

**French 4900A Language**  
**(Advanced Level IV, Special Topic)**  
**Instructor: Valérie Prat**  
**September – December 2019**

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**CURRENT CALENDAR COURSE DESCRIPTION**

The study of specific problems in the French language.

3 lecture hours, 0.5 course.

Antirequisite(s): The former French 491.

Prerequisite(s): French 3900 or French 3300 or (both French 3306A/B and 3307A/B) or permission of the Department based on Placement Test results.

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**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

French 4900A addresses the needs of students who seek to improve their oral skills, and acquire basic theoretical and practical knowledge of oral language. The course analyzes aspects of pronunciation, vocabulary, syntax and culture which are typical of every day conversation; as well, it compares sociolinguistic and phonetics phenomena with English. This course is an introduction to “la langue familière” (colloquial language) from France, and presents various aspects of oral French, including vocabulary and pronunciation in a sociolinguistic context.

We will discuss similarities and differences existing between the oral languages of France and Québec, and between French and English. The material will be authentic French songs and video clips. This course will provide students with a strong background in oral French.

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**HOURS PER WEEK**

Tuesday	4:30-6:30	BR - 202
Thursday	4:30-5:30	BR - 202

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**PROFESSOR**

**Name:** Valérie Prat

**Office hours:** Thursday 12:30 – 2:30

**Office:** TBA

**Tel.:** TBA

**+ Appointments**

**E-mail:** [vprat@uwo.ca](mailto:vprat@uwo.ca)

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**COURSE MATERIAL**

**Required Texts**

— Songs to be downloaded

— Custom Course Book **French 4900A - September 2019**. Nadine de Moras (on OWL – Resources, coursebook)

**Recommended**

- Collins-Robert large French-English/English-French Dictionary

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## LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Upon successful completion of this course, it is expected that students will:

- understand and be able to explain French and oral language mechanisms and principles;
  - have improved oral communication, production and comprehension;
  - have learned, practiced, and be able to use colloquial language, as it is currently spoken in France;
  - have improved pronunciation and master the French phonetic system (liaisons, enchaînements, intonation, stress...) at a native-like level; “e”caduc, assimilations, etc., and other specific characteristics of informal spoken French;
  - have become familiar with various aspects of both French and Canadian Francophone culture;
  - demonstrate the ability to teach French oral language (vocabulary, pronunciation, grammar and culture) with songs.
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## MARKS DISTRIBUTION

— Weekly quizzes on OWL (preparation)	15%
— 2 recordings (2 x 10%)	20%
— 2 written assignments (2 x 10%)	20%
— 1 midterm	15%
— Final exam	30%

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## MISSED OR LATE WORK POLICY

1. A student who misses a test or an assignment should contact the instructor by e-mail as soon as possible: [vprat@uwo.ca](mailto:vprat@uwo.ca)
  2. For any assignment or test worth 10% or more of the final grade, students must submit documentation and contact an academic advisor in order to obtain an official accommodation recommendation from an academic advisor.
  3. Without an official accommodation recommendation, late assignments will be assessed a penalty of 5% per day within a week of when it was scheduled. Failure to write it within this time will result in 0% for the assignment in question. Students must consult with the professor and a prior permission must be obtained before the due date.
  4. Late assignment must be submitted **in class** (not by e-mail, not under the professor’s door).
  5. Oral presentations will NOT be re-scheduled. The final exam will be re-weighted to include the percentage of the final grade originally allotted to the oral presentation, provided an academic advisor has recommended an official accommodation.
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## ATTENDANCE & PARTICIPATION:

Attendance and participation are essential to your success in learning. Because attendance is so important in language courses, a student who has missed more than 25% of the classes may not be allowed to write the final exam. Participation is demonstrated through active involvement in class activities, coming to class prepared after having completed exercises on OWL.

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## **WEEKLY QUIZZES ON OWL (15%)**

This is a flipped classroom. This means that students are supposed to learn the material on their own, outside of class, including the weekly quizzes. All the information to learn is clearly explained in the coursebook and the Power Point presentations. The class time is for oral practice and answering questions.

The first purpose of the quizzes is to encourage the students to do their homework each work. The second purpose is to provide students with some feedback about what they learned and what they did not. The third purpose is to prepare students for the midterm and the final exam, as the majority of the questions will be taken from the quizzes.

The quizzes test the students' preparation. Students should have learned the chapter before coming to class, completed the quizzes on Sakai by Sunday night so that they can practice in class, oral exercises.

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## **2 RECORDINGS (2 X 10% = 20%)**

A portion of this course content is about pronunciation. It means that students' first work is to listen to the songs and to repeat/sing at the same time they listen to the songs to practice pronunciation. There are also pronunciation exercises done in class. The recordings test the students' mastery of the pronunciation rules and concepts which have been studied.

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## **2 WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS (2 X 10% = 20%)**

The written assignments aim at applying the new vocabulary and sentence structures in authentic conversations in writing using various French language registers. In one part of the assignment, students will use informal language (a letter to a friend representing oral language), and a discussion about a cultural topic using formal language.

