

**TENNESSEE TECH UNIVERSITY**  
Department of Foreign Languages  
**FREN 1010-001 – Elementary French I**  
3 credit hours; pre-requisites: none  
Section 001: Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays  
**9:00am – 9:50am**  
**Oakley Hall 214**

**Instructor:** Dr. Elena Kazakova

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**Office Hours:** Tuesdays, Thursdays 12:00pm – 2:00pm [over Zoom \(no appointment needed\)](#)

If you would like to speak with me at a different time, please schedule an appointment over email.

An interactive copy of this syllabus, as a PDF and as a PowerPoint, is available on iLearn in Course Materials (tab) – Content – Course Materials (module).

**Texts and References:** There is no textbook and no other materials to purchase. All materials will be available online on iLearn and in our “Textbook” Google Doc. We will use videos and other materials created by the professor and videos in public access on YouTube.

**Course Description:** Essentials of French, developing listening and reading comprehension, oral and written communication, and cultural understanding.

**Course Objectives:**

Through their efforts on practice activities and assessment activities, the students will work towards the following goals:

1. Open and close conversations, observing basic courtesy requirements and basic demands of the French culture.
2. Make introductions, observing basic courtesy requirements.
3. Name people, objects, and places around the city.
4. Describe people, objects, and places in the present.
5. List familiar everyday actions in the present.
6. Express basic reactions and opinions about activities.
7. Ask and answer oral and written questions on familiar everyday topics, including preferences, hobbies, staying at a hotel, travelling around a city, shopping, and eating out.
8. Present information on familiar everyday topics, both in writing and orally, using simple sentences with minor grammatical errors that do not impede communication.
9. Identify the general topic and basic details of a conversation on familiar everyday topics.
10. Speak with pronunciation sufficiently accurate as not to impede communication, observing the essential rules of the French phonetics.

**Methodology:**

The course is in person. We will meet every scheduled day of the semester in the classroom. We will follow all the guidelines provided by the University regarding health and safety measures.

This is a flipped class. Before each meeting, students are expected to go over the assigned material, contribute to our common vocabulary, and complete all the assigned practice exercises. Everything listed under a particular day on iLearn and in our “Textbook” Google Doc is due by the beginning of the class on that day. Class time will be used for practice and clarification.

**Materials:**

We will use **iLearn and one additional platform: Edpuzzle** where you will watch videos and answer embedded questions that will demonstrate your understanding of the presented material. Edpuzzle is **free to the students** enrolled in the course but does require a personal account.

We will also use **publicly available YouTube videos** selected by the professor for vocabulary and culture.

You can find the information necessary to create your Edpuzzle account on iLearn in Course Materials (tab) – Content – Course Materials (module) or Course Schedule – Semaine 2 – Lundi le 23 août. You can also find it in our “Textbook” Google Doc under Semaine 2 – Lundi le 23 août.

On iLearn, you will find all the links to all the individual videos, exercises, and assessments. **Individual links** to exercises **will take you directly to that specific exercise**, whatever its platform may be, so that you don’t have to remember what platform you need to be on to complete that exercise. Direct links to individual Edpuzzle exercises, YouTube videos, and “Vocabulaire commun” are also available in our “Textbook” Google Doc, but not the direct links to quizzes and assignments on iLearn because those are only available on iLearn.

All grammar explanations are available in our “Textbook” Google Doc and in individual Word documents and PowerPoints under the appropriate dates on the Course Schedule on iLearn. The same Word documents and PowerPoints are also available in Course Materials (tab) – Content – Course Materials (module).

Throughout the semester, together we will compile a common vocabulary (“Vocabulaire commun”). The link to the document will be available on iLearn and in our “Textbook” Google Doc every time that you need to contribute to it. The vocabulary will be available for the entire semester and can be used to study and to complete practice exercises and assessments. It will remain available to you after the semester is over, provided that you save the link to it.

**Note on accessibility:**

Most videos used in the course to present and practice the material will have either subtitles in English and French or a separate document with the transcript of the video.

However, because learning a new language includes learning to understand the language without seeing it, the course will include exercises that will require students to listen without having access to a transcript of the audio.

The course will also include exercise that will require students to base their answers on pictures that may include detailed writing, such as schedules or menus, and use an interactive map that cannot have an alternative text.

If such exercises present a barrier to your success in the course, please contact the Office of Disability Services (see the information below) to request appropriate accommodations. ODS will communicate the accommodations to me without disclosing any of your personal information. At that point, I will provide alternative practice activities for you.

