




Term 1 2023-2024

| | | |
|---|-------------------------------|---|
| Course Code & Title: | FREN 2020 SOUNDS OF FRENCH |  |
| Language of Instruction: French / English | Units: 3 | |

Course Description

This course is an introduction to the phonetic system of the French language. Illustrations and examples will be taken from modern spoken French. Similarities and differences to other languages will also be examined when appropriate. Students learning French are encouraged to take this course. Although theoretical content will be provided on French phonetics, students must conceive this course as a workshop rather than a lecture. Constant practice through pair work, games, interactive activities, recordings will be included and active participation from the students is therefore expected. Each week the course is divided between a long period in a normal classroom, and a short period in a language laboratory. Prerequisite: FREN2000 or FREN2050 or equivalent competence.

Learning Outcomes

After taking this course, students are expected to:

- (1) be able to use the French IPA symbols provided in dictionaries;
- (2) improve their reading, listening and speaking skills in French;
- (3) understand and describe some basic articulatory features of French speech sounds;
- (4) understand and describe the rhythmic groups and intonation patterns of modern French;
- (5) understand the relationship between the French pronunciation and writing system.

CONTENT

| Phonetic content | | Communication and culture |
|--|--|---|
| ALPHABET | Spelling (revisions): Alphabets, accents, double consonants. | French names. Some French celebrities. Song : Serge Gainsbourg- <i>Laetitia</i> . |
| FRENCH SPEECH SOUNDS French IPA symbols & basic articulatory features of French vowels and consonants. | - Oral vowels : /l, e, ε, y, ø, œ, u, o, ɔ, a/ | Simple self-introduction. Likes and dislikes. |
| | - Nasal vowels : /ẽ, ã, õ/ | Names of cities in France. Describing a place of living. |
| | - Stop consonants : /p-b, t-d, k-g/ | Vocab : food. Song : Éric Toulis - <i>Pâte à pizza</i> . |
| | - Fricative consonants : /f-v, s-z, ʃ-ʒ/ | Fashion and shopping. Describing someone. |
| | - Semivowels : /j, ɥ, w/ | Names of animals. Song : Les fatals Picards – <i>La ferme des animaux</i> |
| RHYTHMIC GROUPS, RESYLLABIFICATION AND INTONATION | - Syllabification, rhythmic groups. | Transparent words. Ordering in a café |
| | - Resyllabification (<i>liaison, enchaînements</i>). | Introducing someone. Reading aloud. |
| | - dropped 'e'. | Reporting a crime. |
| | - Intonation. | Giving directions. Giving a detailed explanation. |

Learning Activities

| Interactive classwork[1] (hr) in / out class | Extra-curricular activities (hr) in / out class | Web-based teaching (hr) in / out class | Homework / Self-study (hr) in / out class |
|--|---|--|---|
| 3 | | | 3 |
| M | | | M |

M = Mandatory / O = Optional

[1] Interactive classwork focuses on student-centered activities as pair work, group work, role-playing and student-teacher interaction.

Assessment Scheme

| Task nature | Description | Weight |
|-------------------------|---|--|
| Participation in class. | Active participation in class activities and occasional homework. | 10% |
| Quiz 1. | Q/A, listening skills test, phonetic transcription, dictation etc. | Content: first half of the term. 20% |
| Recording 1. | Reading exercises to be recorded in class: individual recordings. | |
| Quiz 2. | Q/A, listening skills test, phonetic transcription, dictation...). | Content: all term. 25% |
| Recording 2. | Reading exercises to be recorded in class: individual and pair recordings (dialogue). | |

Notes:

- Please attend all courses and arrive on time. The success of your own learning will highly depend on your attendance. You are required to attend at least 75% of the class. Treat 75% attendance as the minimum, not the maximum. **Should you miss more than 25% of the class, you will automatically fail the course.**
- If you are unable to attend, you are responsible to contact your teacher and check this course outline to get informed about upcoming assessments and what content and homework you missed.
- **For missed tests, make-up tests will not be arranged unless the student can provide an official supporting document, such as a medical certificate.**
- The use of smartphones is prohibited during the class unless otherwise stated by the teacher. Tablets and laptops can be used to read the soft copy of the textbook.



Learning Resources

Course Materials

- Hand-outs & notes.
- Recorded material & Web links with exercises on Start.me **webpage:** [FREN2020- 2022-2023- start.me](https://start.me/FREN2020-2022-2023)
- The use of smartphones and tablets during the class is prohibited unless otherwise stated by the teacher.

IT Resources

The use of recording devices and softwares will be systematic during the Thursday class.

