

FRENCH 490: Special Topics in French - Spring 2016
“French Journalism”



Professor: Dr. Juliette Bourdier
E-mail: bourdier@cofc.edu
Office: 413 JC Long Building Office phone: 843-953-6529
Office Hours: MWF – 2-4pm
and by appointment

- **Description**

An upper-division elective for majors and minors in French. This course implements the following Student Learning Outcomes: 1. Students analyze how ideas are represented, interpreted, or valued in various expressions of human culture. 2. Students examine relevant primary source materials as understood by the discipline and interpret the material in writing assignments. Pre-requisite French 320 or French 321. Become an investigative reporter for the *Journal Bruit de Moquette*. In this course, students have the opportunity to explore the subjects of their choice, explore issues that are important to them and build solid interviewing competences. They will develop their French skills through exploring media, social media and their impact on society. Students analyze both the structure and context of newspapers, magazines, television, radio and the Internet.

- **Competences**

At the end of the semester, students will have a strong understanding of the mechanism and rules of French journalism. They will have refined their writing, vocabulary, and design skills through blogging, and will master the secrets of oral presentation or a documented debate. They will enrich their knowledge of French culture. They will become efficient writers and speakers in creative nonfiction.

- **Class Structure**

The class will work like a newsroom/drafting room (*salle de rédaction*) in which the professor will be the chief editor (*le rédacteur en chef*) and the students will be the reporters, journalists, presenters, cameramen, and photographers (*les reporters, journalistes, présentateurs, caméramans et photographes*). The journalists will choose the theme of their writing and negotiate them in French with their editor. The short columns (*billets*) will be written in a form of an editorial patchwork (*mosaïque éditoriale*); meaning that a group of journalists will focus on a specific subject; each of them using a different perspective (a movie or an event, for example) and will discuss their findings together in French.

Best columns, interview, reports, documentaries and articles will be published in the magazine *Bruit de Moquette*, online and on printing.

- **Participation**

Active class participation will be evaluated based on high-quality contributions to the seminar discussion. For their papers, students will need to undertake additional research (in consultation with me) on topics other than those appearing on the mandatory reading list and syllabus. Class attendance is required. Students missing class lose automatically their *Participation points*. Absence from class does not exempt the student from responsibilities. Tardiness to class is also unacceptable, and habitual tardiness will result in a lowering of the final grade.

- **Resources:**

Textbook : Yves AGNES. *Manuel de Journalisme*, La découverte, Paris : 2008.

News: Students will choose which media they are comfortable consulting (list available on [passezmevoir](#)).

Films: During the semester, students will watch 6 movies, the movies will be freely available in the Dropbox, students will watch the movie before class and will be quizzed on it.

Journalists: during the semester, 6 or more Francophone journalists will be invited in our class to talk about their profession (via Skype).

Excerpts from television news shows will be presented in class.

Evaluation: Oral 60% - Writing 40%

10 Quiz	100
3 Courts billets	120
2 Presentations	80
Interview Midterm	180
Article - defense	200
38 participation	228
2 Face à Face	42
10 Monday theory sharing	50
	1000

A	93
A-	90
B+	88
B	83
B-	80
C+	78
C	73
C-	70
D+	68
D	66
D-	64

Class Assignments

- During the semester, students are redacting 2 short columns (billets) 500-700 words and one film critics of 600-700 words.
- Every Monday, students will share a reading from our textbook and will share their findings with the rest of the group. Each student read excerpts from the studied chapter.
- Students will perform 2 Powerpoint Friday's presentations on a topical issue upon which the class will be based.
- For Midterm, students will conduct an interview with a French professional, there will be special instructions regarding the format.
- For Final, students will produce an article (1200-1400 words) or a documentary (3-4 minutes).

All writing and video assignments are to be posted online on our secured forum

www.Passezmevoir.ning.com by midnight the day before class.

A billet: is a short column on a thematic choice starting from an article found in the Francophone Press (around 600 words). Billets are written in 4 steps.

Midterm Interview: is a 3 minutes video dialogue with a Francophone. The subject has to be journalistic and related to the professional specialty of the interviewee. Interviews are made in 5 steps.

Friday's Powerpoint presentations: is a 2-3 minutes exposé on a topical comparing different sources, followed by peer questioning. The theme of Friday's class will be decided on Wednesday during a brainstorming.

Monday's theory sharing: is a round table of students' explanations from the reading of the manual.

Final Article: Students will produce an investigative article (around 1400 words) focused on the subject of their choice. It will be done over two weeks. Precise instructions will be given in class.

Face à Face: Students will meet with me in my office for face-à-face, twice during the semester (once before February 1st, once between April 1th and 8th).

Code of Honor:

All students are expected to adhere to the Honor Code of the College of Charleston. Violations can include cheating on exams, plagiarism, improper use of the Internet and electronic devices, unauthorized collaboration, alteration of graded assignments, forgery and falsification, lying, facilitating academic dishonesty, and unfair competition. Please visit: <http://studentaffairs.cofc.edu/honor-system/> Ignorance of these rules is not an excuse. In this course, all work is expected to be the product of your own effort. If you have questions about this policy, please ask me. Help is to be found on my website : www.FrenchAgain.com

Accommodation:

Please consult with me concerning any special concerns you might have about your ability to complete the work for this course or to participate in class activities. Please contact the Center for Disability Services to assist you in developing a plan to address your academic needs. I am happy to work with you to provide accommodations in as discrete a manner as possible. <http://disabilityservices.cofc.edu/> If you have religious obligations, gender preferences, special sensitivity on certain topics, please communicate with me.

Never forget that we belong to the same team.... J.Bourdier