

The University of Texas at Arlington
Department of Modern Languages

Advanced Grammar and Composition

FREN 4314-001
Spring 2017



“Je regarde la grammaire comme la première partie de l'art de penser. - Condillac (1803)

“Ceux qui croient que la grammaire n'est qu'un ensemble de règles et de contraintes se trompent. Si on s'y attache la grammaire révèle le sens caché de l'histoire, dissimule le désordre et l'abandon, relie les éléments, rapproche les contraires, la grammaire et un formidable moyen d'organiser le monde comme on voudrait qu'il soit. - Delphine de Vigan

Instructor: Najia Alameddin

Faculty Profile: <https://www.uta.edu/profiles/najia-alameddin>

Course Number, Section Number, and Course Title

FREN 4314 - 001 Advanced Grammar and Composition

Office Number: 226 Hammond Hall

Dep't. of Modern Languages: 817-272-3161

Email Address: nea@uta.edu

Office Hours: M/W 2:00-3:00 pm TH 12:30-1:30 pm & by apt

Time and Place of Class Meetings: MoWeFr 9:00AM - 9:50AM

Room **TH 01**

Blackboard: <https://elearn.uta.edu/webapps/login>

For administrative purposes, this document is in English. This class, however, will be taught entirely in French.

Description of Course Content:

French 4314 is an advanced French course focusing on sharpening students' writing skills in the target language. Students will reinforce acquired grammatical structures, be sensitized to differences in English and French syntax and learn how to improve their own writing skills in the French language. In addition students will be introduced to more complex syntactical structures such as the passive voice. In this course we will learn or review fundamental principles and mechanisms of language and culture.

Student Learning Goals and Outcomes:

Goals:

- ✚ Students will acquire greater proficiency in the four main skills: listening, reading, speaking and writing, with an emphasis on writing.
- ✚ Students will refine understanding and proper usage of grammatical forms.
- ✚ Students will enhance comprehension of spoken French.
- ✚ Students will enhance comprehension of written French.
- ✚ Students will improve writing skills.

Outcomes: By the end of this course, successful students will be able to:

- ✚ Recognize all verb tenses and all other parts of speech (nouns, pronouns, adjectives, adverbs) and use them with increased accuracy in speech and writing
- ✚ Compose a descriptive and narrative passage using past, present and future according to the norms of standard French
- ✚ Conjecture and hypothesize using the appropriate mode (le conditionnel et le subjonctif)
- ✚ Construct sentences using relative pronouns
- ✚ Write in the passive voice and use indirect discourse.

Requirements: Prerequisite: FREN 3304, FREN 3311 or FREN 3312 with a grade of C or better.

Required Textbooks and Other Course Materials

- ✚ Denise Rochat – *Contrastes* – second edition (book and workbook)
- ✚ Supplementary readings in electronic format posted on the class pages in Blackboard.

Highly recommended:

- ✚ Le Nouveau Bescherelle. L'Art de conjuguer. Dictionnaire de verbes français
- ✚ A good French Dictionary, e.g. Le Petit Robert, Le Petit Larousse, Le MicroRobert, etc.
- ✚ A good French/English Dictionary, e.g. Harrap's, Cassel's, Collins, Larousse, etc.

✚ **Dictionnaires**

http://www.lexilogos.com/francais_langue_dictionnaires.htm

http://www.lexilogos.com/french_language_dictionary.htm

<http://www.dictionnaire-synonymes.com>

✚ **Dictée site:** <http://fondationppl.ca/audio/>

Descriptions of major assignments, examinations and Grading:

Participation/ preparation	10%
Quizzes	15%
Peer editing in class	10%
Dictées	10%
3 Compositions w/Rewrites	30%
Exercises (devoirs)	5%
Final composition	20%

Participation and Preparation

Students will be expected to prepare assignments prior to class and to participate actively and voluntarily in classroom discussions.

Exercices de Grammaire: You will be assigned exercises in the workbook. The corrections can be found in the back of the workbook so that you may track your progress, identify weak areas and ask questions about the specific areas where you have difficulty. The grammar exercises are very important because they are a valuable tool for writing. You can either tear up the pages from the workbook or make photocopies. Additional assignments will be announced in class and posted on BB. You are expected to finish the grammar exercises when they are due, (the following class meeting), to receive a completion grade. **No late work will be accepted!**

Contrôles: Quizzes will assess both the student's progress in understanding grammatical structures and also writing short composition. Quizzes cannot be made up if missed, but the lowest grade will be dropped.

DATES:

2/01/17- Quiz 1
2/10/17- Quiz 2
2/20/17- Quiz 3
3/04/17- Quiz 4
3/22/17- Quiz 5
3/29/07- Quiz 6
4/10/17- Quiz 7
4/17/17- Quiz 8
4/28/17- Quiz 9

Compositions: Students will have to pick an important memory (*a person, a place, and an action*) and we will be working during the whole semester on an advanced refinement of that memory. You will be asked to write three compositions with peer editing/ corrections in class and rewriting (2 pages, double-space, 12, Times New Roman).

