

The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology
UG Course Syllabus

Course Title: French language and culture for Beginners I

Course Code: LANG1310

No. of Credits: 3

Any pre-/co-requisites: No prior knowledge of French

Name of Course Leader: Caroline Petit

Email of Course Leader: lccaroline@ust.hk

Office Hours: Available by appointment only.

Course Information

LANG 1310 is a three-credit, one-semester elective course offered to all UG students with no previous knowledge of French. Students with a higher level of French proficiency are not eligible for the course. The course covers all language skills—listening, reading, speaking, and writing—with a primary focus on interaction. Students actively participate in practice lessons, complete online homework assignments, and engage in class discussions. By the end of the course, students achieve an A1.1 level proficiency according to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR). They can introduce themselves, ask and answer basic questions, and interact in everyday situations. Small-group classes ensure meaningful interaction between students and instructors. Devices such as laptops and smart books are required in class exclusively for instructional purposes to complete the assigned activities. Cultural topics are also discussed during the lessons.

Key Topics

- Module 1: Greetings/Self-Introduction
- Module 2: Describe yourself
- Module 3: Origins
- Module 4: Exchange personal information
- Module 5: Describe my family
- Module 6: Hobbies
- Module 7: Move around
- Module 8: At the market
- Module 9: At the restaurant

Intended Learning Outcomes

In LANG 1310 students learn not only the French language but also about the cultures of French-speaking countries. It provides learners with situations in which they can begin to express themselves at an elementary level in French, both oral and written. The course also presents aspects of French culture, and the cultures of other Francophone countries.

After completing the course, students will be able to:

1. Engage in simple conversations by making and responding to common enquiries, giving opinions, and understanding routine instructions and notices in French.
2. Comprehend and produce short messages related to daily life, personal interests, and social

situations in a French-speaking context.

3. Apply fundamental principles of French pronunciation, grammar and vocabulary to construct accurate and meaningful sentences.
4. Develop an awareness and appreciation of French and Francophone cultures, including customs, daily life, and cultural practices.

Assessment and Grading

Assessment Task	Contribution to Overall Course grade (%)	Due date
Pop-Quizzes (in-class) + In class participation	10% + 5%	To be conducted unannounced throughout the course to encourage consistent engagement with the material.
Review quiz 1 (in-class) • Listening • Reading • Writing • Speaking	30%	Week 7*
Cultural Presentation (in-class)	15%	Week 11*
Review quiz 2 (in-class) • Listening • Reading • Writing • Speaking	40%	Week 13*

*Assessment marks for individual assessed tasks will be released within two weeks of the due

Mapping of Course ILOs to Assessment Tasks

Assessed Task	Mapped ILOs	Explanation
Pop Quizzes (in-class) 4 pop-quizzes administered at the instructor's discretion during class sessions.	ILO2, ILO3, ILO4	This task evaluates students' ability to understand and produce accurate messages (ILO2) using fundamental grammatical principles and vocabulary (ILO3). It also fosters confidence and enhances cultural insight (ILO4)
Review quiz 1 (in-class) • Listening • Reading • Writing • Speaking	ILO1, ILO2, ILO3, ILO4	Listening task: Students' auditory processing skills are evaluated, focusing on their ability to comprehend spoken French in real life scenarios and respond appropriately, further enhancing their linguistic understanding and accuracy (ILO1 and ILO3). Reading comprehension: to analyze written texts and extract relevant meaning, fostering interpretive skills

		necessary for understanding information in real-life contexts. (ILO2). Writing task: This component measures students' ability to produce coherent written messages that reflect linguistic accuracy, demonstrating their ability to communicate ideas effectively in written form (ILO2 and ILO3). Speaking task: evaluates students' ability to participate in structured conversations (ILO1) while demonstrating clear and accurate pronunciation as well as sentences (ILO 3). It emphasizes effective interpersonal communication and the ability to respond in authentic conversational scenarios which can deepen their understanding of the historical and social contexts of French-speaking cultures (ILO4).
Cultural presentation (in-class) Students will be asked to make a presentation in a group and answer related questions.	ILO1, ILO3, ILO4	This task develops intercultural competence by assessing students' understanding of key cultural concepts and the interconnectedness of language and culture, fostering a broader appreciation of French-speaking communities (ILO4) while demonstrating clear and accurate pronunciation as well as sentences (ILO3). It also emphasizes effective communication and the ability to respond to questions from the audience (ILO 1).
Review quiz 2 (in-class) • Listening • Reading • Writing • Speaking	ILO1, ILO2, ILO3, ILO4	Listening task: Students' auditory processing skills are evaluated, focusing on their ability to comprehend spoken French in real life scenarios and respond appropriately, further enhancing their linguistic understanding and accuracy (ILO1 and

