



McLean High School Course Description and Expectations

Courses: French AP Language

Prerequisites: French 4 for students from a U.S. High School. There will be a placement test for students coming from abroad.

Short Course Description: The purpose of this course is to increase the students’ skills in communicating in French. Specifically, they understand the spoken target language in both formal and conversational situations. They express ideas accurately and resourcefully, both orally and in writing, with reasonable fluency and they develop a vocabulary sufficiently ample for reading newspaper and magazine articles, contemporary literature and other non-technical writings. They receive extensive training in the organization and writing of compositions, review syntax and study selected works by contemporary artists. Materials will include recordings, films, newspapers, and magazines. The course will prepare students to take the Advanced Placement Language examination given each Spring, for which placement and/or credit may be awarded at the college level if a qualifying score is obtained.

Summer Assignment: May include reading short stories or an abridged detective story.

Work Load during the School Year: One hour of homework per 90 minute class. There will be 2-3 essays and/or cassettes and 1-4 major tests per quarter.

Special Course Information: Regular attendance is crucial to success in the class. Students need to be enthusiastic about being in a class where only French is spoken and they need to be committed to working conscientiously and consistently to improve their skills in all aspects of the language. Students will need to purchase the AP preparation book.

Available Support: Teachers are available to help students after school as necessary.

Student Quotes:

“It is a challenging class but the material is more challenging than the workload. If you discipline yourself to do the work, you will understand the material and do well.”

“The workload is very manageable for this class but you can’t just blow stuff off and not study, especially with vocabulary. You’re constantly studying even if it’s just a little bit every day.”

“When coming into the class, make sure you have a good understanding of the basic verb tenses. You need to listen in class to make sure you can do homework. Always ask if you have a question so you don’t get behind.”

“The homework load is manageable but studying for tests is very important.”

Please sign indicating that you have read and understand the nature of this AP course.

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student signature

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parent signature