DATES:

2/15/17	LE PORTRAIT	Composition (1) – rough draft (brouillon)
2/24/17	LE PORTRAIT	Composition (1) – final copy (copie finale)
3/03/17	LA DESCRIPTION	Composition (2) – rough draft (brouillon)
3/31/17	LA DESCRIPTION	Composition (2) – final copy (copie finale)
4/14/17	LA NARRATION	Composition (3) – rough draft (brouillon)
4/28/17	LA NARRATION	Composition (3) – final copy (copie finale)

***Dates: (subject to change. Please check Announcements on BB course site and UTA email frequently)**

Dictées: online exercices : <http://fondationppl.ca/audio/dictee/select/3>

One each week, due on **Wednesday**. *La dictée* is an excellent tool to train your ears to hearing and writing. Choose your level (as each student has a different level). If it's too easy, go up a level, too hard, go down a level. Listen to it as many times as you would like. You will have to bring a printout of the screen. Students will receive a grade of 100 as a completion grade if submitted in class on time and a zero for failing to turning in the assignment.

Peer editing

Peer editing is a way for students to help each other with writing. You will work with another classmate to help improve, revise and make corrections on your rough draft composition. There will be 3 editing sessions during the semester. If you are absent on that day (*dates on syllabus) without a valid and documented excuse, you will receive a zero on that class assignment.

Final composition The final paper will be a composition (6-8 pages, double spaced, 12, Times New Roman) Details in class.

Grading Policy: This is a content-oriented course in French focused on grammar and writing. The student is expected to effectively comprehend and work with the course assignments to produce quality content. In short, there is one grading standard for all students, regardless of cultural or linguistic background and **since it is a grammar and writing based course, spelling, syntax, command of grammatical structures will all count.** Please note that diacritical marks --accents--are part of the spelling of the word. The presence or absence of accents will count. You are graded against yourself and not compared with others..

To figure out what you are making in the class: Final grades are calculated by multiplying the grade of each assignment by the percentage points it is worth, and then adding each percentage value for a score out of 100. See categories above.

Final Grade Key: 90-100=A; 80-89=B; 70-79=C; 65-69=D; 0-64=F

An “A” on an assignment will not be given for good work. An “A” is for outstanding or impeccable work. It follows that “B” is for good work—above average and demonstrating

originality and creative thinking. A “C” is mastery of the material, adequate demonstration of content. (The above is adapted from Dr. Sol’s system)

Attendance/ Participation Policy: At The University of Texas at Arlington, taking attendance is not required university-wide. Rather, each faculty member or department is free to develop his or her own methods of evaluating students’ academic performance, which includes establishing course-specific policies on attendance. However numerous studies have shown that there is a significant positive correlation between class attendance and grades. For this reason, and due to the communicative and interactive nature of language learning, **I** will be taking attendance in this class. Failing to attend class will have a direct and detrimental impact on your grade as the lectures are an important part of learning this material. Failing to attend class will have a direct and detrimental impact on your grade as the lectures are an important part of learning this material.

However, while UT Arlington does not require instructors to take attendance in their courses, the U.S. Department of Education requires that the University have a mechanism in place to mark when Federal Student Aid recipients “begin attendance in a course.” UT Arlington instructors will report when students begin attendance in a course as part of the final grading process. Specifically, when assigning a student a grade of F, faculty report the last date a student attended their class based on evidence such as a test, participation in a class project or presentation, or an engagement online via Blackboard. This date is reported to the Department of Education for federal financial aid recipients.

Absence and tardiness result in missed instructional time, missed announcements, missed participation opportunities, and a low quiz and test average. You should therefore plan to attend class regularly and to arrive early. Students who miss class are responsible for checking the syllabus and confirming with classmates prior to contacting the instructor regarding missed announcements or material covered in class. Students who arrive late are responsible for reporting their presence to the instructor after class is dismissed. Points may be deducted from the student’s grade for habitual tardiness. Whether an absence is excused or not, it is the student’s responsibility to make up missed work. The student is also responsible for the material covered in class during lecture. Be sure to get contact information from fellow students so that you can go over the class lecture notes.

For purposes of makeup exams and essays, excused absences include a documented illness or death in the family, brief periods of military service*, university authorized absences*, and religious holy days*. Absences for any other reason, including undocumented illness or the illness of a family member, may not entitle the student to make up missed exams or essays unless you receive prior permission from the instructor, who must adhere to departmental and university guidelines and who may take documentation and prior absentee record into account. See the catalog for additional details.

