

**FREN 3095 – French for Science and Technology  
or “French across disciplines”  
Syllabus**

**Laetitia Knight**

**Office: LANG 405 L**

**E-mail: [laetitia.knight@unt.edu](mailto:laetitia.knight@unt.edu)**

**Office hours: Monday 9-9:50 am, Tuesday 11-11:50 am and by appointment**

**Class meets twice a week TTh from 9:30 to 10:50 am in LANG 217**

### **Course description**

This course will allow students to explore another field through the lens of French language. It is meant to be collaborative and personalized: each student should work towards building proficiency in a field in which they are most interested (e.g. sociology, anthropology, biology, education science, psychology, etc.). Through the study of specialized discourse and vocabulary, and project-oriented tasks, this course provides instruction and practice towards advanced French competence (oral, written, listening and reading). It also presents information on French culture as it relates to the scientific, medical and technical professions.

*Due to the nature of this course (which is highly customized), students must understand that the learning process will likely be different than that of traditional courses: indeed, there will be less professor-delivered instruction (and when there will, the focus may be on science and technology to match the catalog description), but students will be in control of their own learning with regards to content as well as most material selection. The professor will provide feedback, design assessments, and guide students towards the development of a portfolio that will illustrate all of the student’s acquired knowledge and work.*

### **Course objectives**

Upon successful completion of this course students will:

- be able to use general scientific and technical terminology in French
- be able to use field-specific vocabulary and discourse
- be able to communicate in French at a more advanced level
- have a better understanding of the work environment in France.
- have created a sharable portfolio highlighting their main projects and work throughout the semester.

Additionally, they should:

- have acquired extensive specialized vocabulary in their specific field of interest
- be able to communicate in French with experts in their field of interest
- have received adequate preparation to take the exam leading to a *Diplôme de Français Professionnel* from the Paris Chamber of Commerce and Industry in one of the fields they offer if it corresponds to the topic students selected.

This course fulfills the ***CLASS requirement for Communication and Digital Skills***. At the end of this course, students should:

- be able to demonstrate effective communication using a digital technological platform and;
- do at least two of the following:
  1. Demonstrate the ability to communicate a central idea effectively using appropriate organization/structure.
  2. Demonstrate the ability to develop content at an advanced level using a combination of effective supporting materials.
  3. Demonstrate the ability to engage in verbal and nonverbal communication behaviors that are appropriate for the audience and adhere to the conventions of the medium selected (written, oral, or visual).

## Grading distribution and scale

Percentage	Letter Grade
90 – 100 %	A
80 – 89.9 %	B
70 – 79.9 %	C
60 – 69.9 %	D
0 – 59.9 %	F

Attendance, participation and preparation	10%
Homework & Activities	30%
Presentations	30%
ePortfolio	30%

## Attendance & Participation:

**Class attendance is mandatory.** Missing class—or part(s) of class (repeatedly arriving late/leaving earlier—will result in loss of points in the attendance category (as calculated by Canvas based on the total number of attended classes). Students will automatically receive a grade of zero (for the entire semester) in Attendance & Participation after eight (8) unexcused absences.

Authorized absences as listed in the UNT policies will be excused and will **not** affect students grade as long as students contact the instructor with appropriate documentation immediately upon their return and complete any missed/make-up assignments. A list of authorized absences can be found here:

[http://policy.unt.edu/sites/default/files/06.039\\_StudentAttendance\\_2016.pdf](http://policy.unt.edu/sites/default/files/06.039_StudentAttendance_2016.pdf)

**Your participation** will be graded throughout the semester as an on-going single grade (out of 100 points). This grade will therefore fluctuate based on your overall and current performance. It will be based on the following factors (see table below), which will also tie in with daily activities and homework:

- **oral performance:** tying in with the next two categories, students will also be assessed on the quality of their oral production throughout the semester.
- **active participation:** student volunteers to answer questions, provides answers to exercises, facilitates group discussion or pairwork, keeps group on task, etc.
- **preparation:** student comes to class prepared (with their materials) and ready to work. When applicable, student completes all preparatory tasks before coming to class.
- **cooperative behavior:** student pays attention, displays positivity, leads, supports and mediates during group/pair activities.

Oral performance	Participation, preparation & behavior	Possible Pts
Excellent	Uses only French when possible; always volunteers to participate; offers relevant comments; demonstrates extensive preparation; stays on tasks; and exhibits excellent, cooperative behavior.	90-100 pts.
Good to very good	Uses French often and offers relevant comments; often volunteers to participate; demonstrates a good degree of preparation and stays on task; and exhibits good, cooperative behavior.	80-89 pts.
Needs more work	Uses French and English; comments are sometimes off topic; average participation (needs prompting); adequate preparation (but sometimes inconsistent); generally, exhibits good, cooperative behavior.	60-79 pts.
Less than satisfying	Frequent use of English; rarely participate voluntarily; inconsistent preparation and/or does not stay on task (is distracted or distracts group) and/or unproductive behavior.	40-59 pts.
Unsatisfactory	Present in class, yet does not participate, and/or exhibits disruptive or negative behavior. Absent from class.	0-39 pt.

