

Department: World Languages
Course Name: Honors French V

Course Description:

Honors French V is a year-long course that offers students the opportunity to explore the world of French through history, literature and film. It comprises a more specific focus on grammar and vocabulary in the language, and it introduces students to more complex structures and usages in the target language that are set into various contexts. The students will read selections of French literature from six different periods. In addition, there are several videos, documentaries and films that complement the students' studies of history. Students will finesse writing, vocabulary and speaking skills. The objective of the course is to further students' understanding of francophone history and culture through film and authentic source material, as well as prepare them for continued studies at the college level. The class is conducted in French.

Content:

Histoire de France: a survey of French history from the period of pre-Roman civilization through the birth of Gaul; a study of the roots of France as an off shoot of the Roman occupation into the beginning of the Middle Ages; the various royal dynasties, tribes and invasions; the Hundred Years War and the wars of religion; the rise of absolute monarchy in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries; the fall of the Ancien Régime and the French Revolution; the age of Napoléon Bonaparte and the Empire; the advent of the Second and Third Republics, as well as the Franco-Prussian war; finally, the cataclysm of the First World War. There will be one representative work of authentic literature from each of the six principal periods of French history that the students will read. At various points along the historical spectrum, there will be an intensive study of advanced grammar and vocabulary to aid the students with writing, reading and speaking at a higher level of proficiency.

Skills:

Reinforcing grammar concepts through writing formalized essays, dialogues and oral presentations
Speaking in sustained French in different registers (formal and informal)
Reading in both conversational and literary styles as presented in the history and literature
Improving focused listening skills by watching several documentaries, films or videos that are academic in nature to enhance auditory proficiency and overall comprehension

Text and Materials:

Blume, Eli Cours supérieur (AMSCO Publications, 1971)
De Bertier de Sauvigny, Guillaume Histoire de France (Flammarion, 1977)
Bâ, Mariama Une Si Longue Lettre (Les Nouvelles Éditions Africaines, 1979)
Bédier, Joseph, éd Tristan et Iseult (Hachette Livre, 2003)
Corneille, Pierre Le Cid (Librairie Larousse, 1970)
Daudet, Alphonse Lettres de mon moulin (Classiques Larousse, 1992)
Sartre, Jean-Paul Huis clos (Gallimard, 1947)
Schofer, Peter et.al. Poèmes, Pièces, Prose (Oxford University Press, 1972)
Voltaire Romans et Contes : « Candide » (Flammarion, 1966)

Methods of Instruction:

Conversational exchange (teacher-student or student-student)
Direct explanation: lecture

Student-led discussions through oral presentation format
Review/revision of homework activities
Analytical viewing and discussion of films, literature, and online media in French
Drill/simulation activities
Dialogues
Games

Methods of Evaluation:

Tests (written, oral, and auditory tasks)
Quizzes (oral and written)
Homework checks
Thematically-based essays
Class participation
Oral Presentations
Journal entries
Graded compositions – teacher and peer editing
Dictation