<http://www.uta.edu/catalog/2001/general/academicreg.html>

Expectations for Out-of-Class Study: A general rule of thumb is this: for every credit hour earned, a student should spend 3 hours per week working outside of class. Hence, a 3-credit course might have a minimum expectation of 9 hours of reading, study, etc. Beyond the time required to attend each class meeting, students enrolled in this course should expect to spend at

least an additional **9** hours per week of their own time in course-related activities, including reading required materials, completing assignments, preparing for exams, etc.

Drop Policy: Students may drop or swap (adding and dropping a class concurrently) classes through self-service in MyMav from the beginning of the registration period through the late registration period. After the late registration period, students must see their academic advisor to drop a class or withdraw. Undeclared students must see an advisor in the University Advising Center. Drops can continue through a point two-thirds of the way through the term or session. It is the student's responsibility to officially withdraw if they do not plan to attend after registering. **Students will not be automatically dropped for non-attendance.** Repayment of certain types of financial aid administered through the University may be required as the result of dropping classes or withdrawing. For more information, contact the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships.

Disability Accommodations: UT Arlington is on record as being committed to both the spirit and letter of all federal equal opportunity legislation, including *The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)*, *The Americans with Disabilities Amendments Act (ADAAA)*, and *Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act*. All instructors at UT Arlington are required by law to provide “reasonable accommodations” to students with disabilities, so as not to discriminate on the basis of disability. Students are responsible for providing the instructor with official notification in the form of a letter certified by the **Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD)**. Students experiencing a range of conditions (Physical, Learning, Chronic Health, Mental Health, and Sensory) that may cause diminished academic performance or other barriers to learning may seek services and/or accommodations by contacting:

The Office for Students with Disabilities, (OSD) www.uta.edu/disability or calling 817-272-3364.

Counseling and Psychological Services, (CAPS) www.uta.edu/caps/ or calling 817-272-3671.

Only those students who have officially documented a need for an accommodation will have their request honored. Information regarding diagnostic criteria and policies for obtaining disability-based academic accommodations can be found at www.uta.edu/disability or by calling the Office for Students with Disabilities at (817) 272-3364.

Non-Discrimination Policy: The University of Texas at Arlington does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, age, gender, sexual orientation, disabilities, genetic information, and/or veteran status in its educational programs or activities it operates. For more information, visit uta.edu/eos.

Title IX: The University of Texas at Arlington does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, age, gender, sexual orientation, disabilities, genetic information, and/or veteran status in its educational programs or activities it operates. For more information, visit uta.edu/eos. For information regarding Title IX, visit www.uta.edu/titleIX

Academic Integrity: (READ CAREFULLY!!!)

It is the philosophy of The University of Texas at Arlington that academic dishonesty is a

completely unacceptable mode of conduct and will not be tolerated in any form. All persons involved in academic dishonesty will be disciplined in accordance with University regulations and procedures. Discipline may include suspension or expulsion from the University.

"Scholastic dishonesty includes but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts." (Regents' Rules and Regulations, Series 50101, Section 2.2) ****Plagiarism is not and will not be tolerated in my class. DO NOT steal another's thoughts. Believe in yourself and understand that I am most interested in what you have to say on the topic.**

All students enrolled in this course are expected to adhere to the UT Arlington Honor Code:

I pledge, on my honor, to uphold UT Arlington's tradition of academic integrity, a tradition that values hard work and honest effort in the pursuit of academic excellence.

I promise that I will submit only work that I personally create or contribute to group collaborations, and I will appropriately reference any work from other sources. I will follow the highest standards of integrity and uphold the spirit of the Honor Code.

Please note : Translation from any other language into French or vice-versa without proper attribution and identification of author and source falls under the rubric of plagiarism. This applies to material found on the WEB as well as books, periodicals, brochures, etc. If you have any doubts or questions pertaining to your research, your writing, or the formalities of citation, do not hesitate to consult your professor or the Modern Language Guidelines. If you are not sure about what constitutes plagiarism, find out! Come and ask me.

Most cases of plagiarism can be avoided, however, by citing sources. Simply acknowledging that certain material has been borrowed, and providing your audience with the information necessary to find that source, is usually enough to prevent plagiarism. We want you to research and read secondary sources. You are, in many cases, required to do so. Scholars' and students' work participate in and contribute to an ongoing intellectual conversation. However, you must be certain and careful to properly give your sources their due. **Any incidences or suspected incidences of plagiarism will be referred to the proper UTA authorities.**

Electronic communication: The University of Texas at Arlington has adopted the University email address as an official means of communication with students. Through the use of email, UT-Arlington is able to provide students with relevant and timely information, designed to facilitate student success. In particular, important information concerning registration, financial aid, payment of bills, and graduation may be sent to students through email.