## Homework & Activities

Students will be expected to complete various written tasks at home during the semester, including reports based on assigned readings, internet research, article/video summaries, etc., and on occasion provide peer-evaluation of their classmates' work on Canvas. Additionally, the instructor may collect and grade some of the in-class activities that will count towards this category (example: comprehension activities, article questionnaires, etc.)

## Presentations

Throughout the semester, students will complete three different types of presentation:

- 1) Lead an article discussion: every class starting week 4, two different students will present together an article that they selected (which could be the same as one that was used as part of a homework assignment), prepare questions on the article for their classmates, and direct a reading of the article. The lead student will then go over the answers with the class and organize a discussion with the class.
- 2) Individual project: In class students will report on a specific project based on a scientific/technical experiment or phenomenon relating to the theme/subject area they selected (must be approved by the instructor) in French. They will submit their report electronically on Canvas and create an individual poster board that will be displayed during class time "Science Fair". During the "Science Fair", classmates will have the opportunity to ask questions about their project. After the "Fair" each student will review and comment on two of their classmates' projects on Canvas.
- 3) Oral presentation: Students will present orally in French on a relevant but specific topic of their theme/subject area (must be different from article discussion and individual project and pre-approved by instructor). Students will need to submit the PowerPoint version of their presentation on Canvas.

## ePortfolio

Throughout the semester, students will work on various assignments which will be added in a FolioTek ePortfolio at the end of the semester. The ePortfolio will include the following:

- 1) A personal profile
- 2) A compilation of projects (assignments submitted throughout the semester such as Summaries and reports of specialized articles, videos, etc. (assigned as part of the homework) in their selected subject area, oral presentation PPS, individual project, etc.)
- 3) A database including a bilingual list of technical vocabulary and a resource databank.
- 4) An end-of-semester reflexive essay.

## Succeed at UNT

UNT endeavors to offer you a high-quality education and to provide a supportive environment to help you learn and grow. As a faculty member, I am committed to helping you be successful as a student. Make sure you attend each and every class. If you experience difficulties, please come and see me in my office, I am here to help you find the support you need. To learn more about campus resources and information on how you can achieve success, go to <http://succeed.unt.edu>.

## Incompletes

For information about incomplete grades, please visit the following webpage:

<http://registrar.unt.edu/grades/incompletes>

## Use of Electronics in class

Cell phones and other electronic devices may **not** be used during class time (unless otherwise instructed). Failure to switch off and stow away electronic devices will result in loss of participation points.

## Students with learning disabilities

<http://disability.unt.edu/parents-faculty-staff/taglines>

*"The University of North Texas makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking reasonable accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Access (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide you with a reasonable accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding your specific needs in a course. You may request reasonable accommodations at any time, however, ODA notices of reasonable accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new*

letter of reasonable accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. Students are strongly encouraged to deliver letters of reasonable accommodation during faculty office hours or by appointment. Faculty members have the authority to ask students to discuss such letters during their designated office hours to protect the privacy of the student. For additional information, refer to the Office of Disability Access website at <http://www.unt.edu/oda>. You may also contact ODA by phone at (940) 565-4323."

### **Acceptable Student Behavior**

"Student behavior that interferes with an instructor's ability to conduct a class or other students' opportunity to learn is unacceptable and disruptive and will not be tolerated in any instructional forum at UNT. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior will be directed to leave the classroom and the instructor may refer the student to the Dean of Students to consider whether the student's conduct violated the Code of Student Conduct. The university's expectations for student conduct apply to all instructional forums, including university and electronic classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The Code of Student Conduct can be found at <https://policy.unt.edu/policy/07-012>"

### **Sexual Discrimination, harassment, & Assault**

"UNT is committed to providing an environment free of all forms of discrimination and sexual harassment, including sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. If you (or someone you know) has experienced or experiences any of these acts of aggression, please know that you are not alone. The federal Title IX law makes it clear that violence and harassment based on sex and gender are Civil Rights offenses. UNT has staff members trained to support you in navigating campus life, accessing health and counseling services, providing academic and housing accommodations, helping with legal protective orders, and more.

UNT's Dean of Students' website offers a range of on-campus and off-campus resources to help support survivors, depending on their unique needs: <http://deanofstudents.unt.edu/resources>.

