

**FREN 220**  
**Maymester in Martinique 2023**  
*Department of French and Italian*  
*University of Southern California*

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**PRE-REQUISITE: Fren-150 or placement exam result.**

Per university policy, students with equivalent transfer credit from another institution must take the placement test. For placement test dates and times, see the Language Center website:  
<http://language.usc.edu/languages/placement.html>

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**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Fren-220 is a third-semester intermediate French course that will develop students' ability to communicate effectively in French and to interact in Francophone communities with cultural competence. While addressing the five goal areas of the *World-Readiness Standards for Learning Languages* established by ACTFL (communication, culture, comparisons, connections, communities), this Maymester course will give students the opportunity to further their French language skills and deepen their knowledge of French and Francophone cultures while immersing themselves in Martinican culture.

The island of Martinique holds a special place in the French-speaking world due to the duality of its culture. A former French colony which endured slavery, it became, not without difficulty, a French overseas department in 1946 making it an integral part of Metropolitan France (like Alaska and Hawaii to mainland USA). Since 1946, part of the Martinican population has found itself in a liminal

space torn between Martinican culture/history and French culture. With this context in mind, students will participate in class discussions focused on identity, cultural and social issues which will draw from authentic texts across genres (excerpts from literary and non-literary texts, poems, films, songs, and a collection of short stories), cultural and historical excursions/activities, and from students' personal experiences and opinions. Students will be working individually, in pairs or in small groups, and will engage in meaningful activities that are communicative, contextualized, and function-based. Lessons will be conducted entirely in French.

### **MAYMESTER FORMAT**

May 15 – 18: USC Campus

May 22 – June 9: Martinique

This course will be a four-week French language and culture program to include one week on the USC campus, and three weeks in Martinique. At USC, students will start reviewing basic language functions while beginning their exploration of Martinican culture through a general introduction of the geography and history of the island as well as an analysis of political and identity issues (colonialism, “loi de départementalisation”). The class will then meet in Martinique where we will continue our class discussions on the campus of Université des Antilles et de la Guyane in Schoelcher. Class meetings will be complemented by excursions, cultural activities and group lunches/dinners. Students will stay with host families and travel will be, for the most part, by private coach.

### **COURSE OBJECTIVES**

- Review and learn new grammatical structures to
  - Narrate in the past (using passé composé, imparfait and plus-que-parfait)
  - Express hypothesis (using present and past conditional)
  - Express opinions and feelings (using subjunctive)
- Present information regarding the geography and history of Martinique
- Explore and engage with singularities of the cultural characteristics of Martinique in relation to France
- Read, analyze and discuss a collection of short stories in order to reflect on identity and cultural struggles within the Martinican population
- Communicate and reflect on one's experience by keeping an online travel diary documented in French on Instagram

### **REQUIRED TEXTS**

- Course Packet: Handouts of Grammar Exercises & Short Readings available on Blackboard.
- Zobel, Joseph. *Et si la mer n'était pas bleue*. L'Harmattan. 1982

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## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS:**

### ***1. Classwork: preparation and participation.***

To succeed in a language classroom you must engage in your learning and participate. And in order to fully participate, you need to come to class prepared and do all the assigned readings prior to class. You are expected to use French to communicate with your classmates and instructor at all times during class. This effort will help you make rapid progress in the acquisition of new language skills. Do your best to elaborate and expand, and self-monitor for accuracy but your main concern should be the communication of your ideas.

Your classwork grade will be based on your **preparedness** (completion of assigned readings and activities prior to class), on the **quantity of your participation** (involvement, effort, positive attitude) as well as on the **quality** (fluency, accuracy, pronunciation, ability to elaborate and expand).

### ***2. Homework***

Learning a foreign language requires **daily study and practice**. It is important that you follow the assignment schedule on your syllabus to prepare for class and gain the most benefit.

You will be assigned different types of homework:

- Grammar exercises from the course packet
- Reading and comprehension activities
- Short open-ended assignments

All homework is due the following day unless otherwise indicated by your instructor.

### ***3. Online Travel Journal***

You will record your travel experiences using the online platform Instagram. If you already have an account on IG, you will be asked to create a new one specifically for our course and provide the class with your username. Your classmates and instructor will then “follow” you. Your account can be made private or public depending on your personal preferences. Each week, you will post at least 3 posts (minimum 100 words) in French to document your experiences (class discussions, excursions, group/individual activities etc...). You cannot post “Stories” but are encouraged to post pictures and/or videos as well as use hashtags. All 3 posts must feature a different event and must be posted by 7pm on Sundays. If you want to feature your classmates or host family members in your posts, **ask for their consent first**. In your posts, be respectful to the people who will welcome you and those you will meet along the way!

