

FREN 5750.002 Exploring the Francophone World & FREN 4910.001 Special Problems

Topic: Current Events

- This is a combined course.
- This course meets on Wednesday evenings in LANG 302 from 5:00 p.m. until 7:50 p.m.
- We will not meet in the classroom every week.
- See the schedule for dates when we will have independent work (no classroom meeting).
- All assignments are graded/required.
- There is no final exam in this course.

Instructor Information

Name: Lawrence Williams
Office: LANG 405F
Office telephone: (not available)
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Office hours: Monday and Wednesday 4 p.m. – 5 p.m. and by appointment

Course Description, Structure, and Objectives

Analysis and exploration of language and other aspects of society in the francophone world, including former colonies of France and countries where French is used as a national, official or regional language.

Detailed learning objectives for each module are provided in Canvas.

The overarching objectives are provided below:

- 1) Identify key dates, events, products, services, and people who had (or currently have) an important role in developing cultural, linguistic, and political aspects of life in selected areas of the francophone world.
- 2) Explain cultural and social issues that are affecting—in different ways—current events in selected areas of the francophone world.
- 3) Analyze the role of language in selected areas of the francophone world.
- 4) Evaluate language-related legislation in selected areas of the francophone world.

How to Succeed in this Course

Office hours: Monday and Wednesday 4 p.m. – 5 p.m. and by appointment
If you have a question or a problem, please contact me by e-mail.
There is no attendance policy because this is an Internet course, and there are no meetings.
Students are required to follow the due dates indicated in each module.

Accommodation for Students with Disabilities

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](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/office-disability-access) website (<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/office-disability-access>). You may also contact ODA by phone at (940) 565-4323.

Supporting Your Success and Creating an Inclusive Learning Environment

I am committed to your success and to creating an inclusive learning environment. I value the many perspectives students bring to our campus. Please work with me to create a classroom culture of open communication, mutual respect, and belonging.

Required/Recommended Materials

There is no required textbook for this course.
We will use materials that are available for free on line or through UNT Libraries.
Since this course focuses on current events, we will use various news outlets (see the list below) for this course.

News outlets

- 1) France Info (public news hub) <https://www.francetvinfo.fr/>
- 2) Le Parisien <https://www.leparisien.fr/>
- 3) Le Figaro (privately owned news company) <https://www.lefigaro.fr/>
- 4) Le Monde (privately owned news company) <https://www.lemonde.fr/>
- 5) Libération (privately owned news company) <https://www.liberation.fr/>
- 6) La Presse (privately owned news company) <https://www.lapresse.ca/>

Additional recommended resources will be listed in Canvas.

Course Requirements

Discussion Board 1 (Canvas)
Discussion Board 2 (Canvas)
Audio Recording 1 (Canvas)
Audio Recording 2 (Canvas)
Audio Recording 3 (Canvas)
Presentation 1 (classroom)
Presentation 2 (classroom)
Presentation 3 (Canvas)
Presentation 4 (classroom)
Presentation 5 (Canvas)

Schedule

During any week when you have independent work to do, please remember to contact the instructor whenever you have questions. It is expected that you will have consultations with the instructor on a regular basis. Consultations are not required because I know that you all have different schedules with many different moving parts.

Students will be notified by Eagle Alert if there is a campus closing that will impact a class. Please understand that the calendar is subject to change, citing the [Emergency Notifications and Procedures Policy](https://policy.unt.edu/policy/06-049) (<https://policy.unt.edu/policy/06-049>).

Week 1 – January 17, 2024

Format: Independent work, no classroom meeting

Topic: General discussion of the francophone world (news, travel, current events, and geography)

Assignment: Discussion Board 1

The first week of the semester is used for students to interact with each other in a Canvas Discussion. This is a discussion board for comments, and students can also share images and links.

- Specific questions and instructions will be posted in Canvas on January 17, 2024.
- Students will have four days (Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday) to for the first round of interaction.
- Students will then have three days (Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday) for the second round of interaction.

Week 2 – January 24, 2024

Format: Independent work, no classroom meeting

Topic: Les actualités en France

The second week of the semester is used for students to read news articles in French and watch news videos in French and prepare an audio recording in French based on recommended readings/viewings and other content selected by individual students.

Assignment: Audio Recording 1

Week 3 – January 31, 2024

Format: Independent work, no classroom meeting

Topic: Les actualités au Québec

The third week of the semester is used for students to read news articles in French and watch news videos in French and prepare an audio recording based on recommended readings/viewings and other content selected by individual students.

