



## Alliance Française du North Shore, Inc.

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### *Brush Up Your French*

#### *Intermediate*

##### **DESCRIPTION**

This course is designed for students who have already taken a few years of French at the beginning level and are now ready for intermediate instruction. Students at this level can understand frequently-used expressions on familiar topics. They can complete routine tasks that involve a direct exchange of information, and can understand and respond to simple questions. Typically, these students can differentiate between and use present and past tenses, but have not yet progressed to additional tenses such as the future tense.

In class, emphasis will be placed on listening and speaking. Reading and writing will usually be done as homework, some of which may be online in the form of French video clips. Topics will include current events and everyday life in France and the French-speaking world, as well as cultural themes such as art, history, music, food and travel. Students will acquire new vocabulary related to familiar topics; learn to explain and describe in detail; and tell stories about past and future events. Basic grammar topics and additional verb tenses will be taught. Students will work in small groups on exercises to gather information from their colleagues and make short presentations about their findings to the class. The goal will be for students to become more confident speaking French with others.

#### *Advanced Intermediate*

##### **DESCRIPTION**

This course is designed for students who have reached the advanced intermediate level. Students at this level are somewhat fluent and can express most of their thoughts and defend their opinions about familiar topics. They can take part in informal discussions, state their point of view, make proposals, and respond to hypotheses. They can maintain a simple conversation about familiar topics in the present, past and future tenses. They are also familiar with and can use other verb tenses, but could use a review and more practice.

In class, emphasis will be placed on listening and speaking. Reading and writing will usually be done as homework, some of which will be online, in the form of French video clips. Topics will include current events and everyday life in France and the French-speaking world, as well as cultural themes such as history, art, music, food and travel. Students will acquire new vocabulary related to familiar and unfamiliar topics; learn to explain and describe in detail; and tell stories about past and future events. More advanced grammar topics and verb tenses will be covered. Students will work in small groups on exercises to gather information from their colleagues and then present their findings to the class. The goal will be for students to become more confident speaking French with others.



## **INSTRUCTOR**



Ann Koller has taught French at all levels for over 30 years. She worked for the Department of Defense teaching French to Special Forces Soldiers and Foreign Service Officers before moving to the Chicago area. She holds a B.A. in French from the University of Maryland and an M.S. in Education and Social Policy from Northwestern University.

Ann recently retired from Glenbrook North High School, where she worked as a French teacher and Instructional Supervisor for World Languages for 18 years. She also teaches French at New Trier Extension.

## *Conversation Avancée*

### **DESCRIPTION**

Des documents écrits ou sonores sur les actualités en France, dans les territoires d'outre-mer ou dans le monde francophone, serviront de base à la conversation.

## **INSTRUCTOR**



Born in France, Domitille Nicolescou lived in Paris for 23 years. She became an architect and worked in that profession for five years, when she met her future husband (to whom she owes coming to the United States). In the U.S., she became a French teacher and taught at all levels: children, university students and adults. For 40 years, she worked at various venues: the Alliance Française de Chicago, DePaul University, the Catherine Cook School and New Trier Extension, where she has taught since 1989. She raised four bilingual children and enjoys sharing her passion for French language and culture.

## French Impressionism

### DESCRIPTION

This course is designed for students at the high-intermediate and advanced levels. Explore French Impressionism and step back in time to when Paris was the world's capital of the arts.

This new course will feature why Impressionism was an art revolution, showcasing five major influential painters of the movement. Classes are conducted exclusively in French, combining high-target language and authentic culture. Students will dive into the life of each painter and then describe one of their masterpieces on display at The Art Institute of Chicago using the five senses (sight, sound, smell, taste, touch).

- Fall 2022: Introduction to French Impressionism, Claude Monet, Edgar Degas
- Winter 2023: Georges Seurat, Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec, Gustave Caillebotte
- Spring 2023: Post-Impressionism, Student Presentations, Field Trip to The Art Institute of Chicago (admission not included in class fee)



### INSTRUCTOR

Gigi Olmstead is a global citizen, teacher by training, lover of the French language and culture. She was born in Saigon, raised in Paris, studied in Montreal, and worked in London. Gigi is trilingual, with French as her mother tongue. Although Chicago has been her home since the year 2000, Paris will always be her hometown.

In Chicago, Gigi has carved out a distinguished career as a French teacher of children, teenagers and adults, at levels ranging from beginning to advanced. She has taught at the Alliance Française de Chicago, The Art Institute of Chicago, the Latin School and the Berlitz Language Center. She is currently chair of the World Languages Committee at the Catherine Cook School (Chicago). In 2015, the Chicago chapter of the American Association of Teachers of French awarded Gigi its *Prix d'Excellence* for outstanding contributions to the teaching of French language and culture.

She has been an active Art Institute member for the past 20 years and joined their Education Department to integrate world language with art. She taught this class at the Alliance Française de Chicago at the expert level. Gigi is thrilled to share her love of art with AFduNS members.