### ***4. Compositions (2)***

Writing is a process and you must begin thinking about your writing well before you turn in the final draft of your compositions. All compositions must be typed, double-spaced and saved for rewrite. Each composition will be work-shopped in class in advance of the due date. A grade will be given for both the first and final drafts and you will receive for a final grade, the average of both grades.

A correction key for grammar mistakes will be provided on Blackboard and should be used when correcting the commented copy of your composition.

**5. Group Oral Presentation**

With a classmate, you will do one group presentation on a topic previously selected by your instructor which will be relevant to the class discussion.

**6. Oral Exam**

The oral exam is an 8-10 minute guided conversation with your instructor done at the end of the course.

**7. Tests (2) and Final Exam**

There are two tests and one final exam. The best way to prepare for tests is through daily attendance, study, homework, and practice. All tests must be taken on the scheduled day.

**GRADE DISTRIBUTION:**

Classwork	10%
Homework	10%
Compositions (2)	15%
Tests (2)	15%
Journal	10%
Group Oral Presentation	10%
Oral Exam	10%
Final Exam	20%

**GRADING SCALE:**

93 +	A	77-79	C+	60-62	D-
90-92	A-	73-76	C	Under 60	F
87-89	B+	70-72	C-		
83-86	B	67-69	D+		
80-82	B-	63-67	D		

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**CLASS SCHEDULE**

**Week 1: USC Campus**

Monday, May 15	Course Introduction: Geography & History of Martinique; Colonialism Grammar: Past Tenses (Passé Composé, Imparfait, Plus-que-parfait)
Tuesday, May 16	Geography & History of Martinique (cont'd): Martinique after 1946 Grammar: Past Tenses (cont'd.)

- Wednesday, May 17 Politics and *identité antillaise*; Reading: *Peau noire masque blanc, Eloge de la créolité (excerpts)*  
Grammar: Past Tenses (cont'd.)
- Thursday, May 18 Politics and *identité antillaise* (cont'd.); Reading: *Cabier d'un retour au pays natal (excerpts, text and play)*  
Grammar: Object Pronouns
- Friday, May 19 Writing in French workshop: Preparation of composition 1  
Preparatory discussion to travel in Martinique  
**Quiz #1**

### Weeks 2 - 4: Martinique Campus

#### Week 2

- Monday, May 22 **Excursion Guided visit of Fort-de-France + Abolition de l'esclavage**
- Tuesday, May 23 On-Site Orientation  
Group lunch (restaurant) & Group exploration of campus & neighborhood  
Excursion: In-class Debriefing  
Classroom: Introduction to Joseph Zobel  
Movie: *Rue Cases-Nègres*
- Wednesday, May 24 Classroom: *La rue Cases-Nègres* (excerpts novel), movie and novel comparison  
Grammar: Object Pronouns (cont'd) + Relative pronouns
- Thursday, May 25 Grammar: Relative pronouns (cont'd.) & intro Future/Conditionals  
Oral presentation topic due  
Oral presentation workshop (1)
- Friday, May 26 **Guest Lecture 1 – Introduction to Creole Language and Martinican Culture**  
+ discussions  
Grammar: Future/Conditionals w/si-clauses  
Composition 1 due

#### Week 3

- Monday, May 29 **Excursion Visit of the Jardin de Balata + Saint-Pierre**
- Tuesday, May 30 Excursion: In-class Debriefing  
Classroom: *Et si la mer n'était pas bleue* (Short story 1)

Grammar: Subjunctive functions

- Wednesday, May 31      **Guest Lecture 2: Society and Politics of the French Antilles**  
Classroom: *Eugène Tanasio* (Short story 2)  
Grammar: Subjunctive, expressing feelings
- Thursday, June 1      Classroom: *Le retour de Mamzelle Annette* (Short story 3)  
Grammar: Subjunctive (cont'd.), expressing opinions  
**Quiz #2**
- Friday, June 2      Classroom: *Le cousin* (Short Story 4)  
Grammar: Subjunctive (cont'd.)  
Oral presentation workshop (2)  
Writing in French workshop: Preparation of composition 2
- Saturday, June 3      Excursion **Randonnée de la Caravelle**

#### **Week 4**

- Monday, June 5      **Traditional Dance and Ritual Workshop**
- Tuesday, June 6      Classroom: *Nardal* (Short Story 5)  
Grammar: prepositions  
Group Oral Presentations  
Oral exam - preparation
- Wednesday, June 7      Oral exams / Reviews  
Group Lunch (restaurant)
- Thursday, June 8      **Excursion: Southern Coast**  
Composition 2 due
- Friday, June 9      Excursion: In-class Debriefing  
Classroom: Final Discussion of course  
Final Exam

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#### **ACADEMIC CONDUCT**

Plagiarism – presenting someone else’s ideas as your own, either verbatim or recast in your own words – is a serious academic offense with serious consequences. Please familiarize yourself with the discussion of plagiarism in *SCampus* in Section 11, *Behavior Violating*

*University Standards* <https://scampus.usc.edu/1100-behavior-violating-university-standards-and-appropriate-sanctions/>. Other forms of academic dishonesty are equally unacceptable. See additional information in *SCampus* and university policies on scientific misconduct, <http://policy.usc.edu/scientific-misconduct/>.