### **Disability Accommodation:**

Students with a disability requiring accommodations should contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS). An Accommodation Request (AR) should be completed as soon as possible, preferably by the end of the first week of the course. The ODS is located in the Roaden University Center, Room 112; phone 372-6119. For details, view the Tennessee Tech's Policy 340 – Services for Students with Disabilities at [Policy Central](#).

**Topics:** Essential French for visiting a French-speaking country: staying at a hotel, travelling around a city, shopping, eating out, and basic courtesy.

### **Grading criteria:**

25% - assessments  
20% - participation  
15% - iLearn activities  
15% - Edpuzzle activities  
10% - contributions to Vocabulaire commun  
15% - final project

### **Grading scale:**

A = 89.90 – 100  
B = 79.90 – 89.89  
C = 69.90 – 79.89  
D = 60.00 – 69.89  
F = 0.00 – 59.99

### **Assessments:**

There will be a total of 6 (six) assessments throughout the semester, at the end of each unit. The assessments are open note. You may use any of your notes, the Vocabulaire commun, and any of the materials on iLearn and Edpuzzle. You may use wordreference.com or a paper dictionary to look up individual words if needed.

You may not use the Collins dictionary and translator. You may not use Google Translate. You may not use any other translator. You may not ask anyone other than myself any questions. The

Academic Misconduct Policy, as detailed on the last pages of this syllabus, applies to all exercises and assessments in this course.

All assessments are scheduled for the entire class period (50 minutes) and will take place **in class**.

The written parts of the assessment will be **on iLearn**. **Please bring your electronic device to class on the day of each assessment.** You will need it to access the questions. You may write your answers by hand and then turn in a paper with your answers if you prefer. Also, please **bring headphones** to listen to the spoken questions.

The last, **oral part** of the assessment will also be completed during class time **in the professor's office right after you are finished with the written part**.

The assessments will include 5 (five) parts:

1. 3-5 written questions and answers: you will write an answer to a given question or a question that can lead to a given answer.
2. 3-5 situations: you will be given a series of situations and you will write something (an expression, a statement, a question) that would be logical to say in each situation.
3. 3-4 oral questions or answers: you will hear questions and write a logical answer to each, or you will hear answers and write a question that could lead to each answer.
4. 1-2 dialogs: you will write a dialog or dialogs with the few restrictions that will be specified in each question. Other details of the dialogs will be up to you.
5. Pronunciation: you will read certain parts of the assessment to the professor after you are finished with the four written parts. Your pronunciation will be scored on two elements: how well I understand you and how well you respect the essential rules of the French phonetics that we will have covered by that point. You will not be scored for your accent, as long as it does not impede communication. On the difference between the accent and the phonetics, see the section "Expectations for pronunciation" below.

In parts 1-4, the questions that you will see will be randomly chosen from a much larger pool of questions. Therefore, each student will receive a somewhat unique version of the assessment.

You may start the assessment the moment you arrive in class. Each assessment will become **available on iLearn at 8:50am** on the day when the assessment is scheduled.

### **Participation:**

Active participation is a vital element of your success in learning French. Class participation includes coming to class prepared, actively participating in all written and oral activities during the class period, and showing respect towards all people present. Please make an effort to address your peers by the names and pronouns that they prefer.

The use of electronic devices is allowed for class-related purposes, such as consulting the materials on iLearn, consulting an online dictionary, completing any online activities as instructed by the

professor, taking notes, and completing written exercises unless specifically instructed to use pen and paper.

Unauthorized use of electronic devices during class includes but is not limited to: browsing the Internet when not instructed by the professor, accessing social media, texting, accessing any materials that are not related to class. Using electronic devices for non-class-related purposes will constitute disruptive behavior and might negatively affect your participation grade. **The instructor reserves the right to see, at any time, the screen of any electronic device used in class.**

If you are unable to come to class for health-related reasons, contact [Health Services](#).

If you are unable to come to class for other reasons, contact the professor to discuss alternatives.

A participation grade of 0-2 will be assigned after each class meeting. A score of 0 (zero) will be assigned for **any** day when a student does not come to class and does not contact the professor.

The score of zero will not be assigned when the professor is notified by the Office of Student Affairs of a student's absence. This will apply to the days of absence specified in the official notification.

You will be given a **3-minute 3-question homework quiz at the beginning of each lesson**. You may use your notes to answer the questions, but you may not have longer than 3 minutes. The questions will be basic and check if you have completed the work assigned for the day. You will be given a piece of paper to answer the questions, which you will turn in at the end of the 3-minute period.