- Self-recording tutorial : https://gocuhk-my.sharepoint.com/:w:/g/personal/raphael_chiarelli_cuhk_edu_hk/EYgdp8XV1SNLnbpLhOYMgy8BowuFlqvGkfZpwKwTcKwSGg?e=ejo00B
- Audacity : Audacity is a free and easy to use digital audio editor. <http://audacityteam.org/download/>
- Mp3 converter for Audacity : <http://lame.buanzo.org/>

Readings & Library Resources

Recommended materials:

- A bilingual French/English dictionary with information on pronunciation provided in IPA (International Phonetic Alphabet)
- On Internet: <http://www.collinsdictionary.com/dictionary/french-english>
- On Android: <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.ascendo.android.dictionary.fr.free>
- On iOS: <https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/free-french-english-dictionary/id323683333?mt=8>
- Please see the list of websites available on the platform [FREN2020 - 2022-2023- start.me](https://start.me/FREN2020-2022-2023)

Schedule (Subject to changes):

| Week | Date | No Class Days | Assignments | Content |
|---------|----------------|--|---------------------------|--|
| Week 1 | Sept. 4-8 | Sept. 4 (Monday): Inauguration Ceremony for Undergraduates [Classes suspended in the morning until 1:30 p.m.] | | Introduction & alphabet |
| Week 2 | Sept. 11-15 | | | French vowels. |
| Week 3 | Sept. 18-22 | | | |
| Week 4 | Sept. 25-29 | | | Rhythm and stress, <i>liaison</i> and <i>enchaînement</i> , dropped 'e'. |
| Week 5 | Oct. 2-6 | Oct. 2 (Monday): The day following National Day | | |
| Week 6 | Oct. 9-13 | | | |
| Week 7 | Oct. 16-20 | | Quiz 1 (Thursday) | French consonants. |
| Week 8 | Oct. 23-27 | Oct. 23 (Monday) Chung Yeung Festival | Recording 1 (Thursday) | |
| Week 9 | Oct. 30-Nov. 3 | | | |
| Week 10 | Nov. 6-10 | Nov. 9 (Thursday): 92 th Congregation | | Intonation. |
| Week 11 | Nov. 13-17 | | | Semi vowels. |
| Week 12 | Nov. 20-24 | | Quiz 2 (Thursday) | |
| Week 13 | Nov. 27-Dec. 1 | | Recording 2 (Thursday) | |

Class sections and teachers' contact details:

| Class | Time | Classroom | No of weeks | Teacher | Email |
|-----------|--------------|------------------------------------|-------------|----------------------|--|
| FREN 2020 | T 3-4 H 6 | LSK 201 (lecture) LSK 401 (Lab) | 12/13 | Mr Raphaël CHIARELLI | raphael.chiarelli@cuhk.edu.hk |

For further information and inquiries, you are welcome to contact:

| Contact | Telephone | Email | Office |
|---|-----------|-------------------------------|--|
| Raphaël Chiarelli (Course Coordinator) | 3943 7723 | raphael.chiarelli@cuhk.edu.hk | Rm 210, KKL Building Office Hours: Wednesdays: 1:30p.m.-2:30p.m. Thursdays: 2:30p.m.-3:30p.m. |
| General Office | 3943 9836 | lin@cuhk.edu.hk | Rm G17, KKL Building Office Hours: <u>Monday to Thursday:</u> 8:45a.m. to 1:00p.m. and 2:00p.m. to 5:30p.m. <u>Friday:</u> 8:45a.m. to 1:00p.m. and 2:00p.m. to 5:45p.m. |

Academic Honesty and Plagiarism

Attention is drawn to University policy and regulations on honesty in academic work, and to the disciplinary guidelines and procedures applicable to breaches of such policy and regulations. Details may be found at <http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/>.

With each assignment, students will be required to submit a signed declaration that they are aware of these policies, regulations, guidelines and procedures. For group projects, all students of the same group should be asked to sign the declaration.

For assignments in the form of a computer-generated document that is principally text-based and submitted via VeriGuide, the statement, in the form of a receipt, will be issued by the system upon students' uploading of the soft copy of the assignment. Assignments without the receipt will not be graded by teachers. Only the final version of the assignment should be submitted via VeriGuide.

Feedback for Evaluation

Our language programme highly values students' feedback and comments and is happy to use them for reflection on our teaching and improvement. Students are very welcome to provide comments and feedback on the course any time to their course teacher or the course level coordinator through email or in personal conversation. In addition, students' feedbacks will be collected in the middle of the term through an open-end questionnaire and the teacher will discuss the feedbacks in class and make improvements if necessary. The course will also follow the university's course evaluation exercise at the end of the term, and students' feedbacks will be used for future course planning and teaching.