		ILO3). Reading Comprehension: to analyze written texts and extract relevant meaning, fostering interpretive skills necessary for understanding information in real-life contexts. (ILO2). Writing Task: This component measures students' ability to produce coherent written messages that reflect linguistic accuracy, demonstrating their ability to communicate ideas effectively in written form (ILO2 and ILO3). Speaking task: Evaluates students' ability to participate in structured conversations (ILO1) while demonstrating clear and accurate pronunciation as well as sentences (ILO3). It emphasizes effective interpersonal communication and the ability to respond in authentic conversational scenarios which can deepen their understanding of the historical and social contexts of French-speaking cultures (ILO4).
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Grading Rubrics

Detailed rubrics for each assignment will be provided. These rubrics clearly outline the criteria used for evaluation. Students can refer to these rubrics to understand how their work will be assessed.

Final Grade Descriptors:

[As appropriate to the course and aligned with university standards]

Grades	Short Description	Elaboration on subject grading description
A	Excellent Performance	Demonstrates exceptional achievement across all learning outcomes and fulfils all specified assessment criteria. Shows complete understanding and effective use of familiar everyday expressions and basic phrases to meet concrete needs. Confidently asks and answers questions about personal details and interacts competently in areas

		of immediate need or on familiar topics.
B	Good Performance	Demonstrates strong achievement in all learning outcomes. Understands and generally uses familiar everyday expressions and basic phrases appropriately to fulfil concrete needs. Can ask and answer questions about personal details effectively and interact suitably in areas of immediate need or on familiar topics.
C	Satisfactory Performance	Achieves satisfactory performance in most learning outcomes. Can partially understand and use familiar everyday expressions and basic phrases to meet concrete needs. Shows basic ability to ask and answer questions about personal details and interacts with limited appropriateness in areas of immediate need or on familiar topics.
D	Marginal Pass	Meets minimal standards in a limited number of learning outcomes. Demonstrates difficulty in understanding and using familiar everyday expressions and basic phrases. Has limited ability to ask and answer questions about personal details and interacts poorly in areas of immediate need or on familiar topics.
F	Fail	Fails to meet the required standards for several learning outcomes and/or does not satisfy the assessment criteria. Unable to understand or use familiar everyday expressions and basic phrases to meet concrete needs. Cannot effectively ask or answer questions about personal details and is unable to interact appropriately in areas of immediate need or on familiar topics.

Course AI Policy

We encourage students to use all the tools available to support their learning and enhance their ability to communicate effectively in French. We also expect students to uphold the highest standards of academic integrity. While there is no penalty for using or not using GenAI, these tools must not be used as a substitute for a student's independent work. The use of GenAI or other tools should be limited to supplementary assistance, such as exploring vocabulary, grammar rules, or cultural insights, and not as a means of generating responses or completing tasks on behalf of the student.

Communication and Feedback

Assessment marks for individual assessed tasks will be communicated via Canvas within two weeks of submission. Feedback on assignments will include strengths and areas for improvement where relevant. Students who have further questions about the feedback, including marks, should consult the instructor within five working days after the feedback is received.

Resubmission Policy

Resubmissions are not accepted, except in exceptional circumstances.

Required Texts and Materials

- Edito A1 2ème édition Didier français langue étrangère 2022-2024
- Handouts and PowerPoints are provided via Canvas.

Academic Integrity

Students are expected to adhere to the university's academic integrity policy. Students are expected to uphold HKUST's Academic Honor Code and to maintain the highest standards of academic integrity. The University has zero tolerance of academic misconduct. Please refer to [Academic Integrity | HKUST – Academic Registry](#) for the University's definition of plagiarism and ways to avoid cheating and plagiarism.