

***Student Comments from the Erasmus Academy
French Course Online of Summer 2018
Taught by Mr. Fabien Rivière***

The exercises and online interaction with the professor and other students to respond to questions and interpretive challenges are the two most valuable strengths.

I might include an exercise or series of examples that help illustrate the literal structure of a French text that can be read in English so the “flavor” for how French is written is more easily grasped. For example, “The dog large is asleep.”

Not only has this course given me a greater appreciation for the French language and helped me to be much more proficient in my interpretive skills with respect to French texts, it has also helped to give insight into French culture so as to aid me in relating (on an anthropological level) to those from France and/or those who understand the French language.

I would recommend this course with enthusiasm. Students should block time to take seriously the exercises particular to the course text, which will certainly help to add depth to the online (i.e. “real time”) classroom hours and discussion.

In addition to Fabien’s grasp of both French and English, his Social/Emotional intelligence and use of levity make the challenges of an 8 week intensive course in the French language, which can be somewhat intimidating, less daunting..

Fabian is both professional and accessible. The only minor suggestion might be to consider narrowing the online class time to specific items of study within each chapter rather than attempting to cover all items in each chapter in both lecture and exercise during the class time. This might mean recording a lecture for each of the chapters separate from the class for students to review outside of formal class time (such a lecture can be shorter or longer depending on the degree of technical complexity), which then frees the class time up for more direct student-instructor interaction and evaluation.

Brandon A.

July 22, 2018

Fabien was positive, engaging, interactive - and easy to learn from. I have learned to become comfortable with the French language, to understand grammar and wording, and to break down sentences and content.

Having Google classroom was very helpful! Having the lesson notes available and recordings in one site was very helpful. Saved time... The coursework was not so overwhelming that I couldn't spend time memorizing the material.

Elisa W.

July 20, 2018

The textbook uses material in exercises and review that are then incorporated into exams. On-line with Fabien allowed for ability to have questions answered on the spot, and learning expanded from group discussion rather than studying the book alone.

Regarding improvements, I would vary content with material from other disciplines. I am a theology/Bible student. Much of vocabulary from the sciences was less helpful.

Generally, the instructor was the most helpful. I think I learned more in less time than in other courses; focus on reading was excellent. Some of Fabien's strengths are his flexibility and his support of the students, and 'not giving answers' but guiding students to discover answers for him/herself, and the ability to supply additional resources.

Vicki P.

July 24, 2018