French Beginner A1

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Office hours by appointment

Fall Semester 2014
Monday: 13.30-15.00
Wednesday: 9.00-10.30
Friday: 10.45-12.15

Course Materials
Taxi, Méthode de français 1, Hachette
Grammaire progressive du français, Niveau débutant, CLE international
Communication progressive du français, CLE International
Exerçons-nous, Grammaire, 350 exercices Niveau débutant Hachette

Note: You will work with Taxi 1 + CD and Grammaire progressive Niveau Debutant that you’ll check out from the Library. These books belong to the Bard College Berlin library and need to be returned at the end of the semester. Try to avoid writing in these loaned books. If you have to, however, make sure to use a pencil and erase your notes prior to returning the books. Or you can either copy the exercises into your own notebook or make a photocopy of the pages you’re asked to work on. You will receive photocopies of some of the pages of the two other books.

Recommended:
- We encourage you to make use of the language learning materials on the Bard Center for Foreign Languages and Culture website at http://cflc.bard.edu/frenchlanguage
- If you are in for a challenge, you can tune in on Radio France Internationale (RFI): www.rfi.fr
- TV5 Monde at www.tv5.org.
- You might find very useful the comprehensive language site: www.lepointdufle.net

Course Description
This 90 hours course is designed to help you achieve the A1 level according to the Common European Framework of reference for languages. At the end of this course, the learner:

- Can understand and use familiar everyday expressions and phrases expressing basic needs of a concrete type.
- Can introduce him/herself and others and can ask and answer questions about personal details such as where he/she lives, people he/she knows and things he/she has.
• Can interact in a simple way provided the other person talks slowly and clearly and is prepared to help.

Most classroom interaction will be in French, because input and use are the chief engines of foreign language acquisition.

• **Active and consistent classroom participation** is crucial to your success at acquiring the language.
• Make sure to always bring a hardcopy of your written homework to class. Assignments should be double-spaced and have margins of about 3 cm on each side for comments and corrections.

### Attendance
Since interaction is critical for language learning, we take class attendance very seriously. You will be allowed no more than three absences during the semester.

### Learning and Testing
- Every week (except 1st and last week), on Fridays, you will take a short (5-10min) vocabulary test. After each class you will receive by email a list of vocabulary to learn for the next class. Your test will consist of translating English words into French or giving synonyms or definitions of French words given in the test. These tests will not be graded, but their results will be proportioned. You will then receive a percentage number.

- The tests must be taken on the announced test days (probably on Fridays). The only acceptable means of rescheduling a test are: (a) prior arrangements with me in the case of religious holidays, pressing personal or family matters, or (b) written notification from a doctor or from the Dean of Bard College Berlin following the absence. (Tests that are missed and not excused under these terms will not be rescheduled, and will receive a score of “0%”.)

- Grammatical tests will take place after each big chapter (“Unité”). Your mid-term grade will be determined by the mid-term test taken Week 6.

- At the end of the semester there will be a final examination, contents TBA.

### Grading
Your Grade will be based on class attendance, quality of participation, written homework assignments, and tests:
- **Class Participation** 20%
- **Homework, written** 20%
- **Presentations** 20%
Please be punctual and considerate. Switch off your mobile phone before each class, and keep bathroom breaks to a minimum. Interruptions are bad for everybody’s concentration.

Please note:

The learning goals of this beginner’s class A1 are in accordance with the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages: Learning, Teaching, Assessment (abbreviated as CEFR). CEFR is a guideline used to describe achievements of learners of foreign languages across Europe. It describes what a learner is supposed to be able to do in reading, listening, speaking and writing at each level. Our class fulfils the requirements of the “A1 Breakthrough or beginner” level. What this means is that once you have completed the class successfully you are able to

- understand and use familiar everyday expressions and very basic phrases aimed at the satisfaction of needs of a concrete type,
- introduce yourself and others and ask and answer questions about personal details such as where you live, people you know and things you have,
- interact in a simple way provided the other person talks slowly and clearly and is prepared to help.
This syllabus is subject to change. You are responsible throughout the semester for knowing what you have to do for each class.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Unity TAXI 1</th>
<th>Communicative and grammatical goals</th>
<th>Homework/Tests</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>1 En route!</td>
<td>General introduction, phonetic Questions Etre, avoir, aller, verbs, articles.</td>
<td>Grammar test 1</td>
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<td>2</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>2 A la découverte des objets</td>
<td>Negation Plural Il y a /être</td>
<td>Grammar test 2</td>
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<td>4</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>3 Ou vivent les français</td>
<td>Prendre, vivre Reflective verbs Pronoun adverbial en</td>
<td>EVALUATION mid-term test</td>
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<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>4 Au rythme du temps</td>
<td>Verbs of movement, time, est-ce qu' Article partitif Passe compose : avoir</td>
<td>Grammar test 3</td>
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<td>8</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>5 La vie de tous les jours</td>
<td>Passe compose : être Adjectives Boire, acheter, manger</td>
<td>Grammar test 4</td>
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<td>10</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>6 On ne peut pas plaire à tout le monde!</td>
<td>Connaître, offrir, le, la , l', COI pronoms Pouvoir, vouloir, savoir Il faut + inf.</td>
<td>Grammar test 5</td>
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<td>12</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>7 Un peu, beaucoup, passionnément</td>
<td>Pronoun adverbial y Trop/assez, tout : pronom, adj, adv revision</td>
<td>FINAL TEST</td>
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<td>14</td>
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Final Test: Dec 15, 9:00