香港中文大學 CUHK | 語言學及現代語言系 Department of Linguistics and Modern Languages

Term 1, 2026-2027

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

Course Description

This course introduces the phonetic system and orthographic transcription of modern spoken French through contemporary illustrations and examples. While covering essential theoretical foundations, the course also operates as an interactive workshop: students will discover linguistic phenomena related to French phonology and pronunciation, engaging in constant practice through pair work, educational games, and weekly audio recordings. Active participation is essential. Weekly sessions are split between a standard classroom session on Tuesdays and a language laboratory workshop on Thursdays. French language learners are strongly encouraged to enroll.
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.

Course Syllabus

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

Course Components							
Teaching Mode							
On-site face-to-face interactive classwork: 100%							
Learning Activities							
Interactive classwork[1] (hr)		Extra-curricular activities (hr)		Web-based teaching (hr)		Homework / Self-study (hr)	
in /	out class	in /	out class	in /	out class	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 Type			
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.		20%
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).		25%

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. - 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 turorial : https://gocuhk-my.sharepoint.com/:w:/g/personal/raphael_chiarelli_cuhk_edu_hk/EYgdp8XV1SNLnbpLhOYMgy8BowuFlqvGkfZpwKwTcKwSGg?e=ejo0OB - Audacity : Audacity is a free and easy to use digital audio editor. http://audacityteam.org/download/
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

Assessment Rubrics				
General Grade Descriptors:				
A	B	C	D	F
Outstanding performance in all learning outcomes and meeting all specified assessment requirements. Can fully understand and appropriately use familiar everyday expressions and basic phrases aimed at the fulfillment of needs of a concrete type. Can ask and answer questions about personal details in a competent way. Can interact in areas of immediate need or on familiar topics appropriately.	Good performance in all learning outcomes Can understand and mostly appropriately use familiar everyday expressions and basic phrases aimed at the fulfillment of needs of a concrete type. Can ask and answer questions about personal details in a suitable way. Can interact in areas of immediate need or on familiar topics mostly appropriately.	Satisfactory performance in the majority of learning outcomes. Can partially understand and use familiar everyday expressions and basic phrases aimed at the fulfillment of needs of a concrete type. Can ask and answer questions about personal details in a basic way. Can interact in areas of immediate need or on familiar topics partially appropriately.	Barely satisfactory performance in a number of learning outcomes. Can rarely understand and use familiar everyday expressions and basic phrases aimed at the fulfillment of needs of a concrete type. Can hardly ask and answer questions about personal details. Can poorly interact in areas of immediate need or on familiar topics.	Unsatisfactory performance in a number of learning outcomes and/or failure to meet specified assessment requirements. Cannot understand and use familiar everyday expressions and basic phrases aimed at the fulfillment of needs of a concrete type. Cannot ask and answer questions about personal details. Cannot interact in areas of immediate need or on familiar topics.

Course Schedule (Subject to changes):

Week	Date	No Class Days	Assignments	Content	Special Events
Week 1	Sept. 7-11	Sept. 07 (Monday): Inauguration Ceremony for UG (All classes are suspended in the morning and until 1:30 p.m.)		Introduction & alphabet	
Week 2	Sept. 14-18			French vowels.	
Week 3	Sept. 21-25				
Week 4	Sept. 28-Oct. 02	Oct. 01 (Thursday): National Day		Rhythm and stress, *liaison* and *enchaînement*, dropped 'e'.	
Week 5	Oct. 05-09				
Week 6	Oct. 12-16				
Week 7	Oct. 19-23	Oct. 19 (Monday): The Day Following Chung Yeung Festival		French consonants.	
Week 8	Oct. 26-30		**Quiz 1** (Thursday)		**French Animation Film Festival** TBD
Week 9	Nov. 02-06		**Recording 1** (Thursday)		
Week 10	Nov. 09-13	Nov. 12 (Thursday): 96th Congregation for the Conferment of degrees		Intonation.	**French Night** TBD
Week 11	Nov. 16-20			Semi vowels.	
Week 12	Nov. 23-27				
Week 13	Nov. 30- Dec. 04		**Quiz 2** (Thursday)		
Week 14 (make-up class)*	Monday Dec. 7	LSK_410; time TBD	**Recording 2** (Monday)		

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 410 (Lab)	13 (12)*	Mr Raphaël CHIARELLI	raphael.chiarelli@cuhk.edu.hk

*Notes:

- There will be a make-up class if your French class falls on a public holiday or the class is suspended for other reasons.
- Tests schedule may be adjusted as well.

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 29, 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:** Monday to Thursday: 8:45a.m. to 1:00p.m. and 2:00p.m. to 5:30p.m. Friday: 8:45a.m. to 1:00p.m. and 2:00p.m. to 5:45p.m.

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.

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.

- In the case of group projects, all members of the group should be asked to sign the declaration, each of whom is responsible and liable to disciplinary actions, irrespective of whether he/she has signed the declaration and whether he/she has contributed, directly or indirectly, to the problematic contents.
- 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.
- Students are fully aware that their work may be investigated by AI content detection software to determine originality.
- Students are fully aware of the AI approach(es) adopted in the course. In the case where some AI tools are allowed, students have made proper acknowledgment and citations as suggested by the course teacher.

Assignments without a properly signed declaration will not be graded by teachers.

Only the final version of the assignment should be submitted via VeriGuide.

The submission of a piece of work, or a part of a piece of work, for more than one purpose (e.g. to satisfy the requirements in two different courses) without declaration to this effect shall be regarded as having committed undeclared multiple submissions. It is common and acceptable to reuse a turn of phrase or a sentence or two from one's own work; but wholesale reuse is problematic. In any case, agreement from the course teacher(s) concerned should be obtained prior to the submission of the piece of work.

The copyright of the teaching materials, including lecture notes, assignments and examination questions, etc., produced by staff members/ teachers of The Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK) belongs to CUHK. Students may download the teaching materials produced by the staff members/ teachers from the Learning Management Systems, e.g. Blackboard, adopted by CUHK for their own

educational use, but shall not distribute/ share/ copy the materials to a third-party without seeking prior permission from the staff members/ teachers concerned.

Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) Tools in Teaching, Learning and Assessment
All use of AI tools is prohibited in assignments and assessment tasks In any kind of learning activity or assessment that will be counted towards the final course grades (or used for evaluating attainment of the desired learning outcomes), students are not allowed to submit work which is produced with the collaboration of or supported by the use of any AI tools (e.g. ChatGPT, DeepSeek)*. Improper/unauthorized use of AI tools in learning activities and assessments will constitute acts of academic dishonesty and will be handled according to the University's Procedures for Handling Cases of Academic Dishonesty. In case of queries, students should seek advice from the course teacher.

For more information about our French programme, please join us on Instagram! :)	