

**Fall 2026 – French Conversation and Culture**  
**FREN 3120 A – 90676 - Syllabus**  
**MW – 11:00 am – 12:15 am – Swann 325**

Instructor: **Dr. Sophie Landrieux-Kartochian.**

Office hours: MW: 12:30 pm – 1:45 pm and **by appointment.**

Email address: [skartochian3@gatech.edu](mailto:skartochian3@gatech.edu)

Communication for this course will be via Announcements or Inbox. Please enable the notification preferences on your **Canvas account** if you have turned it off (Canvas > Account > Notifications > Announcement).

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**COURSE DELIVERY MODE**

This is a 3 Credit Hour class. The instruction will be residential.

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**CORE IMPACTS COURSE**

**FREN 3120-A - French Conversation and Culture - This is a Core IMPACTS course that is part of the Humanities area.**

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Core IMPACTS refers to the core curriculum, which provides students with essential knowledge in foundational academic areas. This course will help students master course content, and support students' broad academic and career goals.

This course should direct students toward a broad Orienting Question:  
- *How do I interpret the human experience through creative, linguistic, and philosophical works?*

Completion of this course should enable students to meet the following Learning Outcome:

- Students will effectively analyze and interpret the meaning, cultural significance, and ethical implications of literary/philosophical texts or of works in the visual/performing arts.

Course content, activities and exercises in this course should help students develop the following Career-Ready Competencies:

- Ethical Reasoning
- Information Literacy
- Intercultural Competence

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**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This class is designed to help students improve their French speaking skills and use French at an advanced level. Not for beginners. Conducted in French.

Through discussion of current issues and several topics, you will expand your communication skills and intercultural competence in French. The aim of this course is to help students improve their research, speaking,

and presentational skills in French. Specifically, they will work on their pronunciation, build their vocabulary, and improve their comprehension of written texts or audio. We will discuss texts and videos, analyze the cultural significance of pieces of art, practice debate, and deliver presentations. Grammar review and some writing will be incorporated.

## COURSE GOALS AND LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of this course, students:

- will identify and discuss situations and challenges facing contemporary francophone countries (intercultural competence).
- will have a better grasp of the French language and cultural differences in a francophone country (intercultural competence).
- will effectively analyze and interpret the meaning, cultural significance, and ethical implications of literary/philosophical texts and/or of works in the visual/performing arts.
- will communicate effectively and in writing, demonstrating clear organization and structure, using appropriate grammar, and writing conventions (linguistic accuracy).
- will appropriately acknowledge the use of materials from original sources (Informational literacy).
- will effectively analyze the complexity of human behavior, and how historical, economic, political, social, cultural, or geographic relationships develop, persist, or change.
- will demonstrate knowledge on specific topics through oral presentations, projects and essay/article writing (creative expression).
- will adapt their communications to purpose and audience.

More specifically,

Students will demonstrate :

- oral proficiency at the Intermediate Mid or higher level on the ACTFL scale through several oral presentations and the facilitation of discussions. They will demonstrate effective presentation skills in the target language.
- writing proficiency in the target language. Students will produce well-articulated written descriptions at the Intermediate High (or above) level on the ACTFL scale by writing articles for a class magazine.
- proficiency in comprehension of authentic written texts in the target Language. Students will summarize and discuss articles while demonstrating their comprehension of authentic texts related to specialized topics in their targeted area(s) of expertise.
- in-depth knowledge of a *specific* target-language country or region. Students will research and deliver several presentations in the target language, incorporating geographical, scientific, historical, and/or cultural dimensions.
- the ability to analyze an issue from target-culture perspective(s). Students will display the ability to analyze, debate, and compare several topics related to the news, art, culture, or society in a francophone country. They will evaluate an issue from the target culture and language's perspective and draw comparisons between the US and the target culture and language thus sharpening their critical reflection skills on cultural complexity and context.

## COURSE MATERIALS

- **Documents and links will be shared on Canvas.**

- **Recommended at the advanced level:**

A bilingual dictionary (for example: *Collins Robert French Unabridged Dictionary*), and a unilingual, French-French dictionary. You may also consider an online dictionary such as Larousse (<https://www.larousse.fr/dictionnaires/anglais-francais>).

A grammar book (for example: *Contrastes, Grammaire du français courant* de Denise Rochat) and a *Bescherelle (Complete Guide to Conjugating 12000 French Verbs)* or online: <https://m.bescherelle.com/conjugueur.php>.

## GRADING SCALE

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Your final grade will be assigned as a letter grade according to the following scale:

A	90-100%
B	80-89%
C	70-79%
D	60-69%
F	0-59%

See <http://registrar.gatech.edu/info/grading-system> for more information about the grading system at Georgia Tech.