The **homework quiz is 1 point** out of the 2 participation points for the day. If you complete the quiz and answer at least 2 questions correctly, you will receive the full point. If you complete the quiz and answer 1 or 0 questions correctly, you will receive 0.5 (half a point). You if don't complete the quiz, you will receive a zero.

If you are late to class and miss the quiz, you **will not have the opportunity to make it up**. If you are late but still actively participate in class, you will receive 1/2 for participation for the day (zero for the homework quiz and the full point for active participation).

If you complete the homework quiz successfully but don't participate in the class activities, you will receive 1/2 for participation for the day (the full point for the quiz and zero for the lack of participation).

The final participation grade will be the percentage of the earned participation points / total possible participation points. The maximum for participation points is 76: 44 class days minus the six assessment days = 38 class days, 2 points each.

**iLearn activities:**

There will be a total 35 short assignments and practice quizzes on iLearn. The quizzes are meant to help you practice the new material and the assignments will offer practice of the material and insights into French culture.

You will receive 2/2 for each completed activity on iLearn. You will receive 1/2 for any incomplete activity and 0/2 for any activity that has not been attempted.

The score on the assignments will not reflect any mistakes. On each **practice quiz**, you **must earn a score of 69.5% or above to receive 2/2** in the grade book. A score below 69.5% will translate into 1/2 in the grade book. In this case, you are strongly encouraged to try the quiz again for a higher score on the quiz itself and for 2/2 in the grade book.

Any **zeros for the iLearn** that you see in the grade book on iLearn throughout the semester are temporary and **act as reminders** that something is missing. They will be replaced with 2/2 or 1/2 after you complete the exercise entirely or partially. There is **no penalty for completing an exercise after the initial zero until 11:59 PM on Wednesday, December 8** when all exercises on iLearn will close.

You are responsible for checking the grade book on iLearn regularly to see if you have any zeros.

**Contributions to Vocabulaire commun:**

You will be also asked regularly to contribute to Vocabulaire commun. You will write 1-3 of the new terms and/or expressions that you will have learned in the vocabulary videos, in French and English, like in any basic dictionary. You will make 27 contributions – of 1-3 terms or expressions each – throughout the semester.

The common vocabulary is meant to provide an easily accessible source of vocabulary without demanding that each student copy each new term or expression. You are most welcome to keep your own vocabulary in a notebook or in a separate document on your computer if you would like. However, you still need to contribute to the common vocabulary. Sometimes vocabulary items will come from each student's personal interests, giving everyone a more diverse vocabulary that one person may not necessarily think of.

The common vocabulary is also a safety net in case you miss a vocabulary video and thus don't see the new vocabulary.

You will receive 2/2 for each contribution (that is, contribution to one list). You will receive 1/2 for any incomplete contribution (1 or 2 terms instead of 3, for example), and 0/2 for the missing contributions. Missing contributions can be added after the deadline for full credit.

You are responsible for checking the grade book on iLearn regularly to see if you have any zeros.

**Edpuzzle activities:**

There will be 19 activities on the Edpuzzle site. These are videos with embedded questions that you will answer as you watch each video. These videos will either present and/or clarify new material or demonstrate how French is used naturally by native speakers.

You will receive 2/2 for each completed activity on Edpuzzle. You will receive 1/2 for any incomplete activity and 0/2 for any activity that has not been attempted. The score on the Edpuzzle activities will not reflect any mistakes. Missing activities can be completed after the deadline for full credit.

You are responsible for checking the grade book on iLearn regularly to see if you have any zeros.

**Expectations for pronunciation:**

Clear pronunciation is an essential component of communication. We will focus on correct pronunciation and the basics of the French phonetics.

**Phonetics is not your accent.** Phonetics is knowing what combinations of letters make what sound and what letters to keep silent and not pronounce at all. Phonetics helps you figure out how to pronounce a new word that you may not have heard before, just from seeing the spelling. French is not a phonetic language; that means that the words sound differently from what they look like. Phonetics is learning to connect the spelling and the pronunciation.

Accent is how well we can make the necessary sounds. Accent doesn't matter as long as it doesn't impede communication. And knowing phonetics helps greatly with communication because you know what the words should sound like and don't try to say them exactly the way they are spelled.

There will be four lessons where we will spend a significant amount of time on the essential rules of the French phonetics. These will include some of the most common and important letter combinations that you must recognize and pronounce correctly to be understood by French speakers. In other lessons, we will use repetition and oral activities to practice pronunciation.

Speaking will be a part of each assessment and the final project. Again, **your accent doesn't matter** and won't affect your score if you respect all the rules of the French phonetics that we will have studied and if your pronunciation is clear enough for me to understand what you are saying.

