French 300: Grammar and Composition  
Spring 2012

Instructor:  
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French 300 is a process-oriented writing workshop intended for students who have completed two years of college-level French or the equivalent.

The goals of this course are:
- to provide you with strategies to write effectively and easily in French;
- to improve the quality of your written expression: vocabulary, grammatical accuracy, organization of ideas;
- to help you understand and feel at ease with a variety of writing techniques (through close-reading of short literary model texts.)

The course is organized as a “global simulation”: students “imagine” that they are the tenants of an apartment in a Parisian immeuble, and “live”, by way of the simulation, the life of people residing in Paris. The immeuble becomes a type of laboratory, where journals and compositions allow students to practice extensive, intensive, and cooperative writing. Using models taken primarily from literary sources, the simulation provides the framework for various types of writing assignment (portrait, description, narration, dialog, etc). The simulation culminates in the writing of a single detective novel based on the characters and events developed during the course. (Once a plot has been devised and divided up, each student will be assigned a chapter to write.)

The course is divided into four modules:
1. Establishing the fictional identities (portrait)
2. Establishing the location and surroundings of the building & the interior/decor of the apartments (description)
3. Interactions, events and incidents (story-telling)
4. A culminating final writing project (each student writes one of the chapters of a mystery novel)