

## French IV Syllabus

### Welcome to French IV

Learning a foreign language gives the learner the ability to step inside the mind and context of that other culture. It also increases your native language ability, sharpens your cognitive and life skills, improves your chances of entry into college, and gives you an appreciation for international literature, music and films.

The course is conducted primarily in French with the goal of attaining proficiency in the areas of listening, speaking, reading, and writing. English should rarely be used in the classroom. Through various activities, you will expand your vocabulary, develop better writing skills, hone listening ability, engage in discussions of literature, and view and discuss films, all in the target language.

### Objectives: Distinction

Students will be able to:

- show almost no patterns of linguistic errors
- carry out almost any task that they can execute in English
- argue a point effectively, explaining their point of view in details.
- write their ideas in a well-organized and clear manner.
- comprehend any non-technical material produced for the general public of native speakers in standard language.

(Standards 1FL-D1, D2, D3, D4)

## Course Activities/Teaching Strategies

### Listening

In order to achieve this level, students speak and hear French almost exclusively. I offer them a potpourri of exercises to strengthen their “ear” (recorded interviews, dialogues, songs, films or film clips, video clips...). These activities are accompanied by written exercises to check for understanding. They are often done with a peer partner, in small groups, or individually.

### Speaking

Students perfect their speaking skills through exposés, résumés, analyses, skits, dialogues, songs and poetry readings, interpretation of pictures, pronunciation exercises, debates, etc.

### Reading

In addition to the textbook, readings are gleaned from as wide a variety of sources as possible: French magazine and newspaper articles, literature pieces, advertisements, plays, essays, poetry, short stories, Internet resources, etc. The goal is to be able to read with overall comprehension on various topics of general interest. Much time and effort is spent in discussion and in learning how to comprehend a variety of non-technical texts for relevant information, main ideas, and pertinent details.

## Writing

Students are required to write clearly and logically. There is a heavy emphasis on using transitional words, idiomatic expressions, correct verb conjugations and proper syntax.

**We will explore these themes:**

- Environment: agriculture, biodiversity, protected areas, policies
- Education
- Family/personal space
- Relationship
- French poetry

## Textbook

*Promenades*

*Trésors du temps*, McGraw Hill Glencoe, 2005.

## Grading scale

Your grade will be based on a variety of assessments that will incorporate listening, speaking, reading and writing French. No more tests (YEAH!)

Homework/class work	30%
Composition	25%
Portfolio	15%
Projects	20%
Quiz	10%

## Rules

1. Be on time: if you are late, come in quietly and do not disturb the class.
2. Be prepared: Come ready for class (pen, book, binder).
3. Do your homework: You are expected to have assignments completed for the day they are due. If you do not complete an assignment, I will give you an extra chance to complete it for the next day. However, the highest grade you can receive is a C. After that day I will no longer accept it.
4. Be organized.
5. Be civilized. Discussion is essential in our class. Please be respectful of your peers. Don't interrupt and don't be disruptive.
6. No electronics.
7. No food.