



FRENCH 4112F

SECTION 570

FALL 2026

Understanding Francophone Society through Stand-up Comedy

Professor: Dr. Corina Sandu

Email: csandu@uwo.ca

Office Hours:

Tuesday & Thursday (in person) 1:00-2:00

OR by appointment

Mode of Instruction: In-person

Course Description:

Through the study of French stand-up comedy, students will deepen their knowledge of today's Francophone society and its current interest topics, while further developing their language proficiency by analyzing contemporary sketches and the mechanics of French humour.

Prerequisite(s): 1.0 French course in literature between French 3500-3799.

Extra Information: 3 lecture hours.

Course Weight: 0.50

Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

Course Materials: Required Readings

1. Selection of audio and video documents available on OWL Brightspace.
2. Critical readings: articles and studies available through the University Library (online catalogue), with links posted on OWL Brightspace.

Student Learning Outcomes

The course will focus on analyzing stand-up performances (sketches) created by Francophone artists. We will first place the artists in the socio-political and cultural context of the *Francophonie*, and then we will analyze their performances from the dual perspective of content (topics, irony, subjectivity, etc.) and expression (vocabulary, idiomatic expressions, dialects, grammar in context, etc.).

Analytical skills:

- Understanding Francophone society and its controversial topics through the lens of observational comedy.
- Appreciating the depths and means of stand-up comedy as an artistic representation, an art connected to current events, a media-hyped and popular show.
- Exploring new topics taught in class through individual research, presenting your findings in an in-class exposé.

Critical skills:

- Identifying and evaluating artistic representations.
- Understanding cultural references and societal themes.
- Writing individual papers on subjects related to course material.

Language skills:

- Understanding different language registers and nuances, spoken French and argot (slang).
- Improving conversational skills and idiomatic fluency.
- Writing scripts, essays, and argumentations.
- Presenting an oral exposé.

Methods of Evaluation

Assignments:	Weight:
In-class Tests (3 x 13.33%) best 3 out of 4 results	40 %
Oral Exposé	10 %
Project Stand-up	15%
Attendance & Participation	10%
Final exam (in-person)	25 %
Total	100%

Emploi du temps

Note: Cet emploi du temps est provisoire et donc sujet à de possibles modifications.

Semaine du :	Matière	Évaluations
10 sept.	Présentation du cours	
15 sept. 17 sept.	Stand-up / Art de la vanne: la terminologie	
22 sept. 24 sept.	Les procédés comiques du stand-up	
29 sept. 1 ^{er} octobre	Test # 1 Éléments-clés dans l'analyse d'un sketch (I)	Test # 1, mardi le 29 septembre (13.33% ; 3 meilleurs tests sur 4) : Terminologie et procédés comiques du stand-up
6 octobre 8 octobre	Éléments-clés dans l'analyse d'un sketch (II) Test # 2	
13 octobre 15 octobre	SEMAINE DE LECTURE Pas de cours	
20 octobre 22 octobre	L'humour français. Grammaire dans le contexte	
27 octobre 29 octobre	L'humour au Québec. Vocabulaire dans le contexte	
3 novembre 5 novembre	Test # 3 Analyse de sketches : thèmes et expression linguistique (I)	Test # 3, mardi le 3 novembre (13.33% ; 3 meilleurs tests sur 4) : Humour France vs Québec. Analyse de sketches.

10 novembre	Analyse de sketches : thèmes et expression linguistique (II)	Test # 4, jeudi le 12 novembre (13.33% ; 3 meilleurs tests sur 4) : Analyse de sketch – éléments-clés
12 novembre	Test # 4	
17 novembre	Consultations pour présentations orales et Projet Stand-up	Réponses aux activités du 19 novembre à soumettre sur Brightspace pour la note de présence et participation
19 novembre	Cours en ligne asynchrone	
24 novembre 26 novembre	Présentations orales (en ligne)	
1 ^{er} décembre 3 décembre	Présentations orales (en classe/en ligne) Révision et pratique pour l'examen final	
8 décembre	Consultations Date limite pour Projet Stand-up Vidéo finale sur Brightspace	Vidéo finale pour Projet Stand-up sur Brightspace

Memorandum to Students Registered in FRENCH 4112F

Medical and Non-medical Absences

All tests and assignments are to be completed on the date indicated on the course syllabus. Any test or assignment missed without formal accommodation will receive a grade of zero. Students are permitted one academic consideration per semester per course without formal supporting documentation. All requests for accommodation must be made in a timely fashion according to policy. In the case of an approved accommodation, due date extensions, assessment weight adjustments or makeups will be considered on a case-by-case basis at the professor's sole discretion. Requests for accommodation for Test # 5 as well as the final exam must be supported by written documentation and submitted directly to the Office of the Academic Dean. Accommodations cannot be granted by the professor or the department for these assessments. Students are strongly urged not to make any commitments (i.e., vacation) during the examination period.

Requests for accommodation based on emergencies, humanitarian grounds, or medical grounds must be supported by written documentation and submitted directly to the Office of the Academic Dean.

