

# FRENCH 020: READING FRENCH

## Fall 2014

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FREN 020 (34200)

**Wednesdays 6-7.40pm in THH 209**

**Instructor:** Dr. Colin Keaveney

**Email:** *keaveney@usc.edu*

**Office hours:** M5-5.30; T3.30-4.20; W5-5.30; Th12.30-1 & 3.30-4.20 & by appointment

**Office:** *THH 155G*

French 020 is a course designed to provide students with basic skills in reading and translating French. No prior knowledge of French is required. Students are not expected to write or speak French. The emphasis will be on recognizing grammatical structures and acquiring strategies for recognizing verb tenses, dealing with word-order problems, etc. The goal is to permit students to quickly achieve

The assigned text book, *A Short Course in Reading French*, contains grammatical explanations as well as level-appropriate translation exercises. The reading selections are drawn from different genres and periods. As the semester progresses, students will also be encouraged to work on these and other passages in class. (If students have texts of interest to them in the context of their research, they will be encouraged to bring these to class).

Students should use the timetable as a guide, read the relevant sections of the book in advance of each class, and complete the drills and exercises provided in the book. They should also take the time to review and master new material that has been introduced the previous week, as well as to learn by heart the most common vocabulary and expressions. (Regular mini-quizzes will allow students and the instructor to assess whether they are making sufficient progress in this regard.) Class time will be spent on brief instructor presentations, followed by exercises and short translations from the book and other sources.

The course will be assessed by a final exam consisting of a short passage to be read and partially translated. Students will also be asked questions on this text in order to assess whether or not they have understood its content.

Students will buy a good one-volume dictionary at the beginning of the semester; they will bring this dictionary to the final exam, along with any other reference materials they see fit.

Please note: students who fail to master the most basic structures (recognition of familiar verbs, relative pronouns and common connectors) by week 12 will not be permitted to take the final exam and will be assigned the grade of NC).

Required texts:

- Brickman, Celia. *A Short Course in Reading French*. (New York: Columbia University Press, 2012).

**ISBN-13:** 978-0231156776 [This is also available as an ebook]

- A good one-volume French-English dictionary: *Oxford-Hachette French Dictionary* or *Collins-Robert French Dictionary*. (A pocket dictionary is insufficient for this class).

[http://www.amazon.com/Oxford-Hachette-French-Dictionary-Marie-Helene-Correard/dp/0198614225/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1281610892&sr=8-1](http://www.amazon.com/Oxford-Hachette-French-Dictionary-Marie-Helene-Correard/dp/0198614225/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1281610892&sr=8-1)

Course timetable: (subject to change)

Week 1	Introduction Basic Vocabulary and false friends
Week 2	<u>Chapter 1</u> : Gender of nouns. Definite and indefinite articles. Plural of nouns.
Week 3	<u>Chapter 3</u> : Adjectives, positions of adjectives, exceptions. Possessive adjectives. Prepositions. Numbers 1-1000. <b>Deadline for withdrawing without a 'W'</b>
Week 4	<u>Chapters 1, 2 &amp; 6</u> : Verbs: infinitives, past participles, present tense of regular verbs, <i>avoir</i> and <i>être</i> . Subject pronouns. Contractions. <u>Chapter 3</u> : Adverbs.
Week 5	<u>Chapters 2, 4, 11 &amp; 23 etc.</u> : Verbs II: reflexive verbs, impersonal verbs, infinitives, negative forms of verbs. <i>Ne...que</i> . Relative pronouns.
Week 6	<u>Chapters 10, 12 &amp; appendices</u> : Verbs III: Irregular verbs: <i>tenir</i> , <i>venir</i> . Future and conditional of regular verbs. Special forms of future and conditional.
Week 7	<u>Chapters 5, 7 &amp; appendices</u> Verbs IV: Past tenses: imperfect, <i>passé composé</i> . Compound tenses with <i>être</i> and <i>avoir</i> , the house of <i>être</i> .
Week 8	<u>Chapter 8</u> : Direct and indirect object pronouns <i>en</i> and <i>y</i> position of double object pronouns. <u>Chapter 13</u> : Present participle.
Week 9	<u>Chapters 3, 11, 16 &amp; appendices</u> : Comparisons, demonstrative pronouns. More irregular verbs. <u>Chapter 16</u> : Inverted word order.
Week 10	More auxiliary verbs (see irregular verbs above). <u>Chapter 16</u> : <i>Lequel/laquelle</i> . Review of relative pronouns. <u>Chapter 15</u> : <i>Passé simple</i> . <u>Chapter 20</u> : Immediate past.
Week 11	Review of past tenses. <u>Chapter 21</u> : idioms & expressions of time. Chapter 11, 19 etc.: Conjunctions. <u>Chapter 13</u> : Disjunctive pronouns.
Week 12	<u>Chapter 19</u> : Subjunctive mood. Possessive pronouns. <b>Deadline for withdrawing with a 'W'</b>
Week 13	<u>Chapter 16</u> : Interrogatives. "Ne" without "pas" (see negation above). Relative pronouns (see above). Review of word order and basic conjugations.
Week 14	General review and practice
Week 15	General review and practice
<b>Final:</b>	<b>Wednesday 10 December (6-8pm) THH 209 (or before)</b>