

Syllabus
Le Français IV Honors/IB
Madame Comstock
2013-2014

Congratulations on entering this fourth year of French IB! You recognize the importance and value of studying a language and are now in a position to perfect your speaking, listening, reading and writing skills. We will continue to learn advanced grammar topics and relevant vocabulary but we will focus on the practical use of the language. As this is an International Baccalaureate class, we will follow the IB format and guidelines. Much of our class time will be spent conversing, discussing, debating and analyzing contemporary topics.

Course Materials:

Texts*

Bon Voyage by Glencoe
French B Course Companion by Oxford University Press

Workbooks*

Reprise by National Textbook Company
Cours Supérieur by Amsco

Videos and CDs

Readings from newspapers, magazines and literary works (both printed and online)

* these materials will be available in the classroom and also at home when necessary

Additional Materials:

Binder (with resources from the first three years of French)
French dictionary (for use at home)
Journal (we will continue to use the one started in French 1)

Course Outline:

1. Review and mastery of basic grammar topics (as needed)
2. Introduction and mastery of advanced grammar topics
 - passive voice
 - verbs requiring prepositions
 - compound tenses
 - subjunctive mood
 - relative pronouns and clauses
 - interrogative, possessive and demonstrative pronouns
 - gerunds vs. infinitives
3. Extensive vocabulary based on IB topics and themes
 - communication and media
 - global issues
 - social relationships
 - health
 - leisure

Course requirements and guidelines:

The following assessments will be used to determine your term and final grades.

1. Homework: includes essays, oral presentations, recorded presentations, preparation for discussion, assigned readings, vocabulary preparation, and grammar exercises (not all grammar activities will be graded as they represent a necessary and expected commitment on your part)
2. Quizzes: based on grammar topics and vocabulary
3. Exams
4. Daily participation in class conversations, discussions and debates*. Participation points will vary daily based on the type of activity and the amount of preparation needed. Your grade for these activities will be based on your involvement (a student who is absent may be required to submit a written product based on the topic discussed or presented in class). The following rubric will be used to assess your contributions:
 - A** Student participates frequently and extensively throughout the discussion. Student participation shows clear evidence of preparation through well-developed and supported opinions with an adequate range of vocabulary and structure with which to express these opinions. Pronunciation does not impede understanding.
 - B** Student participates several times during the discussion, at least once in some substantial way. Student participation shows some understanding of the topic and some prepared vocabulary. Pronunciation and structure do not impede understanding.
 - C** Student participates at least once in the discussion in some substantial way. Student participation shows some understanding of the topics and an adequate, although basic vocabulary with which to express an opinion. Pronunciation and structure may impede understanding at times but are made intelligible with some help from the teacher.
 - D** Student participates at least once in the discussion in some minimal way.
 - F** Student does not participate during the discussion.

*Speaking French is expected during all class activities, including group and pair activities, unless the activity involves a transition into English.

IB requirements

In addition to the above assessments, there are specific components to an IB language class.

1. Individual oral (graded by the teacher and moderated by the IB)
2. Interactive oral (graded by the teacher)
3. Written assignment (graded by an IB examiner)
4. Written exam (two parts - both graded by an IB examiner)

I will give you more information regarding these assessments in the upcoming weeks. The work you have done during the past three years along with the grammar and topics we are going to study this year will all help to prepare you for these tasks.

Your responsibilities

1. Follow the policies and procedures indicated in the MPS Student Handbook. Please pay particular attention to:
 - the Acceptable Use Policies (for technology, the computer system, the Internet)
 - the Academic Honesty Policy
 - the uniform policy
 - no gum in the building
 - arrive on time for class
2. Reserve the use of your iPad for class activities only.
3. Keep an orderly notebook that will serve as a reference for grammar and vocabulary.
4. Turn in assignments on time. Late work will not receive credit unless prior arrangements have been made.
5. Check the homework website or eBackpack when absent and return to class prepared.
6. Ask for clarification if something is not clear.
7. Be respectful to all members of the class at all times. Our behavior reflects who we are. We will all strive to respect one another and show our best.

BONNE CHANCE ET ALLONS-Y!