## EVALUATION

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<b>Active Participation &amp; Course Preparation</b>	<b>20 %</b>
<b>Oral in-class Presentation or Recorded Podcast</b>	<b>10 %</b>
<b>Art and AI Project</b>	<b>15 %</b>
<b>Magazine Project</b>	<b>20 %</b>
<b>Final Assessment</b>	
<b>Individual Oral Interview</b>	<b>20 %</b>
<b>Portfolio</b>	<b>15 %</b>

### Extra Credit (1) and Grade Dispute Policies and Procedures (2)

(1) You can participate in any event recommended by your instructor at GaTech (TBA) and get 1 extra credit point going towards your next assignment. Up to one point per assignment. Of course, you can enjoy more events for fun and extra French practice!

(2) GT Policies and Procedures apply.

### Extensions, Late Assignments, & Re-Scheduled/Missed Exams

If you do not turn in an assignment, you will receive a grade of 0 for this assignment.

There will be **no make-up** assessments without an **official excuse** (a medical excuse from GT Stamps Health Services or your personal physician or documented exceptional circumstances). Make arrangements in advance and provide convincing documentation. **You will need to communicate with the Dean of the Students' office to seek a make-up.** See Georgia Tech "approved Institute activities" (e.g. field trips and athletic events, see <http://www.catalog.gatech.edu/rules/4/> for more information).

### **Active participation and course preparation (20 % of the final grade)**

#### **Class participation**

Attendance and participation are different. It will be expected that you come to class prepared, on time, and that you participate actively in class discussion and activities **Class participation** is graded based upon your desire to bring input, your completion of the course preparation assignments and knowledge of the material to be studied for that day (study the vocabulary, read the articles/ the news or watch the assigned videos or review a grammar topic as assigned **before class**). You are expected to contribute to pair, group, and class discussions by both asking and answering questions. Try to *always* use the target language, i.e., French.

**Daily class attendance is expected.** Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each session. You are allowed 2 unexcused absences (scheduled flights or trips, picking up relatives at the airport, going to a wedding/reunion...) without penalty. **EACH additional unexcused absence** will result in the subtraction of **5 points from your participation grade** at the end of the semester. You will be penalized if you arrive late to class or leave early without **notifying** your instructor first.

**An absence is excused** if you provide **documentation AND** if a) you are required to participate in an official GT activity b) you are under a doctor's care or scheduled an emergency doctor appointment c) you are granted a leave of absence from GT for reasonable cause by an academic dean d) documented illness or a significant life-event prevents you from attending class e) you are observing a major religious holiday f) going to a job/internship interview.

### **Course preparation (CP)**

As part of their **course preparation**, students will need to complete several course preparation assignments during the semester that will include grammar review and exercises, vocabulary practice and listening activities (#AA = activité en autonomie). To improve their listening skills, students will regularly do at home online activities from TV5 monde and other platforms (#AA = activité en autonomie). They will upload a screenshot of their work on Canvas to demonstrate the completion of the activities.

CP will be marked as complete/incomplete. They are designed to improve your language skills and encourage learning. Any missed CP will result in a **10-point deduction** from the Active Participation Grade at the end of the semester.

Students might also be asked to read an article before class, and/or watch an additional video / the news in French. They will also work during the semester on their portfolio.

### **Oral presentation or recorded podcast (10 % of the final grade)**

Oral presentation or recorded podcast (#OP): Students will deliver an **individual** presentation during a class about a topic related to theme Culture and Society or record a podcast.

Specific guidelines will be posted on Canvas. The assessment will consider relevance of the topic, research, creativity, visuals (such as power point/Canva slides, infographics), fluency, and accuracy in the delivery of the presentation. This is **not** a reading exercise.

### **Projet final “Art et IA” (15% of the final grade)**

Students **in pairs** (there might be a group of 3 as needed) will design a piece of art using AI and record a video to discuss it in a creative way. They will also present their project to the class. Project will be uploaded on Canvas. Detailed guidelines will be posted on Canvas.

### **Projet “Magazine” (20 % of the final grade)**

Students will work in a **medium-sized group** to develop an online issue of a magazine (using for example Canva or Issuu). Each student will write an article. Students will work together to collect and organize all the edited articles and prepare a magazine, incorporating other written features. They will deliver a short oral presentation to present the launch of their magazine during class. Detailed guidelines will be posted on Canvas.

### **Portfolio ( 15 % of the final grade)**

Throughout the semester, students will complete their French portfolio to document and reflect on their cultural and language learning. Detailed guidelines will be posted on Canvas.

