**Course Overview**

The goal of this course is to improve students’ reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills in the French language in preparation for the French Language and Culture AP Exam. As this course is intended to be the equivalent of a third-year college course, students use French in ways that reach a high level of proficiency. The emphasis for all class activities is on authentic practice and usage in interpersonal, presentational, and interpretive modalities.

Students are expected to read and understand authentic French texts, including but not limited to literature, newspaper and magazine articles, blogs, and letters. They must listen to and understand a variety of authentic auditory media, such as conversations between native speakers, news reports, films, and plays. Writing activities are typically linked to the reading and/or listening materials that are being covered in class. Students write on a variety of topics and in a variety of formats that require them to employ proper grammar, vocabulary, rhetorical devices, and structure depending on the nature of the assignment. Students must also discuss class material orally, participate in debates, hold conversations in groups, describe images, and give presentations where they must present cultural topics. Throughout the course, students are exposed to and expected to accurately use new vocabulary and grammatical structures. In addition, all activities are designed to deepen students’ understanding of French and Francophone culture. They are expected to analyze how these cultures and societies compare to their own. Students’ speaking, writing, and comprehension abilities will be assessed throughout the course. The course is taught entirely in French, and students are not permitted to use English.

An invaluable resource for cultural knowledge, as well as for interpersonal speaking and writing, is the classroom in Thionville, France with which we correspond. The students in the class in France can provide first-hand knowledge of French life, such as preparing for the BAC, daily activities, planning for the future, use of technology, etc. I plan to hold live video Skype conversations with the class as much as possible, and it is my hope that the students in the class in France correspond with my students through social media.

Students are expected to turn in all materials on time and to complete reading assignments within the given time-frame. Each AP student is required to do three current events presentations; two biographical presentations; and one major research project. French 5 students are required to do two current events presentations; one biographical presentation; and one major research project. The AP exam is Tuesday, May 13 at noon.

**Course Materials and Resources**

**Textbooks**

*Trésors du temps*

*Une fois pour toutes*

**Other Sources and Materials**

*Kit Pédagogique, pour une utilisation de documents audiovisuels dans les cours de français* (Un projet éducatif par TV5 Monde, RFI, et le CLEMI)

French Media websites (TV5, RFI, Le Monde, La Libération, Le Figaro, BBC Monde, etc.) for listening and reading comprehension

Online texts (Giono; Maupassant; Molière;, etc.)

Music and music videos

**Course Unit Planner**

Families and Communities (August/September)

Science and Technology (October/November)

Contemporary Life (December/January)

Personal and Public Identities (February)

Global Challenges (March)

Beauty and Aesthetics (April)

Review and Practice tests (end of April-May)