

Youth Scholars Institute

2010 Programs

TITLE: French is fun ... and it opens up a whole new world!

INSTRUCTOR: Theresa Bowley, MA, Adjunct Instructor in French

DESCRIPTION: This course is designed for Anglophone students who already have a basic knowledge of the French language, the essentials of grammar and composition and who want to enhance their ability to more easily translate from and into French. It will focus on common mistakes made by students stemming from the English thought process that often results in “fractured French” and provide them with some simple, practical techniques for dealing with these problems. It will address turns of phrases peculiar to French, grammatical and lexical difficulties, as well as “false friends” and the strategic use of idiomatic expressions that make the French language so rich and fascinating. We will explore how important the position of given elements can be in a language such as French, how position indicates function and through function, meaning. This course will concentrate on helping students to understand, capture and express finer nuances of the French language and improve their command of French vocabulary and syntax. It will bring to their attention a wide range of expressive possibilities presented by the French language, both spoken and written, at various levels. In addition to focusing on the structure of the French language, units will be taught in this course on the appreciation of impressionistic art, cuisine, and current popular French music, as well as the culture and history of France. The class is taught in the target language and communication in that language is strongly encouraged. Many games, timed activities and friendly competitions are used to reinforce newly acquired information, vocabulary and translation techniques.