Raritan Valley Community College
Course Outline

FREN-224 French Conversation & Composition I

I. Basic Course Information
A. Course number and title: FREN-224 French Conversation & Composition I

B. Modified Course: New course number

C. Date of Proposal: Semester: Spring Year: 2008

D. Sponsoring Department: Communications and Languages

E. Semester Credit Hours: 3

F. Weekly Contact Hours: 3 Lecture: 3 Lab: 0

G. Pre-requisites: Intermediate French II or placement test

H. Lab Fees: None

I. Name and Telephone Number or email of Department Chair: Ellen McArdle emcardle@raritanval.edu

II. Catalog Description

Prerequisite: FREN 202 – Intermediate French II or placement test.
Students will refine their speaking, listening and writing skills in French for use in practical, everyday situations. Introduces students to such topics as physical appearance, character and personality, schools and universities, clothing, housing and politics.

III. Statement of Course Need

This course enables students with advanced placement to continue their studies at RVCC.

IV. Place of Course in College Curriculum

A. Serves as:

• Elective
• General Education elective in Humanities

B. Course Transferability

This course transfers as a post-Intermediate French II course in most French programs.

V. Outline of Course Content

A. Grammar

• the use of *on*
• adverbs of time
• the use of *devoir*
• gerundial use
• personal pronouns
• passive voice or active voice usage

B. Vocabulary

• making analogies
• descriptive adjectives
• sequencing words and phrases
• idiomatic expressions
• anglicisms
• false cognates

C. Readings and culture:

• “La Vieille Dame de Bayeux” de Georges Simenon
• “Les Bijoux” de Guy de Maupassant
• clips from films by Marcel Pagnol for discussion
• cultural readings from *Passeport* on vacation, schooling, former French colonies

D. Pronunciation

• advanced pronunciation for problem areas

VI. General Education Goals and Learning Outcomes

**Education Goals**

• Communicate on an intermediate-high level as defined by the ACTFL Proficiency Guidelines (G.E. 2)
• Develop a greater understanding of the culture of French-speaking countries (G.E. 4, 6)
• Develop an in-depth understanding of one aspect of French culture through a research project (G.E. 1, 3, 4, 6)

**Learning Outcomes:**

Upon the completion of this course the student will be able to:

**(Speaking)**

• use vocabulary on an advanced level  
• describe the appearance and personality of a person or place in detail  
• discuss their program of study and their schedules  
• narrate a story  
• discuss politics  
• have a conversation on an advanced level  
• debate points of view  
• offer criticism of other student’s rough drafts

**(Listening)**

• understand points of view  
• discern attitudes from tone and choice of words  
• understand complex sentences and phrases dealing with needs and situations, advanced courtesy expressions

**(Reading)**

• read vocabulary for advanced needs and situations.  
• grasp word meaning from context  
• understand complex sentences and ideas  
• distinguish the moral of a story  
• proofread fellow student’s papers for errors

**(Writing)**

• keep a journal  
• brainstorm on a topic in French  
• formulate a thesis statement  
• use transition phrases appropriately  
• narrate a story  
• compare & contrast two presented persons or things  
• write a descriptive essay  
• compose an argument paper
• compose a job application letter & cv in French

(Culture)

• recognize the meaning of French facial and body gestures
• discuss French housing
• be familiar with French hobbies
• describe French vacations and compare to US concepts of vacation
• recognize famous French people and their writings
• explain the French education system and the “bac”
• discuss colonialism and recognize French former colonies and attributes
• dine at a French table with proper etiquette
• discuss French explorers of the New World and their “raison d’être”

I

VII. Modes of Teaching and Learning

• Lecture/discussion
• Small-group work/collaborative learning
• Computer –assisted instruction
• Student oral presentations
• Simulation/role-playing
• Audio/video presentation
• Debates

VIII. Papers, Examination and other Assessment Instruments

• Essays
• Examinations(oral and written)
• Class participation
• Homework
• Quizzes
• Oral presentations

IX. Grade Determinants

• Prepared oral presentations (speaking outcomes) (G.E. 2)
• Spontaneous oral work (speaking outcomes) (G.E. 2, 4, 6)
• Listening comprehension exercises (listening and culture outcomes) (G.E.2, 4, 6)
• Written quizzes and essays (written, reading and culture outcomes) (G.E.2, 4, 6)
• Written exams (written, reading and culture outcomes) (G.E.2, 4, 6)
• Written paper on cultural topic(historical, sociological,etc) (cultural outcomes) (G.E.1, 2, 3, 4, 6)
X. Texts and Material

- **Suggested Textbooks:**

  *En train d’écritre* by Gerrard, Rusterholz, Long by McGraw Hill

  Excerpts from *Passeport* by Jarvis, Bonin, Corbin, McKee by Holt, Rhinehart

  Excerpts from *L’Art de Lire* by Hope & Hope by Prentice Hall

- Film and video
- Audio tapes
- Web sources

(Please note: This course outline is intended as a guide to course content and resources. Do not purchase textbooks based on this outline. The RVCC Bookstore is the sole resource for the most up-to-date information about textbooks.)

XI. Resources

   Video capacities in the classroom
   Computer/internet capabilities in the classroom