

FREN 101 Intercultural Communication in French—Level 1
Sample Syllabus

Course Description: This course is designed to enable students who have not studied French before to communicate with French-speaking peers at the University of French Polynesia about cultural topics. The course is divided into three units: University Life, Home, and Stereotypes and Realities. In each of these units we will prepare projects to share with our partner class and they will do the same for us. We will also participate in a blog and will dialogue with our partners by e-mail and Skype. Each time we communicate, half of what is said will be in the speaker's native language and the other half in the nonnative one. Thus, an e-mail message might start with two paragraphs in English and end with two more in French or a 10-minute Skype conversation might be divided into 5 minutes of talking in French and switch to 5 minutes of talking in English. Throughout each unit, we will be learning the language tools we will need to communicate in simple ways about the topic. Homework activities and short online quizzes will give you feedback on how well you are learning the grammar and vocabulary related to the unit.

Course Goals: By the end of this course, conscientious students will be able to:

- (1) communicate in French in simple ways about themselves and their immediate world,
- (2) understand others who are speaking and writing in French in simple ways on these same topics,
- (3) summarize the cultural similarities and differences they have learned from communicating with students at the University of French Polynesia (UPF).

Course Grade: Your grade in FREN 101 will be based on the work you do in the following areas:

Class Participation (15%): Your participation in class will be evaluated on a weekly basis according to the attached criteria. Note that unexcused absences negatively affect performance in this category.

Homework and Quizzes (20%): Regularly assigned homework and weekly online quizzes will help you gauge how well you are acquiring the language tools you will need for our communication projects. Conscientious work on these assignments will make a big difference in how easily you are able to communicate your ideas later.

Individual Projects (30%) and Group Projects (20%): You will have the opportunity to show your progress toward the course goals through a series of projects that make use of the language tools we have been learning in order to learn about cultural similarities and differences. Some will be individual in nature, such as corresponding by e-mail with a UPF student or posting to a blog discussion. Others will involve teamwork, such as creating a video. Your performance on these projects will be evaluated according to criteria provided to you at the time the project assignment is introduced.

Final Synthesis Essay (15%): At the end of the course, you will write an essay (the first half in French and the second half in English) synthesizing what you have learned about culture, giving examples from the course to illustrate your points. Your essay will be evaluated according to the depth of your analysis and your ability to organize and convey your ideas clearly. More specific criteria will be provided when the essay is assigned.

Course Calendar:

	<u>Preliminaries</u>
Week 1	Greetings and introductions Communicating basic information

Project: Create a class profile with photos and descriptions of each student to send to our partner class. (Blog posting or e-mailed by attachment)

Week 2	<p><u>Unit 1: University Life</u> J'étudie.../Qu'est-ce que tu étudies ? (I'm studying.../What are you studying ?)</p> <p><i>Grammar:</i> essential forms of -er verbs and <i>être</i> (to be)</p> <p><i>Vocabulary:</i> school subjects, telling time, days of the week</p> <p><i>Project:</i> Send an e-mail to partner describing class schedule and asking about his/hers.</p>
Week 3	<p>Notre campus (Our campus)</p> <p><i>Grammar:</i> Il y a... (There is.../There are...); le bâtiment de ____ (the ____ building); essential forms of <i>avoir</i> (to have)</p> <p><i>Vocabulary:</i> campus places (library, bookstore, cafeteria, dorm, gym, etc.), prepositions of place (beside, near, across from, etc.)</p> <p><i>Project:</i> Plan a short, narrated video tour of the campus with questions for partner class about their campus.</p>
Week 4	<p>Notre campus (continued)</p> <p><i>Grammar:</i> Placement and agreement of adjectives</p> <p><i>Vocabulary:</i> Useful adjectives for describing the campus</p> <p><i>Project:</i> Finish campus tour video project and post to YouTube.</p>
Week 5	<p>Synthesis of cultural comparisons: University life What have we learned about university life in Tahiti? What similarities and differences do we notice between Simpson and the University of French Polynesia? What questions do we still have?.</p> <p><i>Grammar:</i> Question formation</p> <p><i>Project:</i> Post questions and discussion to blog. Does everyone on both campuses agree with our collective conclusions?</p>
Week 6	<p><u>Unit 2: Home</u></p>
etc.	