

**TENNESSEE TECH UNIVERSITY**  
Department of Foreign Languages  
**FREN 1010-502 – Elementary French I**  
3 credit hours; pre-requisites: none  
Online

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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 version 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 instructor 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 completely online and asynchronous. There will be **no real-time class meetings** either in person or via a teleconferencing tool. However, the students are strongly encouraged to contact the professor with any questions or concerns during the semester.

Please note that although there are no scheduled meetings, the course is not entirely self-paced. All **work** for the course **must be completed by 11:59 PM on Thursday, December 9** (the Study Day). No work will be accepted after 11:59 PM on December 9. One exception is the final project. The **final project is due at 5:00 PM on Wednesday, December 15** (the end of the final exam period).

The course will include written practice, listening practice, and speaking practice, so that students can still get the experience of speaking and hearing French even in a completely online environment. While all the materials and assignments for the course are divided into weeks and days, the students may choose to work on them on those days or on different days, either before or after. The division is only there to help you organize your work if needed.

Similarly, while all the individual practice exercises have their individual due dates, students are not required to complete each exercise by its individual due date. The due dates are there as suggestions to help you organize your work and to make the assignments appear on the iLearn calendar as reminders of what needs to be completed. There is **no penalty for completing an exercise after its assigned due date**.

**Assessments** (tests) are also **online and asynchronous**. There is no particular period when the assessments are available. Instead, the assessments **automatically unlock on iLearn once you complete the prerequisites**: certain practice activities that will prepare you for the assessment. The prerequisites for each assessment can be found on iLearn at the end of each unit (the last day visible to you on the Course Schedule) and in our “Textbook” Google Doc at the end of each unit (you can find the assessments in the Table of Contents at the beginning of the document). There are more practice activities in each unit than there are prerequisites. If you complete the prerequisites but not some of the other practice activities, the assessment will still unlock. It is your decision to take the assessment without completing all the practice activities or to wait and finish the practice first. Once an assessment is unlocked, it will remain **available until you start it**. Once you start, you have **60 minutes to complete the written portion** of it on iLearn.

You **must submit an assessment on one unit to unlock the next unit** on iLearn with all the practice quizzes and assignments associated with it. Until a unit is unlocked, you will not see those weeks as modules in Course Materials and you will not see those quizzes and assignments on iLearn.

Keep in mind that **what you see initially on iLearn is not all there is to the course. More will appear** as you complete practice exercises and assessments. You can find the complete list of all the written, listening, and speaking exercises in the grade book on iLearn or in our “Textbook” Google Doc. This will not give you access to them until you unlock the corresponding units, but you will know how many exercises and assessments there are.

Although the course is online and asynchronous, this is still a 3-credit college-level course. The **time demands** are the same as for an in-person course, although you can choose when to spend the time on your work for this course. While the actual amount of time for each exercise and

assessment will vary and depend largely on you, the general expectation is **1-2 hours for each day** listed on iLearn or approximately 4-6 hours a week.

### **Materials:**

We will use **iLearn and two additional platforms: Edpuzzle** where you will watch videos and answer embedded questions that will demonstrate your understanding of the presented material; and **VoiceThread** where you will listen to my pronunciation and record your own pronunciation. Both platforms are **free to the students** enrolled in the course but do require a personal account.

We will also use **publicly available YouTube videos** selected by the instructor 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 1 – Vendredi le 20 août. You can also find it in our “Textbook” Google Doc under Semaine 1 – Vendredi le 20 août.

The VoiceThread account will be created for you after you complete the Syllabus quiz on iLearn. The steps to log into your account can be found on iLearn in Course Materials (tab) – Content - Course Schedule – Semaine 1 – Vendredi le 20 août. You can also find them in our “Textbook” Google Doc under Semaine 1 – Vendredi le 20 août.

On iLearn, you will find all the links to all the 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. The same links are also available in our “Textbook” Google Doc, apart from 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. 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 (iLearn, VoiceThread)  
20% - written practice (iLearn, Edpuzzle)  
20% - listening practice (iLearn, Edpuzzle)  
20% - speaking practice (VoiceThread)  
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 common vocabulary, and any of the materials on iLearn, Edpuzzle, and VoiceThread. 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.

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 make audio comments on VoiceThread, reading certain parts of the written portion of the assessment. 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 “Speaking practice” 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 have **60 minutes from the moment that you start to submit the written portion** of the assessment (parts 1-4) on iLearn. There is **no time limit to complete pronunciation** (part 5) on VoiceThread. Also, you will have **no time limit on Assessment 1** to get used to the format, but you will still have a clock showing you how much time has passed for your information only.

In order to unlock – and thus see – the assessment on iLearn, you will need to complete a few required practice exercises. These prerequisites can be found at the end of each unit (the last day visible to you on iLearn – Course Schedule). There are more practice exercises than there are prerequisites. Therefore, the assessment will unlock even if you don’t complete every single practice exercise for the unit, as long as you complete the few prerequisites. It is up to you whether to complete the assessment even if you haven’t completed all the practice exercises or to wait.