Your ability to produce the famous French -R is not going to affect your score. But you are encouraged to try and pronounce the -R as closely to the French sound as you can.

**Final project:**

There is no final exam in the course, but there is a final project. The final project is a chance for the students to demonstrate all the skills acquired during the semester. The details about the final

project will be available by Wednesday, October 13 on iLearn and in our “Textbook” Google Doc. The final project will be **due at 10:00am on Monday, December 13** (the end of the scheduled final exam period for the course).

### **Experience points:**

For **each practice exercise** on iLearn and Edpuzzle, **each contribution** in the “Vocabulaire commun,” that you **complete by its due date** you will receive **one experience point**. You don’t need to do anything other than complete an exercise by its due date. When I grade the exercise, I will see when you submitted it. If it was before the due date, I will add one experience point for you. This will happen for each practice exercise.

You will receive **one experience point each time that you arrive to class on time**. If you arrive no more than 5 minutes late, you will receive half an experience point. If you arrive more than 5 minutes late or are absent for any reason, you will not receive the experience point for the day.

Experience points are meant to encourage you to work on the course material regularly because in learning a new language, short and frequent period of practice are far more effective than long periods of practice with long intervals in-between. Lessons alone are not going to be enough. Lessons and homework combined are your experience of the language. More regularly you practice, more experience you have and more comfortable you will be with the language.

Experience points themselves don’t affect your final grade in the course. However, **you can collect and exchange them for real points**. Like “Vocabulaire commun,” they are also a small safety net in case you miss some practice exercises or have an off day while working on an assessment.

The exchange can happen **at the following rate**:

4 experience points = 1 point on a practice exercise on iLearn, Edpuzzle, or Vocabulaire commun

7 experience points = 2 points on a practice exercise on iLearn, Edpuzzle, or Vocabulaire commun

7 experience points = 1 point on participation on a given day

12 experience points = 2 points on participation on a given day

25 experience points = 5% added to the score on an assessment or the final project

Thus, if you miss a practice quiz on iLearn and see 0/2 in the grade book, you can use 7 experience points to replace that zero with 2/2 without actually completing an exercise. Or, if you have 1/2 for participation on a given day, you can use 7 experience points to raise the participation grade for that day to 2/2. Finally, if an assessment is worth 30 points, as most of them are, and your score is 23/30, you can use 25 experience points to raise your grade by 1.5 points (5% of 30) to 24.5/30.

Note that you **cannot exchange your experience points if you don’t have enough** for a full real point. If you have 5 experience points, you can exchange 4 of them for 1 point on an iLearn or Edpuzzle exercise and keep 1. But you cannot exchange 5 experience points for half a point for participation or 1% on an assessment. You must have enough to make the exchange at the rate listed above.



Your experience points will be kept in the last category in the grade book, called “XP”. This category doesn’t have any weight in final grade calculations. It is only a place to keep track of your experience points, so that you can always see how many you have at any point in the semester.

There are 119 experience points available: 35 for iLearn activities, 19 for Edpuzzle activities, 27 for contributions to Vocabulaire commun, and 38 for participation (no experience points for the six assessment days).

**You can exchange experience points for real points any time during the semester.** You can also wait until you submit your final project to make a decision regarding using your experience points. You may use your experience points on the final project, but you must inform me of this no later than 5:00 PM on Wednesday, December 15.

You must inform me of your decision regarding all of your experience points **no later than 5:00 PM on Wednesday, December 15**. I will not make any decision about any or all experience points that you may have earned during the semester. If you don’t tell me what to do with them, they will not be used at all.

Again, experience points are meant to be only a safety net, not a replacement for regular practice on your own and in class. I strongly encourage you to complete as many practice exercises as you can, even if it is after their due date.

### **Academic Misconduct Policy:**

Maintaining a high standard of academic integrity in every class at Tennessee Tech is critical to the reputation of Tennessee Tech, its students, alumni, and the employers of Tennessee Tech graduates. The Student Academic Misconduct Policy describes the definitions of academic misconduct and policies and procedures for addressing Academic Misconduct at Tennessee Tech. For details, view Tennessee Tech’s Policy 217 – Student Academic Misconduct at [Policy Central](#).

### **In addition to all provisions in Policy 217, the following rule applies to the definition of academic misconduct for FREN 1010:**

Any use of an unauthorized source to produce coursework may result in a charge of academic misconduct and a grade of zero on the assignment in question.

