General Syllabus
French Conversation Courses
201, 202

Your grade will be based on the following three categories, for a total of 50 pts:

- Attendance/Participation: 10 days in class @ 3 points per class  
- Speaking Test: One interview with me  
- Exposé, either individual (3 minutes) or pair (6 minutes)  
- Preparation: Writing exercises to aid in class discussion

Scale: 47 - 50 = A; 45 - 46 = A-; 43 - 44 = B+; 42 = B; 40 - 41 = B-; 38 - 39 = C+; 37 = C; 35 - 36 = C-; 33 - 34 = D+; 32 = D; 30 - 31 = D-; 0 - 29 = F.

Attendance/Participation: Your attendance will be documented; make sure you have been marked present. Your participation score will be based on your cooperation in the pair work activities and on sharing your ideas / opinions / answers in class. Be sure to check with me on a regular basis to see how your participation score is being calculated. The rubric is as follows: 3 points = one point for being in class, another for general participation, and the last one for participation in French; 2 = 2 of the previous criterion; 1 = only one of those ingredients, 0 = was not in class. You are allowed two free absences out of twelve classes. Be sure to send me an email if you miss a class or anticipate being absent.

Speaking Test: This oral test is a series of questions about the topics we covered together in class. The criteria I use to grade it are: 5 pts for language (vocab, grammar, idiomatic structures); 2 pts for relevance of your arguments and your understanding of my questions; 2 pts for reactivation of semantic structures worked on in class; and 1 pt for creativity. The speaking test will be scheduled on the last class session; each student will speak with me in French for ten minutes.

Individual or Pair Exposé: You will choose a topic on French culture that interests you and prepare a 3 - 5 minute presentation in French for the 10th class session. Please let me know in advance what your topic will be. The due date for the first draft will be scheduled on week 8. I will indicate suggestions for changes. If you work with a partner, grades are still given individually, so each of you needs your own notes. You may use an outline to remind yourself of what you want to say, but do NOT read the whole presentation. The best you can do is to be strategic by using your visual documents to remember what you want to say!

Preparation: As this is a conversation course, you are here to practice mainly your spoken French. With your input, I will provide you with topics for discussion each week. Our topics will include cultural, artistic, and historical themes, as well as current events. Each week, you will do some written work – not as a means of studying grammar per se, but rather with the goal of preparing your participation in class discussion. Therefore, it is very important that you be consistent with your written assignments, as they will play a big role in improving your French!

My email address is:

If you have any questions or concerns about the course, you may also contact the course head, Dr. Walsh, by email (walshj@cofc.edu), by phone (953-6744) or in person at his office in 412 JC Long.