

**French 4900 – Special Problem
Contemporary France and Politics**

**University of North Texas
Spring 2015**

Professor: **Laetitia Knight**
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Office hours: Wednesday 11 to 11:50 & by appointment

Prerequisites: FREN 2050 or equivalent

Course description and objectives: This “special problem” course focuses on the current state of the France and will include analysis of current events, the political system and projected data for 2015. It is based on independent study, but the student is expected to submit assignments and meet with the instructor on a regular basis.

By the end of the course the student should:

- have improved his understanding of written and oral material in authentic language;
- have further developed his critical thinking, in particular with regards to current political events and their impact on the global scene;
- have a better understanding of the French culture (including economy, political system, etc).

Required material: - *France 2015 – Les données clés*. La Documentation Française (2014) – pdf will be posted on Blackboard.
- list of online resources (articles, podcasts, videos) on Blackboard

General Policies: Go to the World Languages webpage for departmental policies:
<http://worldlanguages.unt.edu/>.

Academic and personal misconduct: The Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures fully supports and enforces all University policies regarding academic misconduct (cheating, plagiarism, fabrication, etc.) and personal misconduct (disruptive behavior, incivility, etc.) as outlined in the *Code of Student Conduct and Discipline*, available in the *Undergraduate Catalog* and online at <http://www.unt.edu/csrr/>.

Disability Accommodation: 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 Accommodation (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 see the Office of Disability Accommodation website at <http://www.unt.edu/oda>. You may also contact them by phone at [940.565.4323](tel:940.565.4323).

Drop information: refer to <http://essc.unt.edu/registrar/schedule/scheduleclass.htm>

Use of E-Mail: The instructor requires students to use official UNT Eagle Mail for all communication. This means that the instructor will only respond to e-mail sent by their students from a UNT Eagle Mail address. Likewise, the instructor will only send e-mail to your UNT Eagle Mail address. Information about Eagle Mail can be found at the following Web address: <https://eaglemail.unt.edu/>.

Student Evaluation of Teaching Effectiveness (SETE): The Student Evaluation of Teaching Effectiveness (SETE) is a requirement for all organized classes at UNT. This short survey will be made available to you at the end of the semester, providing you a chance to comment on how this class is taught. I am very interested in the feedback I get from students, as I work to continually improve my teaching. I consider the SETE to be an important part of your participation in this class.

Keeping records: Students must keep all returned graded materials until the end of the semester. In case of grade disagreement, it will be the student's responsibility to show the graded materials.

Grading scale: Your grade will be calculated according to the following scale. Please note that grades are not curved. There is no extra credit awarded in this course.

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

Grade distribution:

Reports	35%
Online Discussions/comments	10%
Questionnaires	25%
Essays	20%
Oral face-to-face discussions	10%

Reports: Every week the student will be required to write a summary and commentary of a relevant source (including, but not limited to video clips, news broadcast, online articles). The student will be responsible for finding the appropriate and relevant material online. However, some material may also be assigned by the instructor in the form of a topic, file or link via Blackboard. Information/instructions about the report format will be posted on Blackboard.

Online Discussions/comments: Every week the student will be expected to engage in an authentic discussion based on the topic he has chosen to cover that week. This homework can be in the form of comments on French discussions forums, reactions posts to online articles, etc.

The student will have to take a screen shot of the discussion (or copy and paste it into a MS Word document) and submit the document along with the report on Blackboard. The grade will be based on the student's effort to participate in discussions with native speakers through personal comments, questions, or reactions to other people's comments/opinions.

Questionnaires: Every three weeks the student will be asked to complete a questionnaire on the assigned reading material (book chapters, etc). Questionnaires will be available online (via Blackboard), and student is expected to submit his answers through Blackboard.

Essays: The student will have to write three essays of equal length throughout the semester. Topics will be announced via Blackboard.

Oral face-to-face discussions: Every two weeks the student will meet with the instructor for one hour to discuss his progress and the material he learned. Discussions will be conducted in French and graded based on the use of French (quality, accuracy, fluency) and knowledge of the material.

Missed meeting: If the student is absent for a scheduled meeting due to illness, hospitalization, or other authorized emergency/activity, he must contact the instructor immediately and with the proper documentation (doctor's note, service bulletin, etc). Any other unexcused missed scheduled meeting will result in a loss points (2% of total grade for each missed meeting).

Late or missed work: Unless student has a valid excuse (see reasons stated in the "missed meeting" section above), missed work will result in a grade of zero. A penalty will be given for late submission of work until three days past the deadline (after which the student will receive a zero). Penalty will be a 10% deduction for each day late.

Weekly Agenda*

Week starting	To read that week	Important reminders for	Due on Friday of that week
01/20	France 2015 - pp. 90-93 France 2015 - pp. 78-81	Face-to-face meeting on Friday 11am to 12pm	Report Online Discussion
01/26	France 2015 - pp. 94-99		Report Online Discussion
02/02	PowerPoint Presentation (La Politique Française)	Face-to-face meeting on Friday 11am to 12pm	Report Online Discussion Questionnaire 1
02/09	France 2015 - pp. 100-105		Report Online Discussion
02/16	France 2015 - pp. 14-21	Face-to-face meeting on Friday 11am to 12pm	Report Online Discussion
02/23	France 2015- pp. 22-27	Essay 1 due on Wednesday	Report Online Discussion Questionnaire 2
03/02	France 2015- pp. 28-31	Face-to-face meeting on Friday 11am to 12pm	Report Online Discussion
03/09	France 2015 - pp. 38-41		Report Online Discussion
03/16		<i>Spring Break</i>	
03/23	France 2015 - pp. 48-53	Face-to-face meeting on Friday 11am to 12pm	Report Online Discussion Questionnaire 3
03/30	France 2015 - pp. 58-61	Essay 2 due on Wednesday	Report Online Discussion

04/06	France 2015 - pp. 62-65	Face-to-face meeting on Friday 11am to 12pm	Report Online Discussion
04/13	France 2015 - pp. 82-85		Report Online Discussion Questionnaire 4
04/20	France 2015 - pp. 124-129	Face-to-face meeting on Friday 11am to 12pm	Report Online Discussion
04/27	France 2015 - pp. 130-135		Report Online Discussion
05/04	France 2015 - pp. 136-139		Report Online Discussion Questionnaire 5
05/11		<i>Finals week</i> Final Essay due on Wednesday	

* Your instructor reserves the right to make changes to the weekly agenda. Any modifications will be communicated by email or via Blackboard.

NB: Refer to <http://essc.unt.edu/registrar/academic-record-incomplete.html> for information about an Incomplete Grade.