Academic Offences and Plagiarism

Scholastic offences are taken seriously, and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence. Please note that plagiarism constitutes a major academic offence. "Plagiarism: Students must write their essays and

assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea, or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence.”

Academic Offences and AI / Assistive Technology

Within this course, use of generative artificial intelligence (AI) tools (such as ChatGPT, translation tools, and grammar-checking tools) is not permitted for written work submitted for evaluation. Unauthorized use of AI will be subject to academic discipline.

Attendance and Participation

French Faculty at King’s place great emphasis on class attendance and participation. There is a clear correlation between student success in a course and attendance patterns. We feel that it is extremely important for students studying French language, literature, and culture to be present for instruction and discussion in class. Specific details concerning attendance and participation are included in the course syllabus.

The 10 % attendance and participation mark takes into consideration: attendance; active in-class participation in discussions and debates; preparation of the required texts before coming to class; homework. Regular attendance is expected on this course. At the beginning of each class, an attendance sheet will be circulated; please make sure you sign the sheet before the end of the class.

Debarment from Final Exams

A student may be debarred from writing the final exam for failure to maintain satisfactory academic standing throughout the year.

Any student who, in the opinion of the instructor, is absent too frequently from class or laboratory periods in any course, will be reported to the Dean of the Faculty offering the course, after due warning has been given*. On the recommendation of the department concerned, and with the permission of the Dean of that Faculty, the student will be debarred from taking the regular examination in the course.

*Due warning means that the instructor has advised the student in writing/email of the nature of the unsatisfactory performance (i.e., absent too frequently from class), and the consequence of continued unsatisfactory performance (i.e., if another class is missed, the instructor will advise the department and request the student be barred from writing the final exam).

Use of Electronic Devices

The use of electronic devices, including cell phones, smartphones, laptops, netbooks, and tablets during lectures is at the discretion of the instructor.

Unless explicitly stated otherwise, you are not allowed to have a cell phone, or any other electronic device, with you during tests, examinations and in-class evaluations *including during washroom breaks*. Unauthorized possession of such a device during an evaluation, test or examination constitutes a serious academic offence.

Course Grade Descriptors

A+ 90–100 One could scarcely expect better from a student at this level

A 80–89 Superior work which is clearly above average

B 70–79 Good work, meeting all requirements, and eminently satisfactory

C 60–69 Competent work, meeting requirements

D 50–59 Fair work, minimally

acceptable F below 50 Fail

For Course Outline Policies, see attachment below.

**KING'S UNIVERSITY COLLEGE
GENERAL COURSE POLICIES
2026-27**

1. Academic Accommodations (Accessibility)

Accessibility Services works to ensure that academic programs are accessible to all students, and supports students who may have a condition related to, but not limited to, vision, hearing, mobility, different ways of learning, mental health, chronic illnesses, chronic pain, autism spectrum disorder, ADD/ADHD, and temporary conditions (beyond short-term academic consideration). Accessibility Services provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive assessment. The accommodation policy can be found here [Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities](#). Information on Accessibility Services at King's can be found [here](#).

2. Academic Consideration for Student Absences

Students must be approved to write a makeup exam or for an extension of the assignment deadline. If you need to miss an exam or the deadline for the assignment, please follow these instructions.

There are two ways to seek academic consideration:

(i) Academic consideration based on medical or compassionate grounds

If a student is unable to meet a course requirement due to substantial but temporary extenuating circumstances (medical or compassionate grounds), they should contact the Academic Advising Office. As a rule, documentation is required for academic consideration.

For academic consideration requests on medical grounds, the Student Medical Certificate (SMC) is the appropriate documentation. The SMC is available at <https://registrar.uwo.ca/academics/pdfs/student-medical-certificate.pdf>

- King's students: The Academic Advising Office website is located in DLH 104. The Academic Advising website is <https://mykings.ca/intranet/app/#/academics/academic-advising>.
- If your home faculty is Huron or at Western, please submit your documentation to your faculty's academic counselling office.
- Requests must be made as soon as possible and no later than 48 hours after the missed assessment.

You may submit requests for academic consideration through the **Student Absence Portal**, linked on this website: <https://mykings.ca/intranet/app/#/academics/academic-advising/academic-consideration-requests-and-student-absence-portal>

(ii) Academic consideration through an undocumented absence

Students are permitted one academic consideration request without supporting documentation per term per half-course (0.5) weight.

- Note that instructors may designate one assessment per half-course weight as requiring formal supporting documentation. Please refer to the course outline to confirm this assessment.
- If instructors have built flexibility into their assessments, this flexibility will already address consideration needs. (For example, if students need to submit X of Y assignments, this flexibility already provides consideration.)
- Undocumented absences can not be used as the basis for academic consideration for December or April exams.

For further information on the academic consideration policy, please see https://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/academic_consideration_Sep24.pdf

c) Absences from Final Exams

If you miss the Final Exam, **contact your Academic Advising Office** as soon as you are able to do so. They will assess your eligibility to write the “Special Examination” (the name given by the University to a makeup Final Exam).

