

The Best of French Pop Culture

WLLC 3310

UNT – Fall 2019

Welcome to our new, one-of-a-kind 100% online French Pop Culture course. This class is an advanced elective but also satisfies the CLASS Distributive Requirement category of “Diversity and Global Issues”.

Instructor Contact: **Laetitia Knight**
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Office hours:
in Lang 405L: Thursday 8:30 to 9:25 am, or by appointment
online via Canvas chat: or Wednesday from 1 to 2 pm.

Course Description :

Through exposure to, and analysis of different aspects of French culture (such as fashion, film, food, comics, music, advertisements, media, sports, language, and other cultural artifacts), students will learn to think about how popular culture is constructed and consumed in France. Through cultural comparisons, students will also reflect on their own culture. This course is taught in English and does not fulfill the language requirements.

Pre-requisites:

None

Language of instruction:

English (*knowledge of French is NOT required for this course*)

Required Materials:

No textbook required. Some suggested books can be purchased online but are not mandatory. All materials* will be posted on Canvas. Students will need access to a computer and the internet.

Course Objectives:

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Respond critically to a broad range of literary, visual and auditory examples of French popular culture;
2. Analyze and explain how meaning is created within different popular genres;
3. Reflect on how French popular culture is consumed;

* As part of one of the modules, students will be required to watch a movie. All movies will be accessible through the UNT Media library but some may only be available on DVD. Students who are unable to check out DVDs in person may have to find a copy of the film available on a streaming platform, which may require a fee.

4. Identify and evaluate elements of popular culture;
5. Investigate and discuss the concept of popular culture through comparisons of French culture and their own culture.

This course fulfills the CLASS requirement for Diversity and Global Issues:

At the end of this course, students should be able to do at least three of the following:

1. Identify the origins, influences, and limits of one's own cultural heritage.
2. Demonstrate the ability to learn from and empathize with perspectives and experiences different from one's own.
3. Show an understanding of the interrelationships of the self, local society, and global environments.
4. Describe the impacts of complex, worldwide systems.
5. Explain the reasoning for one's ethical responsibilities within worldwide systems.

Technical Support:

Student Helpdesk:

UIT Helpdesk
Sage Hall 130
940-565-2324
helpdesk@unt.edu

Technical Skill Requirements:

To be successful in this course, basic technical skills are required. Students are expected to know how to use Canvas, download and upload files on it, send and receive emails, check announcements and set up notifications so that they know when assignments are due. In addition, students should know how to check out online media resources from the UNT Chilton Media library

Netiquette:

Please be respectful through your exchanges with classmates and instructor. Refer to Albion's "The Core Rules of Netiquette": <http://www.albion.com/netiquette/corerules.html> for tips and information.

Policies:

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

The Department of World Languages, Literatures, and Cultures 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 <https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/academic-integrity>

ADA Policy:

"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. 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."

UNT Policy Manual, Volume 3, 18.1.14, part II

****Due to the nature of some of the modules, alternative assignments may be offered to visual or hearing-impaired students. Please contact me as soon as possible so we can discuss these options.****

Important Notice for F-1 Students taking Distance Education Courses

Federal Regulation

To read detailed Immigration and Customs Enforcement regulations for F-1 students taking online courses, please go to the Electronic Code of Federal Regulations website at <http://ecfr.gpoaccess.gov>. The specific portion concerning distance education courses is located at "Title 8 CFR 214.2 Paragraph (f)(6)(i)(G)" and can be found buried within this document: <http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/get-cfr.cgi?TITLE=8&PART=214&SECTION=2&TYPE=TEXT>

The paragraph reads:

(G) For F-1 students enrolled in classes for credit or classroom hours, no more than the equivalent of one class or three credits per session, term, semester, trimester, or quarter may be counted toward the full course of study requirement if the class is taken on-line or through distance education and does not require the student's physical attendance for classes, examination or other purposes integral to completion of the class. An on-line or distance education course is a course that is offered principally through the use of television, audio, or computer transmission including open broadcast, closed circuit, cable, microwave, or satellite, audio conferencing, or computer conferencing. If the F-1 student's course of study is in a language study program, no on-line or distance education classes may be considered to count toward a student's full course of study requirement.

