Flagstaff Arts & Leadership Academy

**French 4: French through Film** 2014-2015

***Instructor: Miss Neta Email: NNeta@flagarts.com Office: Room 15***

*Availability: Please, note that I am at FALA on B Days only*

***BELOW ARE THE BROAD GUIDELINES AND TENTATIVE PLANS FOR THE YEAR TO WHICH I RETAIN THE RIGHT TO ALTER THROUGHOUT THE DURATION OF THE COURSE.***

**Course Description and Academic Goals:** This course connects the study of the French language and culture with contemporary French films and pertinent authentic readings. By exposing students to French through films, this course provides students with opportunities to further develop their written and oral communication, as well as their listening and reading skills. Particular emphasis is given to the exploration of the cultural and historical contexts of the viewed films. In this course, students will apply their knowledge of the French language and culture to projects emphasizing communication, collaboration, connections, critical inquiry, creativity, and investment.

**Character Goals:** We will spend as much time as possible in class practicing new language, but you must take personal responsibility to PRACTICE, MEMORIZE, AND RETAIN new words and sentence structures. Students are expected to be on time, participate, and help others in the classroom. Students are also expected to respect the deadlines for homework and assignments.

**Course webpage:** The course webpage will contain the following: brief description of what is covered every day, homework due that day, quizzes and projects due dates, extra material for practice (when applicable). It is YOUR responsibility to look at this webpage, especially when you are absent.

**Required Material:**

* A 3-ring binder with dividers
* Basic classroom supplies: writing utensils, highlighters, small craft scissors, colored pencils

**Suggested Material:**

* Bescherelle

**Textbook:**

* There will be NO textbook for this class
* We will use various resources and I will create packets for each unit. Please, do not lose these packets.

**Course webpage:** The course webpage will contain the following: brief description of what is covered every day, homework due that day, quizzes and projects due dates, extra material for practice (when applicable). It is YOUR responsibility to look at this webpage, especially when you are absent.

**Movies:** The movies we will watch will be organized around thematic units. Following is a brief overview of our schedule (subject to change):

Unit 1: Intro to French cinema

Unit 2: Describing the Life of an Artist *(The Artist, La Môme)*

Unit 3: Education and Childhood *(Le Petit Nicolas, Entre les Murs)*

Unit 4: World War 2 in France *(La Guerre des Boutons, Au Revoir les Enfants)*

Unit 5: Changing Identities *(Bienvenue Chez les Chtis, Inch’Allah Dimanche, )*

Unit 6: Comedy *(Astérix et Obélix Mission Cléopatre, Le Dîner de Cons)*

**Late Work, Make-up and Extra Credit Practices:**

* These practices vary depending on the assignment type. Please, see below the descriptions of each assignment for details on late work and make-up policy.
* NO Extra Credit

**INFORMAL ASSIGNMENTS**

**Informal assignments are worth 40 % of your final grades. There are NO retakes allowed on informal assignments.**

**Homework (10%)**

Homework will be due at the beginning of the class period unless otherwise stated by the teacher. In this class, most homework will consist of short writing and speaking assignments in your blog. I will NOT accept late homework, but I will drop one homework grade (the lowest one) at the end of each semester.

**Quizzes (10%)**

There will be short informal quizzes throughout the year. Quizzes will be announced at least 2 class periods ahead of time. Some quizzes will focus on memorization (of grammar and vocabulary), whereas others will focus on communication skills (listening, reading, speaking, writing). For vocabulary quizzes, I will often upload the list of words to study on [www.quizlet.com](http://www.quizlet.com) for you to study and practice.

**Participation (10%)**

We will be practicing French in class and you will be graded daily on participation. We will have a lot of small group discussions where you will improve your fluency, pronunciation, and learn how to better express your ideas in French. Note that the participation grade does not take into account accuracy. This means that even if you make a lot of mistakes, you will receive a good grade for trying to express yourself in French as much as possible.

Here are the values on which I will base that grade:

0: Unexcused absence or significant tardy, or disruptive or off task, or largely idle or rude to others

1: Participates in small or large group settings only when reminded or is impatient with others, may not always try to communicate in French

2: Makes positive and relevant contributions in small and large group settings, is courteous and helpful to others, and communicates in French

**Short Oral Presentations (10%)**

At the beginning of each semester, we will assign each Tuesday to one student’s presentation. In order to present, you will be asked to research an article related to French cinema. I will give you a list of resources to help you find the articles. In your short presentation (about 1 minute long), you will distribute your article, summarize it to the class, and explain what is interesting about it. This activity aims at improving fluency, so you will not be allowed to have notes or read during your presentation (except if you want to briefly quote your article). Also, the presentations should sound natural, so please do not memorize your lines by heart. If you are absent on the Tuesday you are supposed to present, you will present the following Tuesday before the other student.

