

Course Name: AP French Language & Culture (4th year)

Duration: 1 Semester Full Year

Grade Level: 9th 10th 11th 12th (check all that apply)

Are there any prerequisites for the course?

Successful completion of French I, II, III (approval of teacher in special cases)

WHAT this course is about:

AP French Language and Culture is a college-level course intended for students in their fourth year of high school French study. The three modes of communication (Interpersonal, Interpretive and Presentational) defined in the Standards for Foreign Language Learning in the 21st Century are foundational to the AP[®] French Language and Culture course. Course work provides students with opportunities to demonstrate their proficiency in each of the three modes in the intermediate to pre-advanced range as described in the ACTFL Performance Guidelines for K–12 Learners. Students who enroll in this course should already have a good command of French grammar and considerable competence in listening, reading, speaking and writing French. When communicating, students in the AP French Language and Culture course demonstrate an understanding of French speaking culture(s), incorporate interdisciplinary topics (connections), make comparisons between their native language and the target language and between cultures (comparisons), and use the target language in real-life settings (communities). French is the primary language used by teacher and students for active communication in the classroom. Students use three primary textbooks and other authentic materials and resources that are in accordance with those suggested on the College Board website. Students are encouraged to take the AP French Language and Culture exam at the end of this course.

WHY take this course:

Pourquoi parler français? (WHY SPEAK FRENCH ?)

Here are ten good reasons.

1. French is an international language.

French is the first or second language in about fifty countries or regions in Europe, Africa, North and South America, Asia, and Oceania. It is spoken by over 100 million people around the world.

2. French is an important diplomatic language.

French is one of the five official languages of the United Nations and one of the two main languages of the European Union.

3. French is the second language on the Internet.

With French, you have immediate access to Internet sites in France and Quebec, as well as sites in Belgium, Switzerland, and French-speaking countries of Africa.

4. France is a technologically advanced country.

Historically, French inventors have contributed significantly to the advancement of science. Today, France is a leader in areas such as aero-space technology, high-speed transportation, automotive design, and medical research.

5. France is a leader in the world of art and literature.

Over the past 400 years, Paris has been an important cultural center, attracting artists and writers from around the world. France has won more Nobel Prizes in literature than any other country.

6. France is a prime tourist destination.

If you like to travel, it will not surprise you to learn that millions of tourists visit France every year — and speaking French makes their vacations much more meaningful and more enjoyable.

7. For many people, France evokes style and elegance.

When people think of high fashion, beauty products, perfumes, or gourmet cuisine, they think of France . . . and rightly so.

8. Knowing French will enrich your English.

In 1066, William the Conqueror, a French nobleman, invaded England and became king, bringing with him his court and his language: French. Today over one-third of all English words are derived from French. As you study French, you will increase your English vocabulary.

9. Knowing French will help you with your university studies.

University admissions officers look for candidates who have foreign language skills. In addition, research by the College Board shows that the longer students study a foreign language, the higher their math and verbal SAT scores.

10. Knowing French will be useful for your career.

Many jobs require the knowledge of another language. France and Canada are major trading partners of the United States. Over 4,600 French companies conduct business in the U.S., providing over 650,000 American jobs. (“French Companies in the U.S.”)

Works Cited

French Companies in the U.S. (n.d.). France in the United States / Embassy of France in Washington, D.C. <https://franceintheus.org/spip.php?article2538>

Just a Moment... www.nationsonline.org/oneworld/france.htm.

Littel, M. (2006). *Discovering French, Nouveau!: Student Edition Level 1 2007* (Students Edition). MCDUGAL LITTEL.

WHAT you'll learn:

Course Overview and Learning Objectives

- To have students become proficient in the French language through interpersonal, interpretive and presentational communication in preparation for the AP French Language and Culture Exam.

- To stress reading, writing, speaking and listening through each of the three modes of communication-Interpersonal, Interpretive, Presentational.
- To enrich the students' cultural knowledge and experience of the Francophone world by comparing their own culture and cultural experiences to those of the francophone world through the six course themes- Global Challenges (Les défis mondiaux); Science and Technology (La science et la technologie); Contemporary Life (La vie contemporaine); Personal and Public Identities (La quête de soi); Families and Communities (La famille et la communauté); Beauty and Aesthetics (L'esthétique).

<https://apcentral.collegeboard.org/media/pdf/ap-french-language-and-culture-course-and-exam-description.pdf>

WHAT you'll do:

AP French Language and Culture will allow students to continue to synthesize their French listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills for a variety of real-life speaking and writing situations. Students begin the school year by reading a high-intermediate abridged edition of Victor Hugo's novel, *Les Misérables*. Students in AP French will also read many authentic articles and at least two novels. Past students have read *Au Revoir Les Enfants* by Louis Malle, *No et Moi* by Delphine de Vigan, and *Le Petit Prince* by Antoine de Saint-Exupéry. The culminating project for French 4 is the STAMP test (Seal of Biliteracy) in March and/or the French AP Language and Culture Exam in May. Taking these exams is optional, but highly encouraged. Both exams are recognized nationwide by most colleges. If you pass the AP exam with a score of 3 or higher, you will receive college credit at most universities. The LCHS French Department has been in contact with many former students who have studied all four years of French at LCHS; they felt their high school French classes prepared them well for upper-level college French courses.

WHERE this could take you:

Knowing French will enrich your English skills.

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one-third of all English words are derived from French. As you study French, you will increase your English vocabulary.

Knowing French will help you with your university studies.

University admissions officers look for candidates who have foreign language skills. In addition, research by the College Board shows that the longer students study a foreign language, the higher their math and verbal SAT scores. The LCHS French Department has been in contact with many former LCHS students who have studied all four years of French at LCHS; they felt their high school French classes prepared them well for upper-level college French courses.

Knowing French will be useful for your career.

Many jobs require the knowledge of another language. France and Canada are major trading partners of the United States. In addition, over 1,000 French companies have subsidiaries in the United States.

OPTIONAL Course Outline (“scope and sequence”, sequence chart, etc.)

Semester 1

- Students will be introduced to the six AP French Language and Culture themes. Global Challenges (Les défis mondiaux); Science and Technology (La science et la technologie); Contemporary Life (La vie contemporaine); Personal and Public Identities (La quête de soi); Families and Communities (La famille et la communauté); Beauty and Aesthetics (L'esthétique).
- Students will develop their French reading skills and analyze a high-intermediate abridged edition of Victor Hugo's *Les Misérables*. Students will also have the opportunity to select reading materials of their interest.
- Students will perfect their French speaking skills by comparing the United States to French speaking cultures with topics related to the six themes.
- Students will improve their French writing skills by exploring topics related to the six themes. Students will learn to write formal emails.
- Students will improve their French listening skills by listening to authentic news casts and podcasts in French.

Semester 2

- Students will continue to build the language skills they developed first semester.
- Students will learn to listen to and comprehend native speakers of French.
- Students will learn to write an argumentative essay in French.
- Students will read ***Le Petit Prince*** by Antoine de Saint-Exupéry.
- Students will create a book club with their peers. They will choose either a high-intermediate abridged French novel or an authentic French novel.
- Students will develop advanced presentational skills.
- Students will take a practice AP exam.