University of North Texas Compliance

To comply with immigration regulations, an F-1 visa holder within the United States may need to engage in an on-campus experiential component for this course. This component (which must be approved in advance by the instructor) can include activities such as taking an on-campus exam, participating in an on-campus lecture or lab activity, or other on-campus experience integral to the completion of this course.

If such an on-campus activity is required, it is the student's responsibility to do the following:

(1) Submit a written request to the instructor for an on-campus experiential component within one week of the start of the course.

(2) Ensure that the activity on campus takes place and the instructor documents it in writing with a notice sent to the International Student and Scholar Services Office. ISSS has a form available that you may use for this purpose.

Because the decision may have serious immigration consequences, if an F-1 student is unsure about his or her need to participate in an on-campus experiential component for this course, s/he should contact the UNT International Student and Scholar Services Office (telephone 940-565-2195 or email internationaladvising@unt.edu) to get clarification before the one-week deadline.

Course Expectations:

As a student in this course, you are responsible for:

- Reading all posted articles or texts/watching all videos;
- Completing all assigned activities in a timely manner;
- Working to remain attentive and engaged in the course and interact with your fellow students;
- Communicating with your instructor if you are having issues.

The instructor or teaching assistant will provide feedback on most assignments within one week of submission (many quizzes are multiple choice and computer-graded, so results will be instantaneous), however, longer assignments (such as essays) may take up to two weeks.

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:

Comprehension activities	30%
Discussions	30%
Essays	20%
Final Presentation	20%

Comprehension activities:

Every week, students will be asked to complete an activity to demonstrate their understanding of the assigned materials (readings, videos or recorded lectures). Activities will include multiple-choice, open-ended questionnaires or task-based assignments.

Online discussions:

Students will discuss particular points (cultural products, cultural comparisons, etc. based on the assigned materials) with their classmates. Students are expected to actively engage in the discussion by making relevant quality contributions. Discussions will be in the form of online forums. Further instructions and grading rubrics will be provided with each discussion assignments

Essays:

Students will write two essays during the semester to reflect on specific aspects of French pop culture (assigned by instructor).

Final Presentation:

Students will submit a Powerpoint presentation (including voice recording) analyzing a specific product of French pop culture (must be pre-approved by the instructor) and discuss how it compares with their own culture.

Q & A:

Q & A sections are not graded but provide students a chance to share comments, ask questions and discuss the materials.

Calendar *(is subject to change at the instructor's discretion—students will be notified of any modification through Canvas announcements).*

Week of	Modules	Readings/Videos (assigned through BBL)	Assignments
8/26	Introduction	Canvas and online course	Introduction
9/2	Module 1 Defining Pop Culture	What is « pop culture » ?	Pre-writing activity + Comprehension + Discussion
9/9	Module 2 French Food and Cuisine	Articles on: - French food staples (including regional dishes) - French eating habits Video clip on: - Americans trying out French food in Paris	Comprehension + Discussion
9/16	Module 3 French Fashion	Articles/Video clips on: - France: the world capital of fashion - What French people wear	Comprehension + Discussion
9/23	Module 4 French Cinema	Reading: The “Seventh Art” Some films available through the UNT media library or Kanopy	Comprehension + Discussion

10/7	Module 5 Stereotypes	Video lecture + Article + Youtube video	Comprehension + Essay
10/14	Module 6 French Literature	Powerpoint + excerpts	Comprehension + <i>Q & A</i>
10/21	Module 7 French Bande Dessinée (Comics and Graphic Novels)	Articles + free comic books online	Comprehension + Discussion
10/28	Module 8 French Music	General article + French radio live stream / Popular groups/singers	Comprehension + Discussion
11/4	Module 9 French Advertisements	Powerpoint presenting overview + Semiotic analysis of French ad	Comprehension + Discussion
11/11	Module 10 French Television	French TV station website Excerpt of French show	Essay
11/18	Module 11 Leisure, hobbies and traditions	Powerpoint	Comprehension + <i>Q & A</i> + Final presentation topic is due
11/25	Module 12 Sports	Optional 3-part video lecture Research on French athlete	Discussion
Thanksgiving			
12/2	Module 13 Language and Youth	Articles on French language, slang and verlan.	Comprehension
12/8	Final Module Cultural Comparisons	Cultural comparisons	Final presentation