***LF303 B1 French for the Professions***

Prof. Mary Beth Raycraft

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Office hours: Tues. 11-12; Wed. 11-12 or by appointment

***Course description***

This course is designed to help students progress toward proficiency while exploring different aspects of culture and professional life of the Francophone world. Readings, discussions, and assignments will focus on language and interaction in various professions including business, medicine, and law. Students will work on activities designed to prepare them for an internship in a Francophone setting including a cover letter, a curriculum vitae, and a job interview. In addition, students will work on a research project focused on the cultural, linguistic, political, and economic dimensions of a startup company in a Francophone country.

***Course materials***

~Amy L. Hubbell, *À la recherche d’un emploi: Business French in a Communicative Context*, Focus Publishing, 2011 -- available at Barnes and Noble or Amazon.com

~a good French/English and French /French dictionary

~Additional materials will be distributed in class or available via Blackboard: **learn.bu.edu/**

~Films:“Bienvenue chez les Ch’tis,”“Paris à tout prix,” “L’auberge espagnole,” “Ressources humaines,” “Deux jours et une nuit,” and numerous online videos. Students will be required to view three films outside of class.

***Course goals***

By the end of the course students will:

**~**have increased intercultural competence and the ability to interact in a professional environment in a francophone setting

**~**have improved stylistic control and refined grammar skills

**~**have increased written and oral proficiency in terms of synthesizing, analyzing and reporting information in spoken and written form

**~**have acquired specialized vocabulary appropriate to professional discourse

**~**be able to choose the appropriate register when speaking and writing in a professional setting

**~**be able to understand and respond to authentic oral and written materials related to the class topic

**~**have become familiarized with current political and economic issues in French-speaking countries and acquainted with several major French- language newspapers, journals and online sources

***Course expectations for Students and Professor***

The student will come to class:

~having read and completed the assigned work and viewed any films or assigned media clips

~prepared to engage in active class discussion and pair/group activities, making every effort to speak French in the classroom at all times

~having checked the syllabus/email for assignments and announcements

The professor will:

~provide opportunities for speaking, listening, reading, and writing in the classroom

~provide feedback on assignments that enhances student performance on oral and written work as well as class participation

~be available outside of class during office hours and by appointment to meet with students

~be open to student suggestions regarding supplementary materials and activities

*An important component of this course is to help you prepare for a future internship in a francophone country or in the U.S. BU offers a Paris Internship Program during the summer and academic year. In addition, the Center for Career Services offers many resources (including***Going Global***), workshops, and services useful for finding an internship. Please consult* ***bu.edu/abroad*** *and* ***bu.edu/careers*** *for more information.*

***Weekly schedule***

Monday: grammar/ stylistic review; readings; in-class discussion

Wednesday: in-class oral or writing workshop

Friday: film clips; exercises

***Attendance***

Attendance is required and will be noted. **Any absence in excess of three will negatively affect your grade by a deduction of one point off the final average.**

Please contact me regarding anticipated absences or special circumstances. If you miss class, you are welcome to email me but you should also contact another student to get class notes/information. BU is committed to providing all students equal access and learning opportunities. Please inform me if you need any special accommodation.

***Participation/Class etiquette***

For grading purposes, participation is defined as physical presence, obvious preparation, active contribution to in-class discussions and activities, and willingness to speak French. **The course will be conducted exclusively in French** unless we decide to open an “English window” for a period of time to discuss more difficult topics or questions.

Class will begin on time. If you arrive late or are absent, you will be responsible for all information including announcements of changes in the homework or syllabus. Please silence cell phones and refrain from texting. Laptop use is permitted only during specific in-class activities and writing workshops.

All assignments are due on the dates indicated. **Late work will not be accepted.**

***Academic integrity***

You must do your own work in this class. There will be a **NO TOLERANCE POLICY** toward plagiarism. Violations of academic integrity include:

* Plagiarism: using material from other authors without proper citation
* Cheating: copying answers on a test or assignment from another student or other source
* Obtaining a text or quiz from another section or another semester
* Turning in a composition you’ve written for a previous semester
* Misuse of tutor: Intervention by a tutor beyond what is approved by the teacher. If you have someone help you with your written work, he/she **cannot correct or rewrite any part of it**. Your tutor may only point out global problems that can be addressed in a context unrelated to the composition in question. He/she can further direct you to appropriate resources so you can **correct your own work**. If you work with a tutor, you should include his/her name and contact information on your written work.
* Use of online translator: These services or tools (1) do not help you make progress in acquiring the language you are studying; (2) violate the university policy against integrity; and (3) are often of such low quality that teachers recognize immediately the often unintelligible language they produce.
* Any other practice in which a student represents the work of another person as his/her own.
* For questions or further details regarding Academic Conduct, please consult: [www.bu.edu/cas/undergraduate/conductcode.html](http://www.bu.edu/cas/undergraduate/conductcode.html)
* **If the instructor suspects an instance of plagiarism as defined above, the student will not receive credit for the assignment in question.**

***French at BU***

Although class time is limited to three days per week, there are other ways to maintain and develop your communicative skills and cultural competence.

~Join BU’s dynamic Association Francophone -- look for AFBU on facebook!

~Get together with other students for discussion outside of class or join a French

Language Link group: bu.edu/erc/link

~consider the Maison française living/learning community:

bu.edu/specialty/residences

~Watch films in French and listen to French music!

~If you are interested in learning another language, consider the free classes offered

in the Globally Speaking Program: bu.edu/globallyspeaking

***Evaluation***

The final grade will be computed as follows:

***Attendance and in-class participation*** **15%**

***Written assignments:*** **40%**

***All assignments should be typed (double-spaced, 12 pt. font)***

**Homework & quizzes:** assigned written exercises & in-class quizzes (5%)

**comparative essay**: (3 pages) **#1A due: Fri. 2/6** (5%)

**#1B due: Fri. 2/13**

**internship project:** all job search materials including a paragraph explaining of why you would like to intern for this company/organization; two 1 page summaries of recent articles regarding the company/ organization; a culturally appropriate curriculum vitae; two letters: a cover letter for a job application; thank you letter following a job interview (15%)

**#2A** (cv + lettre de motivation; explanation and article summaries) **due: Fri. 2/20**

**#2B due: Fri. 2/27**

**#3A** (lettre de remerciement) **due: Mon. 3/2**

**#3B due Fri. 3/6**

**Start-up project** (15%)

**#4** description of start-up company; email message to founder(s) (2 pp.)

**due: Fri. 3/27**

**#5** final research paper presenting an innovative francophone startup (4-6 pp.) **due: Wed. 4/29**

***Oral assignments*: 25%**

#1 in-class skit with a partner: internship interview

**Mon. & Wed. 3/2 and 3/4 (**10%)

#2: group presentation: characteristics of startups in a specific francophone country/region: **Fri. 4/17**(5%)

#3: individual presentation: start-up company or organization

**Wed.** **4/22 (10%)**

***Exams*  20%**

Exam #1: **Wednesday, 2/25** (10%)

Exam: #2: **Wednesday, 4/15** (10%)