

FRE 460G – Dr. Loic Bourdeau
ONLINE

Office hours:

TR: 12-1pm and by appointment

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ADVANCED COMPOSITION AND STYLISTICS

ENFANCE

French 460G seeks to help students develop stronger strategies for academic writing. It is designed to advance and refine students' skills in French, with particular emphasis on research skills and methodologies, complex syntactical structures, and enhancement of sophisticated vocabulary. As practice makes better (is it ever perfect?), this class will provide an outlet for students to experiment, receive feedback, and improve. *Enfance* is the leading thematic thread to this class, which is grounded in Francophone cultural productions (literature and cinema). As such, students will both discover new materials and learn to apply and expand their analytical and critical techniques. Throughout the course, activities will include: commentaire de texte, annotated bibliography, summaries, detailed outlines, abstracts, etc. Feedback and peer-review constitute a major part of this class to ensure that all written work is clear, jargon-free, and effective.



Required texts:

All required materials will be available on Moodle and/or in print form. You should check both the syllabus and Moodle before class.

Grading:

Online Présence & Participation	15%
Commentaire composé oral	15%
Commentaire composé écrit	20%
Bibliographie annotée	15%
Synthèse	15%
Plan détaillé	20%

Présence & participation (15%)

Students are encouraged to actively participate, share feedback and comments to help others improve.

Commentaire composé oral (15%)

Each student will be assigned a day to present their own literary commentary of a given text. Following the methodology and practice examples from class, students should demonstrate their understanding of the text's subtleties, its implications and import. Through an in-depth focus on literary strategies (figure de style, punctuation, word choice, etc.), students must bring forth major themes, which they organize around a thesis/problematic.

Commentaire composé écrit (20%)

Similar to the oral exercise, students will have to provide their own literary commentary of a given text. Following the methodology and practice examples from class, students should demonstrate their understanding of the text's subtleties, its implications and import. Through an in-depth focus on literary strategies (figure de style, punctuation, word choice, etc.), student must bring forth major themes, which they organize around a thesis/problematic.

Bibliographie annotée (15%)

In order to prepare your final project (the detailed outline of a research paper), you will put together an MLA-style annotated bibliography, as per the given methodology. This project should include at least 15 sources, which you would potentially use to write your research paper on a chosen topic. An annotated bibliography should present the reference, the author's background (quickly), the author's claims and arguments, the importance of the piece for your project, how it fits with other articles (agrees or counters), etc. An annotated bibliography is an effective way to keep track of selected critical texts as well as why they support your project.

Synthèse (15%)

Synthesizing/Summarizing skills are important to briefly and effectively present an author or different authors' points of view and arguments. This skill should help you identify how certain written works might work together. This exercise should help you create connections you had not noticed before. Further, you will learn to be clear and concise when providing a summary of a piece, while highlighting

its key elements. For this specific assignment, you will be given three or more texts, which you will have to synthesize in 750 words. Refer to the methodology and in-class practice.

Plan détaillé (20%)

As your final project, you are required to provide a blueprint of a research paper. You should incorporate more than one primary text (i.e., novels or films) and give a detailed breakdown of your outline. You must write out the introduction and conclusion in their entirety. More information will be available on Moodle.

Cheating and Plagiarism

Both are defined as using anyone's work other than your own, whether an outside source, including internet, electronic, or print sources, or another student's work. It may be intentional or unintentional. The university policy for cheating and plagiarism can be found in the UL Bulletin. Cheating on any assignment will result at minimum in an F on the assignment, and could result in an F in the course or expulsion from the university. The use of online translators or other translation software is strictly prohibited and will be considered cheating in this course, and the appropriate disciplinary actions will be taken.