen of any electronic device used in class.**

A participation grade of 0-2 will be assigned after each class meeting. A score of 0 (zero) will be assigned when a student does not come to class and does not contact the professor.

The score of zero will not be assigned when the professor is notified by the Office of Student Affairs of a student's absence. This will apply to the days of absence specified in the official notice.

A score of 1 (one) will be assigned for any day when a student arrives late, when a student is not prepared (except of certain Fridays when the preparation is not included in the "Participation" grade, see below "Preparation for Friday lessons"), or when a student is present but doesn't participate in one or more of the class activities.

The final participation grade will be the percentage of the earned participation points / total possible participation points.

#### **iLearn activities:**

These include all exercises that appear on iLearn in Assessments – Assignments. These will be used to practice the rules of phonetics and to prepare for in-class translation activities. Students can either complete these exercises on their computers, save, and attach them to the corresponding assignment, or print them, complete them by hand, take a picture, and attach the picture to the corresponding assignment. Students are encouraged to have the exercises available in class to be able to check their answers and to use the materials in class.

#### **VoiceThread activities:**

One third of the course will be dedicated to a regular study of the French phonetics. While we will not be able to cover all the nuances and exceptions, we will examine and practice the rules that will allow you to pronounce almost any new French word that you might encounter in the future. We will study the actual spellings and their correlation with the sounds and become familiar with the International Phonetic Alphabet as it applies to French to help you read new words in a dictionary.

We will practice the rules and the phonetic alphabet explicitly in class activities and through read-aloud activities. The objective is not to have to think about grammar and vocabulary, and focus on the phonetics, intonation, and general comprehensibility of your speech.

For most of the read-aloud activities, we will use the first two chapters of a French young-adult phantasy series *La Passe-miroir* by Christelle Dabos, Book I *Les fiancés de l'hiver*. The portion of the text to read for each activity will be provided.

Students will record their pronunciation activities on VoiceThread, a program that allows to make video and audio comments. The program is free for the students but requires that each student log-in with their email and the password that will be provided on the first day of class. The password is also available in our course Google Doc.

These activities will also serve as practice before the assessments on the phonetics.

### **Assessments - phonetics:**

There will be a total of 6 (six) assessments focused exclusively on the phonetics and pronunciation. Each assessment will be a read-aloud activity to be recorded at home.

Each phonetics assessment will consist of two parts:

- 1) Phonetics learned in the period since the last phonetics assessment – a list of unrelated words or expressions that illustrate only on the rules that have been covered.
- 2) The next portion of *La Passe-miroir* – the cumulative section of the assessment where the students are expected to follow all the rules of the French phonetics covered in the course up to that point.

The dates when each assessment will become available and when it is due will be available on iLearn and in our course Google Doc. Late assessments will lose 2 points (10%) of the grade for each 12 hours that they are late.

If you have a valid reason that prevents you from completing a phonetics assessment on time, contact the professor as soon as possible to discuss accommodations.

The grading rubric will accompany each assessment and will be available on iLearn and in our course Google Doc.

### **Assessments - translations:**

There will be 4 (four) assessments focused on translation. Each assessment will take place in class and will last for 25 minutes. A dictionary is allowed and encouraged. The objective of the translation exercises and of these assessments is to learn how to use a dictionary effectively to avoid literal and unnatural translation.

The assessments will consist of several separate sentences or a short dialog to translate from English into French. The assessments will be written.

Each assessment will take place on a Friday at the beginning of class. Specific dates will be available on iLearn and in our course Google Doc. If you are late, you will **not** be given additional time to complete the assessment.

If you have a valid reason that prevents you from completing a translation assessment in class on the scheduled day, contact the professor as soon as possible to discuss accommodations.

### **Preparation for Friday lessons:**

Fridays will be normally dedicated to analyzing characteristics of formal and casual speech and practicing reproducing them in our everyday speech. In preparation for these lessons, the students will be asked to find and then present individual characteristics of casual speech that could be practiced during the lesson.