If it is suspected that you have obtained help or used online translation services, you will be asked to explain and reproduce your text.

Here are some general guidelines regarding plagiarism:

- Submitting material authored by another person but not appropriately cited (quotation marks, footnotes, endnotes, bibliography) is plagiarism. If you borrow any words or ideas – whether you directly quote or paraphrase the material –, you must give credit to your source in your paper. This includes material derived from written sources, or from tutors, classmates, friends, or the internet. Documenting false sources or failure to credit your sources is plagiarism.
- A paper bought or taken from the Internet, or used previously is plagiarized.
- **As to your French, all sentences must be your own. Do not use online translation services.**
- When undertaking peer review or accepting assistance from a tutor or friend, remember that the resulting **text must represent your authority and abilities in French**, and not those of the persons assisting you. **You must be able to reproduce all sentences of the text on your own!**

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## **SUPPORT SYSTEMS**

*Center for Academic support* (STU-301) offers free learning assistance and tutoring  
<http://sait.usc.edu/academicsupport>

*Counseling and Mental Health* - (213) 740-9355 – 24/7 on call  
[studenthealth.usc.edu/counseling](http://studenthealth.usc.edu/counseling)

Free and confidential mental health treatment for students, including short-term psychotherapy, group counseling, stress fitness workshops, and crisis intervention.

*National Suicide Prevention Lifeline* - 1 (800) 273-8255 – 24/7 on call  
[suicidepreventionlifeline.org](http://suicidepreventionlifeline.org)

Free and confidential emotional support to people in suicidal crisis or emotional distress 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

*Relationship and Sexual Violence Prevention and Services (RSVP)* - (213) 740-9355(WELL), press “0” after hours – 24/7 on call

[studenthealth.usc.edu/sexual-assault](http://studenthealth.usc.edu/sexual-assault)

Free and confidential therapy services, workshops, and training for situations related to gender-based harm.

*Office of Equity and Diversity (OED)*- (213) 740-5086 | *Title IX* – (213) 821-8298  
[equity.usc.edu](http://equity.usc.edu), [titleix.usc.edu](http://titleix.usc.edu)

Information about how to get help or help someone affected by harassment or discrimination, rights of protected classes, reporting options, and additional resources for students, faculty, staff, visitors, and applicants. The university prohibits discrimination or harassment based on the following *protected*

*characteristics:* race, color, national origin, ancestry, religion, sex, gender, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, age, physical disability, medical condition, mental disability, marital status, pregnancy, veteran status, genetic information, and any other characteristic which may be specified in applicable laws and governmental regulations. The university also prohibits sexual assault, non-consensual sexual contact, sexual misconduct, intimate partner violence, stalking, malicious dissuasion, retaliation, and violation of interim measures.

*Reporting Incidents of Bias or Harassment - (213) 740-5086 or (213) 821-8298*

[usc-advocate.symplicity.com/care\\_report](https://usc-advocate.symplicity.com/care_report)

Avenue to report incidents of bias, hate crimes, and microaggressions to the Office of Equity and Diversity | Title IX for appropriate investigation, supportive measures, and response.

*The Office of Disability Services and Programs - (213) 740-0776*

[dsp.usc.edu](https://dsp.usc.edu)

Support and accommodations for students with disabilities. Services include assistance in providing readers/notetakers/interpreters, special accommodations for test taking needs, assistance with architectural barriers, assistive technology, and support for individual needs.

*Campus Support & Intervention - (213) 821-4710*

[campussupport.usc.edu](https://campussupport.usc.edu)

Assists students and families in resolving complex personal, financial, and academic issues adversely affecting their success as a student.

*Diversity at USC - (213) 740-2101*

[diversity.usc.edu](https://diversity.usc.edu)

Information on events, programs and training, the Provost's Diversity and Inclusion Council, Diversity Liaisons for each academic school, chronology, participation, and various resources for students.

*USC Emergency - UPC: (213) 740-4321, HSC: (323) 442-1000 – 24/7 on call*

[dps.usc.edu](https://dps.usc.edu), [emergency.usc.edu](https://emergency.usc.edu)

Emergency assistance and avenue to report a crime. Latest updates regarding safety, including ways in which instruction will be continued if an officially declared emergency makes travel to campus infeasible.

*USC Department of Public Safety - UPC: (213) 740-6000, HSC: (323) 442-120 – 24/7 on call*

[dps.usc.edu](https://dps.usc.edu)

Non-emergency assistance or information.