

# **SPEAKING NEAR AND FAR**

**Levels A2 - C2 in English**

**and either native speaker or strong level (C1 minimum) in French**

Stacey Benoit

## **Learning Goals**

This theme course is designed as a language and cultural exchange with a French class at the University of South Carolina. Using a series of techniques such as video conferencing, email, Facebook and Instagram, we will get to know our international partners' tastes and ideas on a variety of topics through a diversity of formats, both in French and English. *The course is created to cover two semesters, as in the second semester, in the past 6 years we have hosted the American students during their Spring break and visit them during ours.*

*This low-budget trip to meet each other in person (rather than as tourists), allowed us to house each other for a week and give each other an idea of our lifestyles first-hand. The finances of this trip have not been worked out yet for this year, **so it should not be the reason you take this course.***



Acting as both language learners and language teachers, we will communicate on many different levels, in different genres, registers and languages, based on social and cultural themes. We will work on specialized and more general vocabulary when encountering a variety of linguistic situations. By the end of the course, students will be able to communicate more easily in spoken and written English.

## **Learning Objectives**

The objective of this course is for students to be able to adapt their oral skills to fit a variety of situations. Within the virtual community, students should be able to give information and opinions, exchange and describe ideas, debate and briefly manipulate their knowledge to communicate their thoughts, both in writing and orally. They should become more aware of language acquisition, in their roles as both learner and teacher.

Using a selection of literature, press articles, films, TV reports, podcasts and more, this course will also focus on listening comprehension and speaking out, taking the floor and giving one's opinion and ideas to both the students in the United States and to the group. Students will be asked to react to various themes in a variety of genres, giving them the opportunity to refine their skills in brainstorming, interviewing, speculating, summarizing and giving presentations in English.

## **Course expectations**

Of course, participation in the class discussion as well as outside video conferencing and written exchange will be essential as well as the preparation of an oral presentation and other tasks of oral expression.

## **Grading**

The grade is based in on class participation, oral presentations and other graded oral and written tasks.