Maison française
FREN 180-301
Syllabus automne 2015
Sterling KOURI, program director
skouri@sas.upenn.edu

COURSE DESCRIPTION: While Penn prides itself on its communicative language teaching program, Gregory's Maison Française remains the only course that is exclusively dedicated to developing conversational skills in French. The Maison Française features two weekly sessions: (1) Cette semaine en France and (2) La France et son Histoire. Cette semaine en France traces contemporary developments in France through the media. It is regularly attended by Gregory faculty master and native Parisian Professor Philippe Met, the chair of the French & Francophone Studies department. La France et son Histoire explores France's institutions, traditions, narratives and monuments, providing a meaningful context for these contemporary issues. These two complimentary conversational hours aim to enrich and broaden your understanding of the French language and history. Discussions will foster cross-cultural comparisons that will encourage you to relativize, reflect upon and share your own cultural heritage and identity. Sessions will be supplemented and occasionally supplanted entirely by special events, from in-house cafés and patisseries to museum visits, film screenings and other cultural events beyond the frontiers of the Penn campus.

TIME & PLACE: The Maison Française will meet throughout the semester in the Greenhouse of Gregory's Class of '25 building from 8-9pm.
   Tuesdays : Cette semaine en France
   Thursdays : La France et son Histoire

COURSEWORK: While there is no required homework, you are encouraged to familiarize yourself with current events in France to prepare for Cette semaine en France. Depending on your linguistic ability, this familiarization may be achieved by reading an article on France in an English newssource, or better yet, by reading the headlines in a French newspaper and following up with an article of your choice. Le Figaro, Le Monde and Libération are a good place to start. Again, while this work is NOT required, it will contribute to more informed, dynamic and
compelling discussions.

**COURSE CREDIT**: Students have the option of earning credit for their official participation in Gregory's *Maison française* program by registering for *Advanced French in Residence* FREN 180-301 through Penn-in-Touch. With departmental permission, you may earn ½ credit per semester for a maximum of two semesters. While Gregory residents are prioritized, the *Maison française* remains open to all Penn students and happily accepts motivated, positive and passionate participants from the greater university community. All levels are welcome.

**GRADING POLICY**:  
Of course, only students participating in the program for credit will be evaluated and awarded grades. Without homework, grades are a pure function of class participation. Regular attendance, punctuality and active contributions in the classroom are therefore 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, sophisticated vocabulary, and supporting evidence in their remarks.

   **B**  Student pays attention, but speaks rarely and only in simple, short sentences. Student struggles to express himself in French and reverts to English to get his ideas across.

   **C**  Student is inattentive, rarely on task and even disruptive during classroom activities.

   *Cell phones are strictly prohibited in class.*

2. **ATTENDANCE:**  
   I will take attendance 5 minutes into class. Any 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 30 minutes late you will be marked as absent.

   1-3 absences are permitted.  
   4-5 absences lower your final grade by one letter sign.  
   5-8 absences lower your final grade by two letter signs.  
   Each additional absence after 8 lowers your final grade by another letter sign.