**FORMAL ASSIGNMENTS**

**Formal assignments are worth 60% of your grade. Retakes are allowed on formal projects (see below for details), but NOT on finals.**

**Formal Projects (25%)**

At the end of each unit, there will be a formal project. These projects will focus on what was learned throughout the unit and will ask you to perform real-world tasks in French.

You will be allowed to revise your formal projects up to a week after the assignment is handed back to you. For example, if you turn in the project on a Thursday and I give it back to you the next Tuesday with feedback, you are allowed to revise your project up to the following Tuesday (included).

Students can earn 100% for retake on formal assessments. If you retake the assignment and get a lower grade, your grade will be the average of the two grades you obtained.

If you turn in your project late, you will lose points (as defined in the grading rubric). If you turn in your project more than a week late, you will receive a zero.  
If you turn in your project late, you will NOT be allowed to revise it.

Students are strongly encouraged to revise their formal projects because they strongly impact their course grade.

**ELA and Portfolio (10%)**

Over the course of the year, students will write an essay and a summary in English about a given topic related to the French-speaking world.

Students will choose projects that reflect improvement and reflect on their growth throughout the year. The entire portfolio will be graded at the end of the year for a formal grade in the second semester.

**Finals (25%)**

At the end of each semester, there will be a final. Final exams and projects will focus on the skills and material covered throughout the semester. Students are not allowed to retake the final exams/projects.

**Attendance/Tardy Policy**

**Absences:** If you are absent and a homework assignment or project was due that day, your homework or project will be due the day you are back. If you were absent for a quiz, you will take the quiz on the B day you are back (during class or at lunch).

**Please, check the class webpage when you are absent.**

**Attendance and Performances:** Students must attend school on the day of and the day after major performances (i.e. theatre, dance, music, etc.). Students will not be allowed to perform if they do not attend school and this will impact their grade accordingly. Students who miss school after the day of a major performance will attend lunch detention to make up their missing work.

**Attendance and Illness/Medical Conditions:** Please keep your student home if they are sick. If they have a fever, do not send them back to school until they are fever-free (without the use of fever-reducing medications) for at least 24 hours. If your child is unable to participate in classes for longer than one hour then we require parents to pick up their student so that they can recover at home. Students can return to school when they are able to participate in their classes.

**Tardiness:** Arriving after the beginning of each class period constitutes a tardy. Tardy students MUST sign in at the front office before going to their class. Tardiness is disruptive to the learning environment of the school. Any student tardy 3 times (unexcused) in one month (cumulative) will receive lunch detention. After a student reaches these limits each additional tardy will result in a lunch detention. Eight tardies (unexcused or excused) in any class will result in required attendance at the Student Success Program (after school) or lunch detention. Students will remain in one of these programs until their teachers confirm that all of their missing work is completed

**FALA Attendance and Tardy Policy**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Short-term consequences**  **(for each semester)** | **Long-term consequences**  **(for each semester)** |
| **FALA Excused Absences** | None | None |
| **Excused Absences** | No initial consequences | **5 absences** (excused or unexcused) in any class  = Student Success Program or lunch detention until missing work is completed |
| **Unexcused Absences** | Detention, in-school suspension | **10 absences** (excused or unexcused) in any class  = loss of credit |
| **FALA Excused Tardiness** | None | None |
| **Excused Tardiness** | No initial consequences | **8 tardies** (excused or unexcused) in any class each semester |
| **Unexcused Tardiness** | 3 cumulative tardies in a month  = lunch detention  Each additional tardy  = lunch detention | = Student Success Program or lunch detention until missing work is completed |

**Grading Points and Scale:**

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Letter Grade** | **Numerical Average** | **Grade Point Value** |
| A+ | 99-100 | 4.0 |
| A | 93-98 | 4.0 |
| A- | 90-92 | 3.67 |
| B+ | 87-89 | 3.33 |
| B | 83-86 | 3.0 |
| B- | 80-82 | 2.67 |
| C+ | 77-79 | 2.33 |
| C | 73-76 | 2.0 |
| C- | 70-72 | 1.67 |
| D+ | 67-69 | 1.33 |
| D | 63-66 | 1.00 |
| D- | 60-62 | 0.67 |
| F | Less than 60 | 0.0 |

**Conduct:** In addition to abiding by the rules in the student handbook, please **no cell phones in class**.

The academic dishonesty policy prohibits plagiary and cheating of any kind. In a foreign language class this includes the use of computer translators. If you submit work done by a translator or plagiarized from the Internet, the consequences are as follows according to the student handbook:

1st offense: Earn a zero on the assignment

2nd offense: Potential loss of credit for the course