You may also be eligible to write the Special Exam if you are in a multiple exam situation (i.e., you are scheduled to write more than 2 exams in 23-hour period, or more than 3 exams in a 47-hour period).

If a student fails to write a scheduled Special Examination, the date of the next Special Examination (if granted) normally will be the scheduled date for the final exam the next time this course is offered. The maximum course load for that term will be reduced by the credit of the course(s) for which the final examination has been deferred. See the Academic Calendar for details (under [Special Examinations](#)).

d) Religious Accommodations

Students should consult the University’s list of recognized religious holidays, and should give notice in writing to the instructor and their Academic Advising Office if a course requirement will be affected by a religious holiday/observance. Notice must be given as early as possible, and no later than two weeks prior to an examination, and one week prior to a midterm test date. It is the responsibility of such students to inform themselves concerning the work done in classes from which they are absent and to take appropriate action.

3. Support Services

Accessibility, Counselling and Student Development at King’s University College:
<https://mykings.ca/intranet/app/#/student-supports-and-services/accessibility-services>

Students experiencing emotional or mental health distress can access services at King’s University College: <https://kings.uwo.ca/campus-life/student-supports/>

Good2talk is an online and phone resource for students, available 24/7, with services in English, Mandarin, and French: <https://good2talk.ca>, 1-866-925-5454

Western’s Mental Health Services site provides a complete list of options on how to obtain help: <https://www.uwo.ca/health/mental-health/index.html>

Academic Support Services at King's University College: <https://kings.uwo.ca/academics/academic-supports/>

4. Statement on Gender-Based Sexual Violence

King's and Western are committed to reducing incidents of gender-based sexual violence (GBSV) and providing compassionate support to anyone who is going through or has gone through these traumatic events. If you are experiencing or have experienced GBSV (either recently or in the past), you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts at the following website: [Mental Health and Wellness at King's](#).

You can reach supports at King's by emailing care@kings.uwo.ca or calling 519-930-4640 to reach a Social Worker who can offer help.

You can also reach Western's Gender-Based Violence & Survivor Support Case Manager by email (health@uwo.ca) or by calling 519-661-3568. Additional support services can be found <https://www.uwo.ca/health/gbsv/support/index.html>

5. Statement on Use of Electronic Devices

Use of Electronic Devices: Unless explicitly stated otherwise, you are not allowed to have a cell phone, or any other electronic device, with you during tests or examinations. Unauthorized possession of such a device during a test or examination constitutes an academic offence.

Use of Laptops, Tablets, and Smartphones in the Classroom: King's University College at Western University acknowledges the integration of new technologies and learning methods into the curriculum. The use of electronic devices such as laptop computers, tablets, or smartphones can contribute to student engagement and effective learning. At the same time, King's recognizes that instructors and students share jointly the responsibility to establish and maintain a respectful classroom environment conducive to learning.

The use of electronic devices by students during lectures, seminars, labs, etc., shall be for matters related to the course at hand only. Students found to be using electronic devices for purposes not directly related to the class may be subject to sanctions under the Student Code of Conduct; see https://kings.uwo.ca/sites/2025/assets/files/campus/Kings_Code_of_Student_Conduct.pdf

Inappropriate use of electronics (e.g., laptops, tablets, smartphones) during lectures, seminars, labs, etc., creates a significant disruption. As a consequence, instructors may choose to limit the use of electronic devices in these settings. In addition, in order to provide a safe classroom environment, students attending in-person class sessions are strongly advised to operate laptops with batteries rather than power cords.

6. Statement on Academic Offences

King's is committed to academic integrity. Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, is posted at https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_offences.pdf

It is expected that students will submit work that is truly their own, completed without external assistance (human or artificial) except as explicitly permitted by the course instructor. **Check with you instructor to check which tools, including generative AI (ChatGPT, translation tools, grammar-checking tools) are permitted in each course.** Note that although some courses may permit the use of such tools, it does not mean use of such tools is permitted in other courses.

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system; see <https://elearningtoolkit.uwo.ca/tools/Originality Reports - TurnItIn.html>.

Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating.

7. Copyright of Course Material

Lectures and course materials, including PowerPoint presentations, tests, outlines, and similar materials are protected by copyright. Faculty members are the exclusive owner of copyright in those materials they create. Students may take notes and make copies for their own use. Students may not allow others to reproduce or distribute lecture notes and course materials publicly (whether or not a fee is charged) without the express written consent of a faculty member. Unauthorized sharing of class content is subject to academic discipline.

Similarly, students own copyright in their own original papers and exam essays. If a faculty member wishes to post a student's answers or papers on the course website, they should ask for the student's written permission.

8. Use of Recordings

Participants in this course are not permitted to record the sessions, except where recording is an approved accommodation and/or the participant has the prior written permission of the instructor. Unauthorized recording and/or sharing of class content is subject to academic discipline.

9. Policy on Attendance

Any student who, in the opinion of the instructor, is absent too frequently from class or laboratory periods in any course, will be reported to the Dean of the Faculty offering the course, after due warning has been given. On the recommendation of the department concerned, and with the permission of the Dean of that Faculty, the student will be debarred from taking the regular examination in the course.