

Student comments on *French for Reading*
2011 Erasmus AcademyNY Summer Language Program
Instructor: Mr. Matt Udkovich

Not being tied up to a location is a great advantage. It's hard to keep focused for the duration of three hours, but I doubt it would be that much different in person. Matthew is a wonderful professor, so this comment does not reflect on him at all, in fact, I think it's quite commendable that he was able to engage all the students and keep the class flowing without faces, bodies, in short, presence.

Matthew fulfils all the best expectations of a French teacher. He assigns thoughtful, concise homework; he corrects it in class; he makes sure everyone participates; he gives us very interesting passages to translate; he's available in and out of class; and knows how to explain clearly each issue that arises.

Isabel C. July 12, 2011

I really like the online setting, because it is convenient. I was able to call-in from Taiwan. This online course did not sacrifice the essences of interactive communications both verbally and visually.

The professor is proficient in his knowledge of the French language. He speaks at the right pace (not too fast). He explains clearly and diligently responds to students' questions. I like the way he uses a word document as a virtual chalk board, which records the lecture in words and later makes it available online for download. I find it useful to review the lecture after each session. I also like the google document feature that hosts all the classroom documents online, so that the students can download without resorting to e-mail.

Raymond Hsu July 15, 2011

I was surprised that I liked the format; I think I'm more of an audio learner so that helped. But it also helped to have the live view of the professor's computer to get a visual of the lectures. Like in a regular live classroom, sometimes we seemed to get derailed with people's somewhat trivial or off topic questions.

The instructor is very skilled in class, gave equal time to all students but also kept mostly to his agenda. Very personable and not awkward, which puts the class at ease I think, even online. Also very knowledgeable of content and skilled at pacing the instruction.

Sara Rosenau 7/12/11

I took 8 sessions in Korea (one at the airport!), 2 in London, and 6 in New Jersey. What kind of course makes such a dramatic experience possible but this one? I wish I could see the faces of my teacher and class mates.

As an international student from Korea, I hardly imagined I could learn French, my third foreign language, in English, my first foreign language. But I made it! I will recommend this class to many folks around me.

Joonho Yoon July 16, 2011

Matt was absolutely great. He used the forum/format in a way that made it look incredibly easy. Really, to do something like this and without video (other than the text we were working off of) is remarkable. He kept us working hard and expected much from us.

Professor Udkovich did an outstanding job – he has a depth of knowledge of the French language that was never remotely totally mined by the students. He is an outstanding professor of French.

Thank you guys for the Academy.

Tige Smith July 14, 2011