Once an assessment is unlocked, it will remain available to you until you start or until 11:59 PM on December 9, whichever comes first. That means that **you can start at any time. Once you start, you have 60 minutes** to complete the written portion on iLearn.

You must submit the assessment on one unit to unlock the next unit on iLearn. You can still see and complete some of the exercises from the next unit in our “Textbook” Google Doc, but you won’t see any of the practice quizzes or assignments on iLearn, which is a lot of points.

### **Written practice:**

The largest portion of the practice exercises will be written assignments and practice quizzes that you will submit on iLearn and videos with embedded questions on Edpuzzle. These are meant to practice vocabulary, grammar, and sentence structure.

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. 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 completed exercise on iLearn and Edpuzzle and for your contribution(s) to each category in the “Vocabulaire commun.” You will receive 1/2 for any incomplete exercise / contribution and 0/2 for any exercise / contribution that is not attempted.

The score will not reflect the mistakes made in the exercise, EXCEPT for the score on the practice quizzes on iLearn. On each **practice quiz** that is not a listening exercise, 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 written exercises** 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 December 9** when all exercises on iLearn and Edpuzzle will close.

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

### **Listening practice:**

There will be 13 (thirteen) “Exercices audio” throughout the semester. You will hear conversations and will need to either write those conversations or answer questions about the details of those conversation.

These exercises are meant to train your ears to understand natural spoken French without seeing the words. They are also meant to help you learn to understand the general idea and some details of a conversation even if you don’t understand every single word, by listening for the words and expressions that you do recognize and using context clues to fill any gaps.

You will receive 2/2 for each completed listening exercise. You will receive 1/2 for incomplete exercises and 0/2 for any exercise that is not attempted. The score will not reflect the mistakes made in the exercise, but you are encouraged to try the exercise again if you are not satisfied with your actual score for the exercise.

Any **zeros for the listening exercises** 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 December 9** when all exercises on iLearn and Edpuzzle will close.

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

### **Speaking practice:**

Exercises for most of the days will include one, rarely two, speaking exercises that you will complete on VoiceThread. You will need to listen to my pronunciation and record yourself saying the same words, expressions, or sentences; sometimes you will record answers to my questions; sometimes you will record yourself reading the sentences that I wrote without having my recording as an example.

These exercises are meant to practice your pronunciation. In particular, the focus will be on the 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 VoiceThread exercises dedicated exclusively to the essentials 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. Other VoiceThread exercises will not go into the details of the phonetics but will give examples of what the words sound like, so that you can also practice connecting individual written words and what they sound like.

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.

You will receive 2/2 for each speaking exercise that you complete. You will receive 1/2 for incomplete exercises or exercises completed incorrectly (for example, you repeated my questions instead of answering them) and 0/2 for any exercise that has not been attempted. The score will not reflect the mistakes made in the exercise. You are encouraged to complete the exercises for which you receive 1/2 or 0/2 for practice and for the full points in the grade book.

Any **zeros for the listening exercises** 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 December 9.**

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

### **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 5:00pm on Wednesday, December 15** (the last day of the final exam period).

### **Experience points:**

As mentioned earlier, the due dates that accompany each practice exercise on iLearn, Edpuzzle, and VoiceThread are only recommended and don't affect your score for those exercises. There is no penalty for completing an exercise after its listed due date or after the initial zero in the grade book. The zero simply means that I graded the exercise for those who completed it, and you didn't have the exercise yet. This helps both you and me keep track of where you are in the course.

However, for **each practice exercise** on iLearn, Edpuzzle, VoiceThread and **contribution to each category** in the “Vocabulaire commun,” that you **complete by its listed 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.

If you complete an exercise after its due date but before 11:59 PM on Saturday of the same week when the exercise is due, you will receive half an experience point. If you complete an exercise after 11:59 PM on Saturday of that week, you will not receive any experience points. However, you can still receive full points for the exercise itself, so you are still strongly encouraged to complete the exercise.

Experience points are meant to encourage you to work on the course materials fairly regularly because in learning a new language, short and frequent periods of practice are far more effective than long periods of practice with long intervals in-between. This is 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 written exercise on iLearn or Edpuzzle

7 experience points = 1 point on a speaking exercise on VoiceThread

7 experience points = 1 point on a listening exercise on iLearn or Edpuzzle

12 experience points = 2 points on a speaking or listening exercise

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

Thus, if you miss a practice quiz on iLearn and see 0/2 in the grade book, you can use 8 experience points to replace that zero with 2/2 without actually completing an exercise. Or, if you have 1/2 for an incomplete speaking exercise, you can use 7 experience points to raise the score on that exercise 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 a written exercise and keep 1. But you cannot exchange 5 experience points for half a point on a speaking or listening exercise 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 151 experience points available: 106 for written practice, 13 for listening practice, 32 for speaking practice.

**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. Experience points cannot be used on the final project because there is simply not enough time for me to grade the project, for you to see the grade, to make the decision, to inform me of your decision, and for me to apply the points and calculate your final grade all before the final grades are due on December 17 in the morning.

Therefore, you must inform me of your decision **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. I strongly encourage you to complete as many practice exercises as you can, even if it is after their listed 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](#)
- 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 written, listening, and speaking 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).

After the first incident 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 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