

**French 3010W** : This course aims to develop greater confidence in writing French, so that common forms of written expression may be better mastered and writing style improved.

Several goals are pursued:

- 1- Further the acquisition of grammatical skills and appropriate spelling. Students have to prepare dictations of increasing difficulty and length. The texts proposed through the semester are extracts from larger literary works and present a various range of grammatical challenges and complexity of vocabulary. This exercise allows the students to better understand the syntax and structure of the French language and usually gives encouraging results. It requires a thorough analysis of the text to prepare and a close examination of its grammatical difficulties.
- 2- Provide intensive drilling both oral and written to develop a better feel for the language and to familiarize students with idiomatic expressions and invite them to use a more natural way to express their thoughts in the target language. Various types of activities are used, such as sentence reconstructions, filling blanks in a previously studied text, simulated conversations on a specific topic, brainstorming for synonyms, drilling on derivatives and search for roots of complex words to better understand the dynamics of the target language.
- 3- Develop their ability to translate and avoid a word to word rendering of a text. This exercise is particularly helpful to point out the differences between languages and the way people express their thoughts. It is also the most demanding and challenging exercise. The 3 texts to translate are very varied but kept short and useful for the students. The correction is done in class and it is a collective exercise where students are asked to elicit what they perceive as the best translation. It is generally a popular though difficult activity.
- 4- Present students with a wide range of topics for their compositions. (4 during the semester). They are required to write:
  - 1- a description of a particularly significant place in their childhood,
  - 2- an elaborate portrait of a person of their choice,
  - 3- a convincing public speech,
  - 4- a humoristic essay on a specific topicAll these essays are corrected twice so that the students have a chance to improve their performances.
- 5- Increase improvement of writing techniques through the collective short-story which is part of the course assignment. (samples of short-stories are available in my office).

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