The term “**unauthorized source**” includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- Online translators, including but not limited to Google Translate and Collins translator
- Online dictionaries other than wordreference.com ; Collins online dictionary is not allowed because it can also act as a translator
- Fellow students
- Native French speakers
- Family members who speak or may have studied French
- Other professors
- The official, University-provided tutor for French on assessments only
- Any outside source not previously and specifically authorized by the professor

Anything where you input more than an individual word (that is, a sentence, an expression, a phrase, etc.) in one language and receive an equivalent in French counts as an online translator and is **unauthorized**.

**“Authorized sources”** for FREN 1010 are the following:

- Paper English-French dictionaries or [wordreference.com](http://wordreference.com)
- All materials available on iLearn, “Textbook” Google Doc, “Vocabulaire commun” Google Doc, Edpuzzle course videos, and VoiceThreads
- Online verb conjugators that provide nothing other than the verb forms
- Any other materials provided by the professor
- Professor for the course
- The official, University-provided tutor for French **only on practice** exercises, **not assessments**

**If you are not certain if a source is authorized, assume that it is not and contact the professor for clarification.**

**If I suspect that you may have used an unauthorized source** in your work, you will be required to attend a conference with me, in person or on Zoom, to discuss the details of the incident and to clarify any uncertainties or questions that you may have about the policy. Until you attend the conference, your score for the exercise or assessment will remain a zero.

After the conference, you may be allowed to redo the entire practice exercise for credit the first time. You will not be allowed to redo an entire exercise if this is the second time or more. After the first time, after the conference, you may receive credit for the unaffected questions on the exercise, but the zero for the affected questions will remain. For practice quizzes, the score for the exercise in the gradebook will be based on the final score for the quiz with the zero(s) included; for all other exercises the maximum score will be 1/2.

If you do not reply to a request for a conference or do not attend the scheduled conference, the zero for the entire exercise will remain.

After the first incident on an assessment, after a conference with me, you may be allowed to redo the affected question(s) in my office if you come in person or with a very limited time if you are online (3-5 minutes per question depending on the question).

If this is the second incident or more on an assessment, you will not be required to attend a conference with me. You will automatically lose 5 points each time that unauthorized help is evident in your work.

If you would like to challenge your score, you will need to request a conference with me. You will be required to demonstrate how you were able to formulate the sentence in question, including showing what you were looking for and found on [wordreference.com](http://wordreference.com) or in a paper dictionary. Other online dictionaries will not be accepted. Explanations such as “I remember this from another class” or “I just know this” will not be accepted. You are required to use only what we have

covered in this course on each assessment. If you do know this, you will need to explain the grammatical reasons for the structure that you used.

Attending a conference with me does not guarantee that the original score for the exercise or the assessment will be changed. Nor does it guarantee that you will be allowed to redo an exercise or an assessment in part or in whole. All re-dos remain at the discretion of the professor. If you would like to challenge the score after a conference with me, you will need to file a formal grade complaint with the University.

Please remember: I am interested in what you can do, not a translator. You are taking the course so that you can communicate in French if you find yourself in a French-speaking environment. An online translator will not always be an option, especially because Wi-Fi is not available everywhere. Show me and yourself what you can do.

## COVID – 19 University Protocols

1. Each student must take personal responsibility for knowing and following the university's COVID-19 protocols. Students are expected to follow all COVID-19 directives published by Tennessee Tech on its official COVID-19 webpage: [www.tntech.edu/covid19](http://www.tntech.edu/covid19).
2. As conditions related to the pandemic change, the university's COVID-19 protocols are also likely to change. Students are expected to monitor the university's official COVID-19 webpage to stay up to date on all university COVID-19 protocols.
3. If the university's COVID-19 protocols include the wearing of face coverings inside campus facilities, then face coverings must be worn covering the mouth and nose. Protocols will apply to all vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals.
4. Students who refuse to comply with university protocols will be reported to the Tennessee Tech Dean of Students.
5. Students should direct all requests for excused class absences related to COVID-19 to Tennessee Tech's Health Services by following the student link at the following website: [www.tntech.edu/covid19/report.php](http://www.tntech.edu/covid19/report.php) . The Office of Student Affairs will provide notifications to faculty members of student absences and the expected length of the absence.
6. Students can get a COVID-19 vaccine on campus at Tech Health Services. Call ahead to schedule at (931) 372-3320. COVID-19 vaccines are given free of charge daily, as well as testing.
7. Per CDC guidelines, you are considered fully vaccinated:
  - 2 weeks after your second dose in a 2-dose series, such as the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines, OR
  - 2 weeks after a single-dose vaccine, such as Johnson & Johnson's Janssen vaccine