

AP French Language and Culture

2013-2014

Objectives:

This course is designed to prepare students for the AP French Language and Culture examination in May, 2014. The five skills areas of the language are emphasized: listening, reading, speaking, writing and culture. The class is conducted in French.

Materials:

Imaginez: le français sans frontières (2nd edition). Mitschke, Cherie. 2012: Vista Higher Learning.

Kiffe-kiffe Demain. Guène, Faiza. 2005: Livre de Poche

Barron's Guide to the AP French Language and Culture Exam. 2013: Barron's Educational Series, Inc.

Organization:

As this course is the equivalent of an intermediate-level college French course, it is conducted in seminar fashion. Students are expected to participate in and contribute to the daily discussions, and to help organize the course content so that it meets their individual needs to improve in each of the five skills areas.

The AP French course is organized around the six themes of the AP French Language and Culture examination:

- La quête de soi
- L'esthétique
- La science et le technologie
- La famille et la communauté
- La vie contemporaine
- Les défis mondiaux

In order to succeed on the AP exam, students must be well-versed not only in the grammar necessary to communicate in speaking and writing at an advanced level, they must have in-depth knowledge of and the ability to accurately use the vocabulary and expressions (including idiomatic expressions), related to the six themes above. It will be up to each student to identify personal gaps regarding this vocabulary and to work on

her/his own to narrow those gaps. I will prepare, or point students to, many online sources to help them with this. In general, class time will be spent working on the application of new structures and vocabulary.

Activities:

In addition to the textbooks, we will use a variety of authentic materials (meaning in French, for French-speakers) from around the Francophone world. These materials include films, television broadcasts, podcasts, magazine/newspapers, online articles, and literature, in order to expose the class to as much variety as possible. Daily/weekly activities will include pronunciation work, timed writing, formal oral presentations, writing essays and analytical pieces, students recording their answers to specific questions/themes, practice AP exams, paired speaking, current events journals and presentations, weekly quizzes, listening to radio broadcasts and music, timed reading passages, and daily class discussion.

Final Projects:

Each semester, each student must select a topic related to one of the six AP French Language and Culture exam themes. They may choose to explore a topic we have already discussed, or one not yet formally studied in class. The student will research this topic and make an oral presentation to the class of no less than 10 minutes. This presentation must be made as interactive as possible by including discussion questions, visual aids, games, an interactive web activity, etc. Based on their presentation, I will make an individualized writing prompt for each student as the semester exam. The writing prompt will ask them to write in detail about their chosen topic and to demonstrate control over all aspects of the written language.

Grading:

Homework = 30%

Compositions = 30%

Quizzes/oral presentations = 30%

Final projects = 10%