

Maison française

FREN 180-301

Syllabus, automne 2015

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COURSE DESCRIPTION: While Penn prides itself on its communicative language teaching program, the *Maison française* remains the only course that is *exclusively* dedicated to developing conversational skills in French. A longstanding residential program in Gregory College House, Penn's *Maison française* offers residents and students a chance to practice and develop their conversational skills. Our semi-weekly sessions feature Faculty fellow and Professor of French and Cinema Studies, [Philippe Met](#), who leads our weekly discussions of current events--*Cette Semaine en France*. Other sessions will include a variety of activities--French food, films, games, music, museum visits and conversations with native speakers from the Penn community.

TIME & PLACE: The *Maison française* will meet in the Greenhouse of the Class of '25 building of Gregory College House from 7-8pm on **Mondays** and **Wednesdays**.

COURSEWORK: While there is minimal required coursework, students are expected to read and reflect on the news article that is assigned each week in preparation for *Cette semaine en France*.

COURSE CREDIT: Residents have the option of earning credit for Gregory's *Maison française* program (*Advanced French in Residence* FREN 180-301). With departmental permission, Gregory residents may earn ½ credit per semester for a

maximum of two semesters. The *Maison française* remains open to all Penn students and happily accepts motivated, positive and passionate participants from the greater community for non-credit.

GRADING POLICY :

Grades are based on class preparation and participation. Regular attendance and active contributions to class are paramount.

1. PARTICIPATION:

A Student arrives on time, speaks French for the duration of the class period, cooperates well with others, challenges him/herself and takes risks, self-corrects, volunteers their opinion and makes meaningful, supported contributions to discussions.

A- Student arrives on time, speaks French for the duration of the class period, cooperates well with others, makes contributions to discussions, but waits to be called upon by the teacher. The student could make a better effort to incorporate more complex grammatical structures, more sophisticated vocabulary, and more supporting evidence in their remarks.

B Student pays attention, but speaks rarely and in simple, short sentences. Student struggles to express themselves in French and reverts to English to get their ideas across.

C. Student is inattentive, rarely on task or disruptive during classroom activities.

2. ATTENDANCE:

Tardiness will be noted and impact the participation grade for the day. 10-15 minutes late will be counted as a ½ absence. If you arrive more than 20 minutes late you will be marked as absent.

1-3 absences are permitted

Each additional absence after 3, however, will lower your final grade by another letter sign.