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## **1 MIDTERM (15%)**

The midterm will test the cultural, syntactic, phonetic and lexical content of what has been studied until half of the term. The vocabulary questions will be taken from the quizzes and the cultural, syntactic, and phonetic content will be taken from the coursebook and what was presented in class.

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## **FINAL EXAM (30%)**

The final exam is cumulative and the content of the exam will cover all the vocabulary, pronunciation rules and cultural content which have been studied in the course including before the midterm. The final exam will have the same format as the midterm, but will be longer (3 hours).

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## **BRESCIA COMPETENCIES**

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

### **1. Demonstrate the communication competency by being able to:**

- Demonstrate knowledge and mastery of various phenomena in language variation, adjust behaviour and language register to context and is aware when contexts have changed.
- Show knowledge and understanding of oral language: vocabulary, grammar and pronunciation by answering questions, and explaining concepts.
- Recognize, identify, compare and use various French language registers.
- Compare linguistic phenomena of English and French oral language.
- Continue to develop ability to understand, use and apply theories in oral language (syntactic and phonetic rules).
- Apply new vocabulary in exercises, authentic conversations and writing;
- Show knowledge of pronunciation rules, by using them appropriately during recordings and in-class oral practice.
- Apply their knowledge and skills in oral and written comprehension and production in authentic communication situations (understanding a dialogue from a movie or understanding songs, writing a letter to a friend, having a conversation with a friend).
- Communicate with Francophones in oral and written contexts.
- Use existing knowledge of language and culture to enhance effectiveness of communication with Francophones using accurate language registers, vocabulary and pronunciation.

### **2. Demonstrate the Self Awareness and Development competency by being able to:**

- Consistently choose and act with intention to be more effective in interaction with others.
- Accurately observe, analyze and evaluate own performance and determine how to improve it.
- Evaluate own performance on a goal (recordings, oral presentation, compositions) in a fair and accurate manner, recognizing areas for improvement, as well as personal successes worth celebrating (such as reaching near-native pronunciation).
- Demonstrate an understanding of the role of emotions in language and communication both in French and English.
- Use self-monitoring to adjust thoughts, actions and strategies during the performance of tasks.

### **3. Demonstrate the Social Awareness and Engagement competency:**

- Demonstrate an appreciation of French culture, and how culture is related to communication strategies, by explaining French cultural phenomena, and comparing them to selected phenomena in a Canadian context.
- Demonstrate understanding of diverse global, national, and local perspectives and ways of living by developing a better understanding of French and Canadian cultures and social issues.
- Use social and cultural components during a language lesson to teach intercultural communication.

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### **Note**

Please note that the information on this page is tentative; the official version of the course outline will be available at the first class.

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## **2018-19 BRESCIA UNIVERSITY COLLEGE ACADEMIC POLICIES AND REGULATIONS**

### **1. POLICY REGARDING MAKEUP EXAMS AND EXTENSIONS OF DEADLINES**

When a student requests academic accommodation (e.g., extension of a deadline, a makeup exam) for work representing 10% or more of the student's overall grade in the course, it is the responsibility of the student to provide acceptable documentation to support a medical or compassionate claim. All such requests for academic accommodation must be made through an Academic Advisor and include supporting documentation.

Academic accommodation for illness will be granted only if the documentation indicates that the onset, duration and severity of the illness are such that the student could not reasonably be expected to complete her academic responsibilities. Minor ailments typically treated by over-the-counter medications will not normally be accommodated.

Students must submit their documentation along with a request for relief specifying the nature of the accommodation being requested no later than two business days after the date specified for resuming responsibilities. In cases where there might be an extended absence or serious issue, students should submit their documentation promptly and consult their Academic Advisor for advice during their recovery period. Whenever possible, students who require academic accommodation should provide notification and documentation in advance of due dates, examinations, etc. Appropriate academic accommodation will be determined by the Dean's Office/Academic Advisor in consultation with the student's instructor(s). Academic accommodation may include extension of deadlines, waiver of attendance requirements for classes/labs/tutorials, arranging Special Exams or Incompletes, re-weighting course requirements, or granting late withdrawals without academic penalty

Please note that personal commitments (e.g., vacation flight bookings, work schedule) which conflict with a scheduled test, exam or course requirement are not grounds for academic accommodation.

A UWO Student Medical Certificate (SMC) is required if a student is seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds. This documentation should be obtained at the time of the initial consultation with the physician/nurse practitioner or walk-in clinic. A SMC can be downloaded from:

[http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf) . The student must request documentation sufficient to demonstrate that her ability to meet academic responsibilities was seriously affected. Please note that under University Senate regulations documentation stating simply that the student "was seen for a medical reason" or "was ill" is not adequate to support a request for academic accommodation.

The full policy on requesting accommodation due to illness can be viewed at:

[http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page\\_12](http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page_12)

### **2. ACADEMIC CONCERNS**

If you feel that you have a medical or personal challenge that is interfering with your work, contact your instructor and Academic Advisor as soon as possible. Problems may then be documented and possible arrangements to assist you can be discussed at the time of occurrence rather than on a retroactive basis. Retroactive requests for academic accommodation on medical or compassionate grounds are not normally considered.