All students are assigned an email account and information about activating and using it is available at www.uta.edu/email. New students (first semester at UTA) are able to activate their email account 24 hours after registering for courses. There is no additional charge to students for using this account, and it remains active as long as a student is enrolled at UT-Arlington.

Email Policy: You are responsible to check your UTA email frequently for official communications

- ❖ Write from your mavmail account.
- ❖ Write a clear subject line that actually summarizes what the question is and what it might be connected to in the course.
- ❖ Give me some context for the question, situating it in the particular assignment or activity you're working on.
- ❖ Punctuate. Capitalize appropriately. Use complete words and sentences; this is not texting. Check your spelling.
- ❖ Be specific and detailed about what the difficulty or challenge is regarding.
- ❖ Ask an actual question, rather than leaving it up to me to infer what you don't understand.
- ❖ If you send an unrequested assignment as an attachment due to an absence, bring in a hard copy to hand in next class period.
- ❖ Be nice and thank me for answering.
- ❖ Sign your full name.

Adapted from guidelines developed by Dr. Alice Pawley and her students.

Campus Carry: Effective August 1, 2016, the Campus Carry law (Senate Bill 11) allows those licensed individuals to carry a concealed handgun in buildings on public university campuses, except in locations the University establishes as prohibited. Under the new law, openly carrying handguns is not allowed on college campuses. For more information, visit <http://www.uta.edu/news/info/campus-carry/>

Student Feedback Survey: At the end of each term, students enrolled in classes categorized as lecture, seminar, or laboratory shall be directed to complete a Student Feedback Survey (SFS). Instructions on how to access the SFS for this course will be sent directly to each student through MavMail approximately 10 days before the end of the term. Each student's feedback enters the SFS database anonymously and is aggregated with that of other students enrolled in the course. UT Arlington's effort to solicit, gather, tabulate, and publish student feedback is required by state law; students are strongly urged to participate. For more information, visit <http://www.uta.edu/sfs>.

Final Review Week: A period of five class days prior to the first day of final examinations in the long sessions shall be designated as Final Review Week. The purpose of this week is to allow students sufficient time to prepare for final examinations. During this week, there shall be no scheduled activities such as required field trips or performances; and no instructor shall assign any themes, research problems or exercises of similar scope that have a completion date during or following this week *unless specified in the class syllabus*. During Final Review Week, an instructor shall not give any examinations constituting 10% or more of the final grade, except makeup tests and laboratory examinations. In addition, no instructor shall give any portion of the final examination during Final Review Week. During this week, classes are held as scheduled. In addition, instructors are not required to limit content to topics that have been previously covered; they may introduce new concepts as appropriate.

Emergency Exit Procedures: : Should we experience an emergency event that requires us to vacate the building, students should exit the room and move toward the nearest exit,. When exiting the building during an emergency, one should never take an elevator but should use the stairwells. Faculty members and instructional staff will assist students in selecting the safest route for evacuation and will make arrangements to assist handicapped individuals.

http://www.uta.edu/campus-ops/ehs/fire/Evac_Maps_Buildings.php

Student Support Services: UT Arlington provides a variety of resources and programs designed to help students develop academic skills, deal with personal situations, and better understand concepts and information related to their courses. Resources include tutoring, major-based learning centers, developmental education, advising and mentoring, personal counseling, and federally funded programs. For individualized referrals, students may visit the reception desk at University College (Ransom Hall), call the Maverick Resource Hotline at 817-272-6107, send a message to resources@uta.edu, or view the information at www.uta.edu/resources.

The IDEAS Center (2nd Floor of Central Library) offers **free** tutoring to all students with a focus on transfer students, sophomores, veterans and others undergoing a transition to UT Arlington. To schedule an appointment with a peer tutor or mentor email IDEAS@uta.edu or call (817) 272-6593.

Language Lab: The Language Acquisition Center (LAC), located on the third floor of Trimble Hall, offers audio, video, and computer services. Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 8:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.; Friday 8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Librarian to Contact: Jody Bailey is the Modern Languages Librarian. She can be reached at 817.272.7516, and by e-mail at jbailey@uta.edu. Furthermore, you will find some useful research information at: <http://www.uta.edu/library/research/rt-foreign.html>

By staying in this course, students acknowledge that they have received, read, understood and accept the terms of this syllabus. A copy of this syllabus will be posted on the course webpage as well as on Blackboard.

Tentative Course Schedule

You are responsible for checking the online version of the syllabus as this is a tentative version that is subject to change according to how much or little we cover during our meetings. If the schedule is changed, it is because I need to accommodate you. The students in the class either need more time to assimilate the material or are ahead of the schedule; not all groups of students work at the same pace every year. As the instructor for this course, I reserve the right to adjust this schedule in any way that serves the educational needs of the students. - Najia Alameddin

Please check Blackboard for a detailed course schedule!