The UNT Survivor Advocates can be reached by emailing [SurvivorAdvocate@unt.edu](mailto:SurvivorAdvocate@unt.edu) or calling 940-565-2648. The UNT Survivor Advocates connect students who have been impacted by violence to resources (counseling, health, safety, academics, legal, etc.), and act as their advocate. They can assist a student by filing protective orders, completing crime victim's compensation applications, contacting professors for absences related to an assault, working with housing to facilitate a room change (if needed), and connecting students to the many other resources that are available, both on and off campus. They are here to help! For more information see <https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/sexual-misconduct/reporting-sexual-misconduct>"

### **Academic misconduct**

In accordance with university policy 18.1.16, the Department of World Languages, Literatures and Cultures fully supports and enforces all policies regarding academic misconduct (cheating, plagiarism, fabrication, etc.). For detailed descriptions and information covered by this policy please go to:

[http://policy.unt.edu/sites/default/files/untpolicy/pdf/7-Student Affairs-Academic Integrity.pdf](http://policy.unt.edu/sites/default/files/untpolicy/pdf/7-Student%20Affairs-Academic%20Integrity.pdf).

It is YOUR responsibility to understand what cheating, plagiarism and fabrication entails and to contact your instructor if you have questions about what constitutes academic misconducts. Please be certain that all the work you submit in this course is **your own**. Use of online translators is prohibited and considered cheating. Seeking external help for any graded assignments is cheating. Copying whole or parts of any external resources (textbooks, books, websites or another students' work) without proper citation is plagiarism.

### **Student Perceptions of Teaching (SPOT)**

Student feedback is important and an essential part of participation in this course. The student evaluation of instruction is a requirement for all organized classes at UNT. The short SPOT survey will be made available later in the semester and you will receive an email from "UNT SPOT Course Evaluations via IASystem Notification" ([no-reply@iasystem.org](mailto:no-reply@iasystem.org)) with the survey link. Please look for the email in your UNT email inbox. Simply click on the link and complete your survey. Once you complete the survey you will receive a confirmation email that the survey has been submitted. For additional information, please visit the spot website at [www.spot.unt.edu](http://www.spot.unt.edu) or email [spot@unt.edu](mailto:spot@unt.edu).

### **Important dates and withdrawal/drop information**

**Weekly schedule \***

<b>Week</b>	<b>Topics and Exams</b>	<b>Special Projects</b>
Week 1 14/1 16/1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduction du cours/ Syllabus</li> <li>• Questionnaire et présentation</li> <li>• Inscription sur FolioTek et création de la page d'identité</li> </ul>	Questionnaire à rendre en classe le 16/1 Profil sur FolioTek (à partager à la fin du cours le 16/1)
Week 2 21/1 23/1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lexique du savoir-faire scientifique et technique et les métiers de la recherche</li> <li>• Travail en labo (23/1) sur les métiers de sa discipline spécifique</li> </ul>	Création du lexique spécifique (21/1) Création de la banque de données de ressources + vocabulaire des métiers (23/1)
Week 3 28/1 30/1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• La vulgarisation scientifique</li> <li>• Travailler dans un labo</li> <li>• Les institutions</li> </ul>	Lecture et résumé d'article spécialisé (28/1)
Week 4 4/2 6/2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recherches et spécialités scientifiques</li> <li>• Les capacités du cerveau (video)</li> </ul> + Discussion d'article	Lecture et résumé d'article spécialisé (4/2)
Week 5 11/2 13/2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• La médecine: introduction</li> </ul> + Discussion d'article	Recherche vidéo sur internet Rapport vidéo (11/2) Commentaires sur rapports vidéos (2) (13/2)
Week 6 18/2 20/2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Patients et médecins</li> </ul> + Discussion d'article	<i>Individual Project Topic/draft</i> (18/2)
Week 7 25/2 27/2	« <i>Science Fair</i> » Présentation des projets individuels	<b>Projet individuel à rendre</b> (27/2)
Week 8 3/3 5/3	<i>3/3 comprehension activity in the lab</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• L'hôpital</li> </ul>	Commentaires ( <i>peer review</i> ) sur projet individuels (5/3)
9/3- 13/3	<i>Spring break</i>	
Week 9 17/3 19/3	Vidéo Marie Curie + Discussion d'article	Présentations orales : brouillon (19/3)
Week 10 24/3 26/3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• L'informatique</li> </ul> + Discussion d'article	Lecture et rapport d'article spécialisé (24/3)
Week 11 31/3 2/4	<b>Présentations orales</b>	<b>Présentations orales</b>
Week 12 7/4 9/4	<b>Présentations orales</b>	<b>Présentations orales</b>
Week 13 14/4 16/4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Progrès et dangers</li> </ul> + Discussion d'article	Lecture et rapport d'article spécialisé (14/4)
Week 14 21/4 23/4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• L'environnement</li> </ul> + Discussion d'article	Recherche vidéo sur internet Rapport Vidéo (21/4) Commentaires sur rapports vidéos (2) (23/4)
Week 15 28/4 30/4	Articles	<b>Réflexion critique</b> à rendre le 30/4 avant minuit

<b>Finals week</b>		<b>ePortfolio</b> à rendre le 5/5 avant minuit
--------------------	--	--

*\* instructor reserves the right to change this schedule. students will be notified of any modifications via Canvas.*