

# FRENCH 020: READING FRENCH

## Fall 2012

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FREN 020 (34200)  
**Tuesdays 6-7.40pm in THH 209**

**Instructor:** Dr. Colin Keaveney

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**Office hours:** M 1-1.30; T 1-1.30 & 5-5.30; W 1-1.30; Th 2-2.30 & 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.

Included in every chapter are translation exercises, which progress from words to phrases to entire sentences and longer paragraphs. The reading selections are heterogeneous, including literary, philosophical, as well as scientific texts. As the semester progresses, students will also be encouraged to work on sample 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. 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). 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 translation passage (400-500 words). 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.

### Required texts:

- Sandberg, Karl C. & Eddison C. Tatham. *French for Reading*. (N.J.: Prentice Hall, 1997).
- 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:

(Except when otherwise indicated by page number, the chapter containing the grammar points corresponds to that of the week number. Hence, the "Gender of nouns" (Week 2) is dealt with in chapter 2 of the textbook).

Week 1	Introduction Basic Vocabulary and false friends
Week 2	Gender of nouns. Definite and indefinite articles (page 2 and following pages, ie. p2-). Plural of nouns (p51).
Week 3	Adjectives, positions of adjectives, exceptions (p4-). Possessive adjectives (p49-). Prepositions (p25). Numbers 1-1000 (p97-).
<b>Deadline for withdrawing without a 'W'</b>	
Week 4	Verbs: infinitives, past participles, present tense of regular verbs, <i>avoir</i> and <i>être</i> (p33, 37). Subject pronouns (p17). Adverbs (p8). Contractions.
Week 5	Verbs II: reflexive verbs (p133-), impersonal verbs (p123, 138), infinitives (p204-), negative forms of verbs. <i>Ne...que</i> (p154-). Relative pronouns (p82-, 273-).
Week 6	Verbs III: Irregular verbs: <i>tenir</i> , <i>venir</i> (p148, 282, 366-). Future and conditional of regular verbs (p312-, 338). Special forms of future and conditional.
Week 7	Verbs IV: Past tenses: imperfect, <i>passé composé</i> (195-). Compound tenses with <i>être</i> and <i>avoir</i> (p63), the house of <i>être</i> (p74).
Week 8	Direct and indirect object pronouns (p22, 244), <i>en</i> and <i>y</i> (p259-), position of double object pronouns. Present participle (p185).
Week 9	Comparisons (p103), demonstrative pronouns (p102). More irregular verbs (p78, 124, 148, 167). Inverted word order (p85, 86, 299).
Week 10	More auxiliary verbs (see irregular verbs above). <i>Lequel/laquelle</i> . Review of relative pronouns. <i>Passé simple</i> (p175). Immediate past (p282).
Week 11	Review of past tenses, expressions of time (p119). Conjunctions (p372). Disjunctive pronouns (p144, 370).
Week 12	Subjunctive mood (p218). Possessive pronouns (p369).
Week 13	Interrogatives (p291), " <i>Ne</i> " without " <i>pas</i> " (see negation above). Relative pronouns (see above). Review of word order and basic conjugations.

**Deadline for withdrawing with a 'W'**

Week 14	General review and practice
Week 15	General review and practice

**Final: Tuesday 18 December (6-8pm) THH 209 (or before)**