If you think that you are too far behind to catch up or that your work load is not manageable, you should consult your Academic Advisor. If you consider reducing your workload by dropping one or more courses, this must be done by the appropriate deadlines (refer to the Registrar's website, <http://brescia.uwo.ca/academics/registrar-services/> or the list of official sessional dates in the Academic Calendar, see the Sessional Dates tab at

<http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/index.cfm?SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=> ). You should consult with the course instructor and the Academic Advisor who can help you consider alternatives to dropping one or more courses. Note that dropping a course may affect OSAP eligibility and/or Entrance Scholarship eligibility.

### 3. ABSENCES

**Short Absences:** If you miss a class due to a minor illness or other problems, check your course outline for information regarding attendance requirements and make sure you are not missing a test or assignment. Cover any readings and arrange to borrow notes from a classmate. Contact the course instructor if you have any questions.

**Extended Absences:** If you have an extended absence, you should contact the course instructor and an Academic Advisor. Your course instructor and Academic Advisor can discuss ways for you to catch up on missed work and arrange academic accommodations, if appropriate and warranted.

It is important to note that the Academic Dean may refuse permission to write the final examination in a course if the student has failed to maintain satisfactory academic standing throughout the year or for too frequent absence from the class or laboratory

([http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=5&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#SubHeading\\_68](http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=5&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#SubHeading_68) ).

### 4. SCHOLASTIC OFFENCES

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at:

[http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page\\_20](http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page_20) .

Students are responsible for understanding the nature of and avoiding the occurrence of plagiarism and other academic offences. Note that such offences include plagiarism, cheating on an examination, submitting false or fraudulent assignments or credentials, impersonating a candidate, or submitting for credit in any course without the knowledge and approval of the instructor to whom it is submitted, any academic work for which credit has previously been obtained or is being sought in another course in the University or elsewhere. Students are advised to consult the section on Scholastic Discipline for Undergraduate Students in the Academic Calendar.

If you are in doubt about whether what you are doing is inappropriate or not, consult your instructor, the Academic Dean's Office, or the Registrar. A claim that "you didn't know it was wrong" is not accepted as an excuse.

The penalties for a student guilty of a scholastic offence (including plagiarism) include refusal of a passing grade in the assignment, refusal of a passing grade in the course, suspension from the University, and expulsion from the University.

#### **Plagiarism:**

Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence. All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>).

#### **Computer-marked Tests/exams:**

Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating. Software currently in use to score computer-marked multiple-choice tests and exams performs a similarity review as part of standard exam analysis.

## **5. PROCEDURES FOR APPEALING ACADEMIC EVALUATIONS**

All appeals of a grade must be directed first to the course instructor. If the student is not satisfied with the decision of the course instructor, a written appeal is to be sent to the School Chair. If the response of the Chair is considered unsatisfactory to the student, she may then submit a written appeal to the Office of the Dean. If the student is not satisfied with the decision of the Dean, she may appeal to the Senate Review Board Academic (SRBA), if there are sufficient grounds for the appeal. For information on academic appeals you can consult your Academic Advisor or see the Student Academic Appeals – Undergraduate in the Academic Calendar

[http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page\\_14](http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page_14).

Note that final course marks are not official until the Academic Dean has reviewed and signed the final grade report for the course. If course marks deviate from acceptable and appropriate standards, the Academic Dean may require grades to be adjusted to align them with accepted grading practices.

## **6. PREREQUISITES**

Unless you have either the prerequisites for a course or written special permission from the Dean to enroll in it, you will be removed from the course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisite(s).

## **7. SUPPORT**

### **Support Services**

The Brescia University College Registrar's website, with a link to Academic Advisors, is at <http://brescia.uwo.ca/academics/registrar-services/> . The website for the Student Development Centre at Western is <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/> .

### **Mental Health and Wellness**

Students may experience a range of issues that can cause barriers to your learning, such as increased anxiety, feeling overwhelmed, feeling down or lost, difficulty concentrating and/or lack of motivation. Services are available to assist you with addressing these and other concerns you may be experiencing. You can learn more about mental health and wellness at Brescia at <http://brescia.uwo.ca/life/mental-health-wellness/>. Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Health and Wellness at Western, [http://uwo.ca/health/mental\\_wellbeing/index.html](http://uwo.ca/health/mental_wellbeing/index.html), for information about how to obtain help for yourself or others.

### **Sexual Violence**

All members of the Brescia University College community have a right to work and study in an environment that is free from any form of sexual violence. Brescia University College recognizes that the prevention of, and response to, Sexual Violence is of particular importance in the university environment. Sexual Violence is strictly prohibited and unacceptable and will not be tolerated. Brescia is committed to preventing Sexual Violence and creating a safe space for anyone in the Brescia community who has experienced Sexual Violence.

If you or someone you know has experienced any form of Sexual Violence, you may access resources at <http://brescia.uwo.ca/life/sexual-violence/>.

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Portions of this document were taken from the Academic Calendar, the Handbook of Academic and Scholarship Policy and the Academic Handbook of Senate Regulations. This document is a summary of relevant regulations and does not supersede the academic policies and regulations of the Senate of the University of Western Ontario.