# Français de la finance (1st semester)

Prof. Klara Dankova

***Course AIMS AND INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES***

The course aims to train the student in written and oral communication skills at level B1+ of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages as well as to provide adequate linguistic and cultural skills for the management of French financial communication strategies in the international contexts.

At the end of the course, the student will be able to understand French financial lectures/speeches, read essay articles and reports on financial issues, take part in a conversation and communicate with a degree of spontaneity and fluency that makes normal interaction with a native speaker possible, express him/herself orally continuously and in a clear manner on a wide range of topics related to their areas of interest. The student will be able to develop a point of view on a financial subject. He/she may write a summary by transmitting information.

Specifically, the student will develop the following skills:

1. *Ability to apply the knowledge acquired*

Investigative learning will enable the student to obtain sustained involvement and to develop the skills to manage what has been learned. Project-based learning, problem-based learning and design-based learning will enable him/her to: a) master the written and oral comprehension of specialized texts (level B1+); b) develop adequate oral expression applied to several types of texts and intercultural communicative situations, relating to communication strategies in French Language for finance (level B1+).

1. *Skills in communication strategies*

Through the analysis of argumentative texts varied by typology, the student will be able to master the rhetorical techniques of production and reworking of these textual categories. The ability to develop argumentative resources and negotiation skills in situations of intercultural communication will thus be stimulated and deepened.

Cognitive and learning capacities will be trained through free and/or guided activities of written and oral presentations, discussions, note-taking and short written and/or oral reports. At the end of the course, the student will be able to apply a punctual understanding of the facts and documents concerning specialised and professional financial communication, as well as to master the written and/or oral expression resources relevant to the main topics related to French Language for finance (level B1+).

***COURSE CONTENT***

The French language of European and international finance.

French financial terminology for financial declarations, company statutes, central bank operations, international trade.

The communication techniques necessary for negotiation. Development of argumentative and negotiation resources in intercultural situations of financial communication.

Activities for written and oral comprehension of conferences/speeches; activities for writing short texts (minutes, summaries, formal written communication); activities for active oral production. Professional communication skills: writing for clear and precise reports; public speaking.

***READING LIST***

Audio/video texts of argumentative type at choice, level B1+ of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages, to be analysed in their argumentative and communicative organization (available in Blackboard page of this Course)*.*

A selection of French financial texts, taken from the main sources of information (press, French and French-speaking institutional sites, international media), level B1+ of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages, available in Blackboard page of this Course.

M. Gautier, *Banque-finance.com*, CLE international, Paris, 2004.

R. Simonet-J. Simonet, *Savoir argumenter,* Éditions d’Organisation, Paris, 2004, ch. 3 (available in Blackboard page of this Course).

IATE (Interactive Terminology for Europe): *https://iate.europa.eu/home*.

TERMDAT (The Federal Administration’s terminology database): *https://www.termdat.bk.admin.ch/*.

FRANCETERM: *http://www.culture.fr/franceterme*.

***TEACHING METHOD***

Lectures and seminars for the development of argumentative and negotiation resources in situations of intercultural communication; practical classes for written and oral activities; distance written and oral production activities (Blackboard page of the Course); independent work at the “Centro per l'Autoapprendimento”, Servizio Linguistico d’Ateneo.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

The oral exam will consist of two parts: a written exam and final oral part.

The written test consists of sentence and lexicon transformation exercises, followed by the summary of a text (3000 to 4000 characters). The candidate has 90 minutes for this part. Only monolingual dictionaries are used.

*Criteria for the evaluation of the written part*. The evaluation of the exercises will take into account the following aspects: linguistic (understanding and accuracy); textual (appropriateness to the genre and context); stylistic (appropriateness to the author's style and language register); terminological (knowledge and relevant use of specialist terms); referential (extra-linguistic elements) (25% of the value of the final evaluation).

As for the summary, it will be checked that the candidate can write a clear and precise text by synthesizing and evaluating information and arguments, in order to reach a clear and appropriate conclusion (25% of the value of the final evaluation).

The final oral examination is organised in two parts: (1) the presentation of an oral presentation based on an analysis of a written/oral/video text of an argumentative type indicated in the reading list; (2) simulation of a dialogue in a communicative situation related to finance (bank account opening, credit opening, etc.).

*Evaluation criteria for the oral part*. Presentation of an *exposé* (a subject of the student's choice, based on the topics analysed during the Course): explanation of the choice of the argumentative text to be analysed; announcement of the plan (15% of the final evaluation); analytical study of the argumentative organisation of the text (distribution of arguments and evaluation of their nature; rhetorical construction; syntactic and lexical choices; cultural clues and references) (15% of the final evaluation).

Simulation of a dialogue in a communicative situation related to finance: linguistic aspects (understanding and accuracy), terminological aspects (knowledge and relevant use of specialist terms) (20% of the value of the final evaluation).

The percentages reflect the evaluation of the presentation of contents and other factors involved in the oral examination: pertinence of answers to questions; depth of insight into the texts studied and breadth of debate; ability to relate to the sources studied and the documents under discussion; quality and appropriateness of French language for finance; cultural knowledge of the contexts analysed.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

Further information can be found on the lecturer's webpage at *http://docenti.unicatt.it/web/searchByName.do?language=ENG*, or on the Faculty notice board.

For the acquisition of the basic language skills as a prerequisite for attending the first module of “Francais de la finance”, absolute beginners in French are required to attend 16 hours of Coaching and self-learning activities (held online, with recording of the explanation parts, available to Course participants). The course offers: 12 hours of coaching activities (three times a week); 4 hours of guided self-learning activities.

Absolute beginners can also take courses offered by the University Language Center - SeLdA (*Servizio Linguistico d’Ateneo*), especially the 60-hour course – Lingua francese (livello principianti) – available in both semesters. For all information about French classes please visit the relevant page on the SeLdA website: <https://studenticattolica.unicatt.it/corsi-curricolari-di-base-lingua-francese>.

*Place and time of consultation hours*

During the semester, office hours will take place upon appointment (klara.dankova@unicatt.it).