

SYLLABUS  
(updated June 9, 2019)

**Course Title**

FREN 5200.001 Seminar in French: Francophone Communities & Linguistic Variation

**Course Dates**

June 24, 2019 – August 9, 2019 (self-paced Internet course)

**Instructor**

Lawrence Williams, Professor of Applied Linguistics & French  
lawrence.williams@unt.edu

**Office hours**

Since this is an online course offered during the summer, students can send questions to the instructor by e-mail. Other arrangements can be made, as needed.

**Canvas**

All assignments must be submitted in Canvas, the online learning platform adopted by the University of North Texas. <https://unt.instructure.com/login/canvas>

All links to required readings/texts, audio files, and audiovisual files will be provided in Canvas. If you need help with Canvas, you can visit the student help desk in person, or you can call, or you can send the help desk an e-mail:

- Sage Hall 330
- (940) 565-2324
- [helpdesk@unt.edu](mailto:helpdesk@unt.edu)

**Required textbooks**

There are no required textbooks. All required texts, audio files, and audiovisual files are available for free on line. Addresses (URLs) will be provided, and in some cases, free/open-source articles will be posted in Canvas.

**Learning Outcomes**

This course offers students opportunities to focus on the [5 goal areas](#) proposed by the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages:

- Communication
- Cultures
- Connections
- Comparisons
- Communities

There will be a special emphasis on various modes of communication, studying other cultures, and making connections to their disciplines, such as geography, history, and politics.

## Course Grade

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

## Grading Values

Module 1, Assignment A	5%
Module 1, Assignment B	5%
Module 2, Assignment A	5%
Module 2, Assignment B	10%
Module 3, Assignment A	5%
Module 3, Assignment B	10%
Module 4, Assignment A	5%
Module 4, Assignment B	10%
Module 5, Assignment A	5%
Module 5, Assignment B	10%
Module 6, Assignment A	5%
Module 6, Assignment B	10%
Module 7, Assignment A	5%
Module 7, Assignment B	10%

## Course Overview

- Since most resources are in French, and since this course is offered primarily for students in our MA-French program, students are expected to have an advanced level of proficiency in French. If you are not in the MA-French program, please contact me immediately.
- This course is offered (roughly) during the last 7 weeks of the 10-week session of Summer 2019, from Monday, June 24, 2019 until Friday, August 9, 2019.
- There are 7 modules (see list of general topics below). Each module contains 2 assignments, A and B. Both assignments must be submitted in Canvas.
- Assignment A will be in a question/answer format (e.g., short answer; true/false; yes/no), and Assignment B will be more creative and variable (e.g., audio recording in which you explain some things that you learned in the module **or** a written summary in which you explain your opinion or perspective regarding a cultural or linguistic issue). Even though these two assignments might not take that long to produce, you should spend a substantial amount of time preparing to do the assignments. In other words, you're expected to learn more than you need to know in order to complete the assignments. This means that you are being encouraged to take some extra time to learn more about these regions/countries instead of just viewing this as an opportunity to get some credits for completing the assignments for these modules.

- The focus of each module will vary. In some modules, language will play a central role; however, in other modules, there will be more emphasis on culture (and cultural products such as art and food), geography, history, and politics. The reason for this shifting focus is due to the amount and/or type of online resources available for certain countries/regions.
- This is a self-paced course; however, the only restriction is that you can only submit the assignments for a maximum of 3 modules during the final week of the course (so that you don't procrastinate and try to rush at the end). This means that you must submit the assignments for Modules 1, 2, 3, and 4 before August 3, 2019. If you do not follow this rule, the maximum grade possible for this course is a B, regardless of the quality of your work.
- Please note that even though there is no official weekly schedule, **the recommended schedule is to complete 1 module each week since this course lasts 7 weeks.** The purpose of this type of course is to give students an opportunity to explore the francophone world, so the assignments represent a minimum amount of reading/listening/viewing. In other words, you can take advantage of this opportunity to find additional resources, so it is really up to you whether you just want to do the assignments or explore each country/region beyond what is required. This is why you have a full week for each module.
- There is no required textbook to buy for this course. Each assignment will be based on articles and/or online resources.
- We will use Canvas, and students must submit the modules in order.  
<https://unt.instructure.com/login/canvas>
- Some assignments are in the form of an audio recording. Acceptable audio file formats can be found in Appendix A (below).

## Course Content

Module 1 – Introduction : la langue française dans le monde

Module 2 – La Tunisie

Module 3 – Le Maroc

Module 4 – Le Sahel

Module 5 – La Belgique

Module 6 – La République démocratique du Congo (le Congo-Kinshasa ; le Congo belge ; le Zaïre)

Module 7 – L'Amérique du Nord

Specific texts, websites, blogs, podcast, Twitter feeds, and videos are available in Canvas.

## Appendix A: Acceptable File Formats\*

\*If your preferred audio file format does not appear on this list, please send me a test file (with a very short message) as an e-mail attachment so that I can try to open it, then I will let you know if it is an acceptable audio format.

.ASX	Advanced Stream Redirector
.DTS	Digital Theater Systems Audio File
.GXF	General eXchange Format
.M3U	MP3 Uniform Resource Locator
.MXF	Material eXchange Format
.OGM	Ogg Multimedia Container File
.PLS	Playlist
.BUP	DVD Information File
.A52	Dolby Digital AC-3 Compressed Audio File
.AAC	Advanced Audio Coding Compressed Audio File
.B4S	Winamp 3+ Playlist
.CUE	Cue Sheet
.OMA	OpenMG Audio File
.SPX	Ogg Speex Audio File
.TS	DVD Video
.VLC	VLC Media Player Data
.VOB	DVD Video Object
.XSPF	XML Shareable Playlist Format
.IFO	DVD Information File
.PART	Partially Downloaded File
.FLAC	Free Lossless Audio Codec Compressed Audio File
.M4A	MPEG-4 Audio File
.MP1	MPEG-1 Audio Layer I
.OGG	Ogg Multimedia Container File
.WAV	Waveform Audio
.XM	Extended Module Audio File
.SRT	DVD Subtitles File
.AC3	Dolby Digital AC-3 Compressed Audio File
.MOD	MOD Audio File
.MP2	MPEG-1 Audio Layer II
.MP3	MPEG-1 Audio Layer 3
.MP4	MPEG-4 Part 14 Multimedia Container
.WMA	Windows Media Audio File
.MKA	Matroska Audio Stream
.M4P	Protected AAC File