Assignment: Audio Recording 2

Week 4 – February 7, 2024

Format: Classroom meeting (LANG 302)

Topic: Media outlets in France; recent stories in the news

Week 5 – February 14, 2024

Format: Independent work, no classroom meeting

Topic: Variable, based on topics selected by students

The fifth week of the semester is used by students to begin finding sources/content for the final project that will be submitted at the end of the semester. Each student should schedule a meeting with the instructor during Week 6 to provide a summary of the sources/content that were identified during Week 5 as potentially helpful/useful for the final project.

Week 6 – February 21, 2024

Format: Classroom meeting (LANG 302)

Topic: Media outlets in Québec; recent stories in the news

Week 7 – February 28, 2024

Format: Classroom meeting (LANG 302)

Topic: Current events in France

Assignment: Presentation 1

During this classroom meeting, each student will present a news article (from an approved source). Each presentation will include specific components and details. Instructions are provided in Canvas.

Week 8 – March 6, 2024

Format: Independent work, no classroom meeting

Topic: Current events in Québec

The eighth week of the semester is used by students to begin preparing Presentation 2 (the Wednesday after spring break). As a way to encourage students to look at different news stories from Québec, students will submit Audio Recording 3 in Canvas before spring break.

Assignment: Audio Recording 3

Spring Break – March 13, 2024**Week 9 – March 20, 2024**

Format: Classroom meeting (LANG 302)

Topic: Current events in Québec

Assignment: Presentation 2

During this classroom meeting, each student will present a news article (from an approved source). Each presentation will include specific components and details. Instructions are provided in Canvas.

Week 10 – March 27, 2024

Format: Classroom meeting (LANG 302)

Topic: le Maghreb; media outlets in North Africa; current stories in the news

Week 11 – April 3, 2024

Format: Independent work, no classroom meeting

Topic: le Maghreb

Assignment: Presentation 3

This presentation will be submitted in Canvas.

Week 12 – April 10, 2024

Format: Independent work, no classroom meeting

Topic: Students can choose news stories from any francophone country

Assignment: Discussion Board 2

- Specific questions and instructions will be posted in Canvas on April 24, 2024.
- Students will have four days (Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday) to for the first round of interaction.
- Students will then have three days (Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday) for the second round of interaction.

Week 13 – April 17, 2024

Format: Classroom meeting (LANG 302)

Topic: Any news story from a francophone country in Africa or the Caribbean

Assignment: Presentation 4

Week 14 – April 24, 2024

Format: Independent work, no classroom meeting

Topic: Variable (students will choose individual topics)

Assignment: Presentation 5

Students use this week to continue preparing Presentation 5.

Week 15 – May 1, 2024

Format: Independent work, no classroom meeting

Topic: Variable (students will choose individual topics)

Assignment: Presentation 5

Students use this week to continue preparing Presentation 5.

Students must submit Presentation 5 by Wednesday, May 8, 2024.

Evaluating Your Work

There are 10 required assignments in this course.

Each assignment is worth a maximum of 50 points.

Each assignment is worth 10% of the course grade.

You can earn up to 500 points in this course.

Submitting Assignments

- All assignments are due in Canvas by the **DUE** date.
- There is an extension of 48 hours for all assignments (in Canvas → **AVAILABLE UNTIL** date).
- It is your responsibility to attempt to submit each assignment by the due date.
- If there is a problem with Canvas, a problem with your computer, or any other kind of problem, you have 48 hours to resolve the issue(s) and submit the assignment.
- Since you have an extension of 48 hours for each assignment, there are no valid excuses—from my perspective—for not submitting the assignment on time (except, for example, unanticipated hospitalization).

Canvas Support

Support & Resources: techsupport.unt.edu

Student Helpdesk: (940) 565-2324

General Tech Support

Email: helpdesk@unt.edu

Walk-in: Sage Hall, Room 330

Frequently Asked Questions: aits.unt.edu/support/faq

Your course grade will be determined based on the following scale:

A = 451-500

B = 401-450

C = 351-400

D = 301-350

F = 0-300

Attendance and Participation

You are required to attend class (LANG 302) on the following dates:

- February 7, 2024
- February 21, 2024
- February 28, 2024 [in-class presentation]
- March 20, 2024 [in-class presentation]
- March 27, 2024
- April 17, 2024 [in-class presentation]

If you have an unanticipated emergency, please notify the instructor before the classroom meeting that you will miss. Arrangements will be made for you to complete the assignment during the following week, unless there are exceptional circumstances requiring additional time.