### **Individual Oral Interview (20 % of the final grade)**

The final oral assessment will be a conversation with your French instructor of approximately 15 minutes to be scheduled at the end of the semester at a mutually convenient time on or before the final exam date (last

available slot will be on the official day/time of the Final Exam Matrix – before Monday, December 8, 2:10 pm). Calendar and specific guidelines will be posted on Canvas.

## **CLASS POLICIES AND STATEMENTS**

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### **Academic Integrity**

**Students in this class will be expected to abide by the **Georgia Tech Honor Code** and avoid any instance of academic misconduct**, including but not limited to the substitution of material that is wholly or substantially identical to that created or published by another individual or individuals or artificial intelligence; false claims of performance or work submitted by the student; possessing, using, or exchanging improper acquired written or verbal information in preparation for, or in writing, an exam or paper.

Any written/oral/online work that forms the basis of your final grade in the class **MUST** be **your own original work**. I expect you to follow the Georgia Tech Honor Code always, throughout your GT experience. Do not plagiarize any of your assignments. Plagiarizing is defined by Webster's as "to steal and pass off (the ideas or words of another) as one's own: use (another's production) without crediting the source." Submitting any work other than your own is also a violation of the Academic Honor Code. Cheating off of anyone else's work is a direct violation of the GT Academic Honor Code and will be dealt with accordingly. I will report all indications of academic dishonesty to the Vice Provost of Student Services. Should you have any questions regarding what constitutes "academic dishonesty" in this course, please contact me. For any questions involving these or any other Academic Honor Code issues, please consult me or click [www.honor.gatech.edu](http://www.honor.gatech.edu).

**The use of translation software such as Google Translate is strictly forbidden. The use of Artificial Intelligence is also forbidden unless otherwise specified.** You may use online dictionaries.

### **Statement of Intent for Inclusivity**

As a member of the Georgia Tech community, I am committed as your instructor to creating a learning environment in which students feel **safe and included**. Because we are individuals with varying needs, I am reliant on your feedback to achieve this goal.

To that end, I (your instructor) invite you to enter into dialogue with me about the things I can stop, start, and continue doing to make my classroom an environment in which every student feels valued and can engage actively in our learning community.

### **Accommodations**

**Georgia Tech values diversity and inclusion**; we are committed to a climate of mutual respect and full participation. Our goal is to create learning environments that are usable, equitable, inclusive, and welcoming. If there are aspects of the instruction or design of this course that result in barriers to your inclusion or accurate assessment or achievement, please notify me as soon as possible.

Students with disabilities should contact the **Office of Disability Services** to discuss options of removing barriers in this course, including accommodations. ODS can be reached at 404.894.2563, [dsinfo@gatech.edu](mailto:dsinfo@gatech.edu), or [www.disabilityservices.gatech.edu](http://www.disabilityservices.gatech.edu).

### **Office hours**

**Do not hesitate to contact me!** If you want to talk or practice individually your conversation skills, if you need help for a project and want feedback, if you ever feel uncomfortable about something in class, if you want us to focus on one aspect of your learning or if you need additional practice, let me know. I am eager to discuss your progress and difficulties, making sure your questions, concerns, or suggestions get the attention they deserve. The best way to reach me is **by email** or to come to **my office**.

### **Student Use of Mobile Devices in the Classroom**

Cell phones off in class except when explicitly allowed by instructor for a class activity. **Non-class related use of cell phones or other electronic devices can result in the student being marked absent.**

### **Student-Faculty Expectations Agreement**

At Georgia Tech we believe that it is important to strive for **an atmosphere of mutual respect, acknowledgement, and responsibility between faculty members and the student body.**

See <http://www.catalog.gatech.edu/rules/22/> for an articulation of **some basic expectations** that you can have of me and that I have of you. In the end, simple respect for knowledge, hard work, and cordial interactions will help build the environment we seek. Therefore, I encourage you to remain committed to the ideals of Georgia Tech while in this class.

### **Modified Operations and Digital Learning Days**

In the event of a weather-related event on campus or other emergencies that require modified operations, I will communicate via Canvas about cancelling class or about our plans for a digital learning day. Should there be an assignment due on that day, some flexibility might be necessary. The instructor and students should communicate their needs and agree on a mutually satisfactory solution.

### **COURSE SCHEDULE (SUBJECT TO CHANGE\*)**

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Will be provided on Canvas.

#### **Additional information**

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Consult the webpage of the School of Modern Languages.

<https://modlangs.gatech.edu/>

<https://modlangs.gatech.edu/languages/french>

### **SUPPORT at Georgia Tech**

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Georgia Tech offers a lot of resources for students both academic and personal. Do not hesitate to use them.

<https://catalog.gatech.edu/student-services/>