

Course: French I
Instructor Info.: Mme Kelly Tutko, M.Ed., M.A.
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(310) 540-2021

Course Description: French I is a course designed for first year students. It focuses on communication in everyday situations and helps students develop proficiency in listening, speaking, reading, and writing. It also increases students' knowledge and appreciation of diverse cultures in French-speaking countries. For those students who completed a Middle School French course – French I reinforces their knowledge of basic vocabulary and grammar concepts.

Required Text: Discovering French Nouveau Bleu 1: McDougal Littell

Required Materials: Discovering French Nouveau Activity Book – Bleu
3-ring binder with dividers
Loose-leaf paper (for binder)
Composition Book
French Scholastic Magazine (pay to bookstore)
French-English/English-French pocket dictionary
Blank cassette tape (standard size)
Hand-held cassette recorder
Highlighter, a blue/black and a red pen

Grading: Students final grades will be determined by 7 categories that make up a percentage of the final grade. The percentage is in parentheses following the category.

1) Reading (10%): This grade will be comprised of points earned for any reading-related work.

- in-class reading
- reading homework
- vocabulary quizzes (from reading passages)
- comprehension quizzes (on reading passages)

2) Speaking (10%): Any speaking-related work will count towards this category.

- speaking homework (done on cassette)
- oral assessments (test grammar, pronunciation, facility, and comprehensibility)
- participation in class (see **Participation**)

3) Listening Comprehension (10%): This category tracks the points earned for listening comprehension activities.

- in-class workbook activities
- in-class magazine comprehension activities
- comprehension quizzes

4) Writing (15%): Any writing assignment and vocabulary work (from textbook) cover this category.

- homework from textbook
- grammar worksheets
- essays in composition book
- vocabulary quizzes(supplemental and textbook vocab.)

(given at the beginning of each lesson)

- verb conjugation quizzes (given weekly)
- grammar/writing assessments

5) Tests (30%): There is a test at the end of every unit. Each test will have four sections: speaking, reading, listening comprehension, and writing. Because new material builds on old material when acquiring a language, students are expected to know both **previous** and current material for the unit test.

Students will be given advance notice of tests. If a student is absent prior to the test but has received advance notice, he is expected to take the test. If a student has an excused absence the day of the test, he must set up a time to take the test the first day back.

6) Projects (10%): There will be approximately one project per unit. Students will always be given a written explanation of the project and a grading rubric to help them to complete the project.

7) Final Exam (15%): There will be one final exam at the end of the fall semester and one at the end of the spring semester. The final exams test all material that the students have learned up until that time.

Homework:

Homework is expected to be completed **by the start of class**. Graded homework assignments are worth 10 points each. If a student has too many errors to have successfully completed the homework (as deemed by me), he will be given the chance to redo the homework for full credit. If the student does not redo the homework, he will receive **no** credit for having done the assignment.

Oftentimes, homework will be checked as a class. When homework is checked as a class I will check each student's paper for completion before reviewing the homework. Completed papers will be marked with a stamp. As the class goes over the homework students should be correcting their mistakes. **If a student has not completed the assignment**, he is expected to complete it while the class is going over the assignment (filling in the correct answers). I will then collect the assignments. Students who have papers marked with a stamp will receive full credit for the assignment, as

long as all answers are correct. Students who did not receive a stamp on their papers can earn only ½ the worth of the assignment (late credit). **Homework is due at the beginning of class, and therefore, has to be completed by the time class begins in order to receive a stamp.**

Homework that cannot be read for reasons such as poor handwriting, light ink, or faint pencil marks will be returned to the student.

Make-up Work:

Late assignments will be accepted for the current unit only. I will accept late work up to the test day for that unit. Late assignments are given late credit (½ their original worth). In the event of an excused absence, it is the student's responsibility to get the missed assignments (either from another student or me) and turn them in 1 day after returning to school. I will not ask for missed assignments; it is up to the student to turn in the work.

Participation:

During class, students are expected to use the French that they've learned. To keep track of participation, every student will be given a notecard to put on his/her desk at the beginning of a two-week period. Each time a student participates in French, he/she will make a mark on the card, indicating 1 point. At the end of each class, I will collect the cards to check the points. Students have two weeks to earn 10 points for full credit.

Materials:

Students are expected to have all of their required materials with them for class. If a student forgets to bring something that is needed, he may not be allowed to go to his locker, and therefore, may not be able to participate in or receive credit for what the class is doing that day. **If a student does not have the necessary materials, he is expected to listen quietly during class and take notes.**

Finding Grades:

Students' grades will be available on the website: www.mygradebook.com throughout the year. Every student will be given the Classword and his own password during the first week of class. You will need these two things to access the grades.

**Student Expectations/
Classroom Conduct:**

- 1) **The Rules outlined in the Student Handbook are upheld.** Please review dress code, absence/tardiness, and cheating policy.
- 2) Respect is essential in the classroom. Respect me, other students, and others' property at all times.
- 3) Be seated before the bell rings. Remain seated after the bell rings. **The teacher dismisses class.**
- 4) Have materials ready for class – book, homework out, pencil sharpened, etc.
- 5) Follow directions for activities, group work, and class work.
- 6) Ask questions when you have them. Let me know if you don't understand, have a suggestion, etc.
- 7) Use the French you know when in the classroom.
- 8) Keep up with the class. You should spend at least 30 minutes a day doing homework and/or reviewing French material.

Office Hours:

I am available for questions, tutoring, conferences, etc. by appointment. If a student would like to meet with me, it is his responsibility to set up a time with me beforehand. If a parent is seeking a conference or has a question, please contact me via e-mail or leave a message with the office. I will get back to you as soon as I can.

Note to Parents and Students:

I hope that you have taken the time to read the course information. Please sign and return this sheet by Friday, August 28th. Feel free to get in touch with me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Kelly Tutko, M.Ed.
ktutko@bmhs-la.org
(310) 540-2021

I have read the course requirements that have been given to my son/daughter. I understand these expectations for French I 2009-2010.

PRINT STUDENT'S NAME

PRINT PARENT'S/GUARDIAN'S NAME

STUDENT'S SIGNATURE

PARENT'S/GUARDIAN'S SIGNATURE

DATE

DATE

HOME ADDRESS: _____
STREET

CITY

STATE

ZIP

PARENT'S E-MAIL: _____

HOME PHONE: _____

OTHER PHONE: _____

Please specify best time to call: _____

COMMENTS: