



WLLC – FRENCH – FALL 2025

SYLLABUS

COURSE INFORMATION AND POLICIES

FRENCH 4900 Special Problem Course

COURSE ID/COURSE NAME - TIME /LOCATION

FRENCH 4900-001 – French Culture through French Cinema

Meeting: weekly, specific place, dates and times TBD.

INSTRUCTOR CONTACT

Name: Mrs. Sophie Morton

Email: Sophie.Morton@unt.edu

OFFICE HOURS

In person or virtual: prior email request for an appointment only.

Office hours offer you an opportunity to ask for clarification or find support with understanding class material. Don't hesitate to visit me! I encourage you to connect with me for support. Your success is my goal.

COMMUNICATION EXPECTATIONS

- While I understand the need to be available as much as possible for each of you, there are limitations on my availability and when I can be reached. Your emails will be read as soon as possible. Do not expect immediate answers. I will make every effort to answer your emails by the end of the following day, except weekend.
- I require students to use official UNT Mail for all communication. This means that I will only respond to e-mail sent by their students from a UNT Mail address (@my.unt.edu). Likewise, I will only send e-mail to your UNT Mail address. Information about UNT Email can be found at the following Web address: <https://my.unt.edu>

Most problems or misunderstandings can be dealt effectively and efficiently if the people most directly involved can discuss the problem and communicate honestly with each other. If you have a problem with anything related to this course (materials, testing, etc.), it is important you discuss the problem with me.

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 inclusion. All discussions should be respectful and civil. Although disagreements and debates are encouraged, personal attacks are unacceptable. Together, we can ensure a safe and welcoming classroom for all.

If you ever feel like this is not the case, please stop by my office or drop me an email to let me know. We are all learning together.

COURSE DESCRIPTION, STRUCTURE and COURSE OBJECTIVES

Study of themes related to contemporary French via recent movies. This is a three-credit course. The course will explore specific aspects of French society and culture and the discourse of humor as depicted in recent French

movies. It will focus specifically on major themes such as multiculturalism (stereotyping, communities, and racism), religion, family, social relations as seen through the prism of humor in French movies.

Other course objectives are to provide instruction and practice towards competence in French for advanced oral, written, listening and reading comprehension, with an emphasis on critical thinking skills through analysis of a range of themes.

***During the semester, we will watch several French films that introduce topics that may be provocative or controversial or may hold opposing views to yours. And at times, you may be uncomfortable with or not appreciate the way those topics are presented (e.g., presence of foul language, nudity, intimacy). Please remember to remain respectful when discussing topics with others. My goal is to conduct class in a way that fosters an atmosphere of mutual respect with room for different ideas or opinions.

This course is not approved for online curriculum delivery. **The student and I will meet regularly. Time and date TBD between both parties.**

COURSE PREREQUISITES

6 credit hours at advanced level or consent of instructor/department.

MATERIALS

There are no textbooks required for French 4900.

- Relevant materials (Power Points, PDFs, and links to videos, etc.) via CANVAS.

Technology requirements for courses with digital materials:

This course has digital components. To fully participate in this class, students will need internet access to reference content on the Canvas Learning Management System and software such as a webcam and microphone. If circumstances change, you will be informed of other technical needs to access course content. Information on how to be successful in a digital learning environment can be found at [Learn Anywhere](https://online.unt.edu/learn) (<https://online.unt.edu/learn>).

ADA ACCOMMODATION STATEMENT

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://www.unt.edu/oda) website (<https://www.unt.edu/oda>). You may also contact ODA by phone at (940) 565-4323.

ASSESSING YOUR WORK & COURSE REQUIREMENTS

In line with the UNT Honor Code, all the work you submit must be entirely your own. The use of artificial intelligence to generate any content (sentences, phrases, etc.) for graded assignments constitutes a violation of the Student Academic Integrity policy (06-003)

<https://policy.unt.edu/sites/policy.unt.edu/files/06.003%20Student%20Academic%20Integrity.pdf>

Violations will be reported to the Office of Student Academic Integrity office.

Your grade will be calculated according to the following grading scale. Please note 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

ASSESSMENTS	Percentage of Final Grade
Meeting attendance; Preparation and Discussion Homework in CANVAS	30%
Presentation (x2)	40%
Midterm Paper	10%
Final Paper	20%
Total Points Possible	100%

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Attendance is mandatory. Regular and punctual class attendance is paramount for success in this course. Attendance is recorded in CANVAS.

Based on **Policy 06- 039** (see link below), an absence may be excused for the following reasons:

1. religious holy day, including travel for that purpose.
2. active military service, including travel for that purpose.
3. participation in an official university function.
4. illness or other extenuating circumstances.
5. pregnancy and parenting under Title IX.
6. when the University is officially closed by the President.

To learn more about student attendance and authorized absences please visit the [University of North Texas' Attendance Policy](https://policy.unt.edu/sites/default/files/06.039_StudentAttendancePolicy.pdf) page. (https://policy.unt.edu/sites/default/files/06.039_StudentAttendancePolicy.pdf).

- For an absence to be excused...
 - You must contact the instructor at their UNT email or through the Canvas Inbox.
 - For unplanned absences (e.g., illness), documentation must be submitted within 5 days of absence.
 - For anticipated/planned absences, documentation must be submitted when contacting the instructor at least one week prior to planned absence.
 - If you do not contact the instructor one week in advance of an anticipated/possible excused absence, the instructor has the right to count your absence as unexcused.
- Upon satisfactory documentation of absence(s), instructor will “excuse” the absence.
- It is important that you communicate with the professor and the instructional team prior to being absent when feasible. This will help your instructor mitigate the impact of the absence on your attainment of course learning goals.

MEETINGS

Students must be present and ready (read materials, watched movies, etc.) at weekly meetings. Student must contact instructor if they cannot make a meeting. Students must be ready for discussion (reading materials, conducting research, etc.)

Since regular oral practice is essential for improving proficiency in a foreign language, attendance and active participation are necessary for your success in this course. If you do not attend scheduled meetings and participate, do not expect to get credit.

ASSESSMENTS

Due dates and instructions will be in CANVAS. It is the student's responsibility to check due dates in CANVAS. Deadline for all "unit" assignments is set before exams. There is no late work accepted. All work turned in after the deadline will receive a grade of zero unless the student has a [university-excused absence \(Links to an external site.\)](#) and provides documentation with 48 hours of the missed deadline.

Presentation

Students will give two presentations during the semester. All the presentations will take place at dates indicated on the weekly agenda. General information, grading rubric, and topics will be posted in CANVAS.

Mid-semester and End of semester papers

Midterm Paper

Students will turn in a 2-3 pages paper in French (typed; double space – Font 12 – 1" margins) on a topic pre-approved by instructor by instructor. Midterm paper due date is indicated on the weekly agenda.

Final paper

In lieu of a final exam, students will turn in a 4-6 pages paper in French (typed; double space – Font 12 – 1" margins) on a pre-approved topic.

GRADE DISPUTES

- Your instructor will not discuss grades over email. If you would like to discuss a grade on a specific assignment or your overall grade, email your instructor to set up a meeting (either in-person or via ZOOM).
- You will need to have your video feed / camera on for any ZOOM one-on-one meeting with the instructor. You should come to the meeting with specific questions and /or examples that demonstrate why you should have earned a different grade than you received.
- If you miss your scheduled meeting, you forfeit your right to a grade dispute.
- If you do not contact your instructor to schedule a meeting within 5 (five) days of receiving your grade, you also forfeit your right to a grade dispute.
- If you wish to appeal the decision made at the instructor's level, you can contact the WLLC Associate-Chair, Dr. Weber.

SYLLABUS CHANGE POLICY

All changes to the syllabus, course information, due dates will be announced via CANVAS.

COURSE SCHEDULE

WEEKLY AGENDA – FRENCH 4900

✚ Watch movie before class discussion.

<u>Week #</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Assignment Due</u>
1	Syllabus; course expectations Meeting dates and set up Movie Resources	
2	Introduction to French Cinéma Les grands courants du cinéma français	Homework / vocabulaire
3	L'humour	Homework / vocabulaire
4	Discussion Movie 1	
5	Discussion Movie 2	Select an actor/actress or director for Presentation 1
6	Discussion Movie 3	Get Midterm topic approval
7	Discussion Movie 4	
8	Presentation 1: Actors and Directors	
9	Discussion Movie 5	Midterm Paper due
10	Discussion Movie 6	
11	Discussion Movie 7	Select movie for Presentation 2
12	Discussion Movie 8	
13	Discussion Movie 9	
14	Presentation 2: Movie analysis	
15	Students work on their final paper – One on one consultation with the professor as needed	
Final exam week	Students in French 4900 have a Final Paper due in lieu of a final exam. Final Project is due on Monday Dec 8, 2025, by 5:00 p.m. https://registrar.unt.edu/exams/final-exam-schedule/Fall	

UNT POLICIES

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY

Academic Integrity Standards and Consequences. According to UNT Policy 06.003, Student Academic Integrity, academic dishonesty occurs when students engage in behaviors including, but not limited to cheating, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, forgery, plagiarism, and sabotage. A finding of academic dishonesty may result in a range of academic penalties or sanctions ranging from admonition to expulsion from the University. https://policy.unt.edu/sites/default/files/06.049_Standard%20Syllabus%20Policy%20Statements_supplement.pdf

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. Visit UNT's [Code of Student Conduct](https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/conduct) (<https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/conduct>) to learn more.

PROHIBITION OF DISCRIMINATION, HARASSMENT, AND RETALIATION (POLICY 16.004)

The University of North Texas (UNT) prohibits discrimination and harassment because of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, or any other characteristic protected under applicable federal or state law in its application and admission processes; educational programs and activities; employment policies, procedures, and processes; and university facilities. The University takes active measures to prevent such conduct and investigates and takes remedial action when appropriate.

EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION & PROCEDURES

UNT uses a system called Eagle Alert to quickly notify students with critical information in the event of an emergency (i.e., severe weather, campus closing, and health and public safety emergencies like chemical spills, fires, or violence). In the event of a university closure, please refer to Canvas for contingency plans for covering course materials. https://policy.unt.edu/sites/default/files/06.049_Standard%20Syllabus%20Policy%20Statements_supplement.pdf

RETENTION OF STUDENT RECORDS

- Student records pertaining to this course are maintained in a secure location by the instructor of record. All records such as exams, answer sheets (with keys), and written papers submitted during the duration of the course are kept for at least one calendar year after course completion. Course work completed via the Canvas online system, including grading information and comments, is also stored in a safe electronic environment for one year.
- Students have the right to view their individual record; however, information about student's records will not be divulged to other individuals without proper written consent.
- Students are encouraged to review the Public Information Policy and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) laws and the University's policy. See UNT Policy 10.10, Records Management and Retention for additional information.

STUDENT EVALUATION ADMINISTRATION DATES - 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.