Each student's individual preparation is thus essential to these lessons and will be acknowledged with a score of 2 for each time when the student is prepared and able to present their information and the information is relevant.

The score of 0 (zero) will be assigned when a student does not have anything to present or the information is not relevant or does not correspond to the criteria of the assignment.

There is no make-up for missed or incorrectly prepared mini-presentations.

Please note that this category is separate from the "Participation" category. Preparation does not affect your participation grade on such Fridays. You can still receive 2/2 for participation for a Friday when you receive 0/2 for "Preparation for Friday lessons" if you still come to class on time and actively participate.

### **Final exam / final project:**

Information about the final exam / the final project will be available on iLearn and in our course Google Doc by Monday, November 1. The schedule final exam period for our course is 10:30am – 12:30pm CST on Friday, December 10.

### **Academic Misconduct Policy:**

Maintaining a high standard of academic integrity in every class at Tennessee Tech is critical to the reputation of Tennessee Tech, its students, alumni, and the employers of Tennessee Tech graduates. The Student Academic Misconduct Policy describes the definitions of academic misconduct and policies and procedures for addressing Academic Misconduct at Tennessee Tech. For details, view Tennessee Tech's Policy 217 – Student Academic Misconduct at [Policy Central](#).

**In addition to all provisions in Policy 217, the following rule applies to the definition of academic misconduct for FREN 4810:**

Any use of an unauthorized outside source to produce coursework will result in an immediate charge of academic misconduct, and a grade of zero on the assignment in question.

The term “unauthorized source” includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- Online translators
- Fellow students
- Native French speakers
- Family members who speak or may have studied French
- Other professors
- Any outside source not previously and specifically authorized by the professor

Anything where you input more than an individual word (that is, a sentence, an expression, a phrase, etc.) and receive an equivalent in French counts as an online translator and is **unauthorized**.

“Authorized sources” for FREN 1010 are the following:

- English-French dictionaries, paper and/or electronic
- All materials available on the course’s page on iLearn
- All materials provided by the professor in class
- Professor for the course

**If you are not certain if a source is authorized, assume that it is not and contact the professor for clarification.**

**Disability Accommodation:**

Students with a disability requiring accommodations should contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS). An Accommodation Request (AR) should be completed as soon as possible, preferably by the end of the first week of the course. The ODS is located in the Roaden University Center, Room 112; phone 372-6119. For details, view the Tennessee Tech’s Policy 340 – Services for Students with Disabilities at [Policy Central](#).

**COVID – 19 University Protocols**

1. Each student must take personal responsibility for knowing and following the university’s COVID-19 protocols. Students are expected to follow all COVID-19 directives published by Tennessee Tech on its official COVID-19 webpage: [www.tntech.edu/covid19](http://www.tntech.edu/covid19).
2. As conditions related to the pandemic change, the university’s COVID-19 protocols are also likely to change. Students are expected to monitor the university’s official COVID-19 webpage to stay up to date on all university COVID-19 protocols.
3. If the university’s COVID-19 protocols include the wearing of face coverings inside campus facilities, then face coverings must be worn covering the mouth and nose. Protocols will apply to all vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals.

4. Students who refuse to comply with university protocols will be reported to the Tennessee Tech Dean of Students.
5. Students should direct all requests for excused class absences related to COVID-19 to Tennessee Tech's Health Services by following the student link at the following website: [www.tntech.edu/covid19/report.php](http://www.tntech.edu/covid19/report.php) . The Office of Student Affairs will provide notifications to faculty members of student absences and the expected length of the absence.
6. Students can get a COVID-19 vaccine on campus at Tech Health Services. Call ahead to schedule at (931) 372-3320. COVID-19 vaccines are given free of charge daily, as well as testing.
7. Per CDC guidelines, you are considered fully vaccinated:
  - 2 weeks after your second dose in a 2-dose series, such as the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines, OR
  - 2 weeks after a single-dose vaccine, such as Johnson & Johnson's Janssen vaccine