

University of Michigan

Fall 2021 Instructor Report With Comments

FRENCH 231-006: Second-Year

Miriam Akoto

9 out of 17 students responded to this evaluation.

Responses to University-wide questions about the course:

	SA	A	N	D	SD	N/A	Your Median	Univ-wide Median	School/College Median
This course advanced my understanding of the subject matter. (Q1631)	3	4	1	0	1	0	4.1	4.5	4.6
My interest in the subject has increased because of this course. (Q1632)	1	2	2	3	1	0	2.8	4.2	4.2
I knew what was expected of me in this course.(Q1633)	2	6	0	0	1	0	4.1	4.5	4.6
I had a strong desire to take this course.(Q4)	0	2	4	2	1	0	2.9	4.0	3.9
As compared with other courses of equal credit, the workload for this course was (SA=Much Lighter, A=Lighter, N=Typical, D=Heavier, SD=Much Heavier). (Q891)	0	0	1	4	4	0	1.6	3.0	3.1

Responses to University-wide questions about the instructor:

	SA	A	N	D	SD	N/A	Your Median	Univ-wide Median	School/College Median
Miriam Akoto seemed well prepared for class meetings.(Q230)	5	3	0	1	0	0	4.6	4.8	4.9
Miriam Akoto explained material clearly.(Q199)	2	4	2	0	1	0	3.9	4.7	4.7
Miriam Akoto treated students with respect.(Q217)	8	0	0	0	1	0	4.9	4.9	4.9

Responses to questions about the course:

	SA	A	N	D	SD	N/A	Your Median
I learned a great deal from this course. (Q3)	2	4	2	1	0	0	3.9
I developed enthusiasm about the course material. (Q141)	0	4	1	4	0	0	3.0
Examinations covered the important aspects of the course. (Q356)	1	7	1	0	0	0	4.0
Grades were assigned fairly and impartially. (Q365)	1	6	1	1	0	0	3.9
Course materials (learning objectives, online modules, exercises, quizzes) were easy to access. (Q1449)	2	6	1	0	0	0	4.1
I developed the ability to express myself in my language of study. (Q1527)	0	7	1	0	1	0	3.9

Responses to questions about the instructor:

	SA	A	N	D	SD	N/A	Your Median
Miriam Akoto maintained an atmosphere of good feeling in class. (Q215)	4	2	1	1	1	0	4.3
Miriam Akoto kept students informed of their progress. (Q226)	2	4	1	2	0	0	3.9

The medians are calculated from Fall 2021 data. University-wide medians are based on all UM classes in which an item was used. The school/college medians in this report are based on classes that are lower division with enrollment of 16 to 74 in Division of Humanities in the College of LS&A.

Written Comments

Which aspects of this course did you like best? (Q902)

Comments
I liked that it was film based.
Miriam Akoto was very nice and approachable. I enjoyed having her as a teacher and felt I actually improved my French-speaking skills in this class.
Learning about the history of France.
I liked the movies that we watched and I thought the exposes everyone gave were really interesting. Prof Akoto was also always smiling and willing to help which made the classroom environment nice.
The small class sizes
I liked the variety of subjects we got to talk about and the films we discussed. Being able to talk as a part of the class although challenging made it more engaging.
I liked when we were able to bring personal connections into the content we were learning. I feel like that helped me to understand how to express myself in a different language.

Which aspects of this course did you like least? (Q903)

Comments
I disliked that there was not very much listening practice for the listening sections of exams.
i feel the workload for this course was slightly unattainable given that we had class 4 days a week and over an hour of homework most nights
Too much work– more than any other class i'm taking... and i'm a bio major!! I was also told I did poorly in the class and needed a tutor because I did not do well on the speaking final, after never having done a speaking test before and having an A in the course. I was left crying from the demeaning words that were said to me.
I do not like the learning model that all of the french classes employ here. It's really difficult for me to learn this way. I wish we had more guidance on structures and practice.
The flipped classroom!!! Really really prevented my learning. I felt as if class time wasn't beneficial at all because of this.
Sometimes I would get confused with deadlines for homework assignments and the volume of assignments we would have. There were some nights I would be up for hours doing French homework when I could have been studying for something more related to my major which I sometimes have been bitter about.
While I realize it is necessary, the homework definitely felt tedious at times.

Compare the in-person and the virtual class. (Q1880)

Comments
The virtual class seemed somewhat less organized than the in-person class, but it did give more opportunities to interact with other students in breakout rooms.
I don't see much difference between the two
neither were helpful– class most definitely should not be “flipped”!!!
They were very similar. Personally, attending the virtual class made my day easier and I felt like I still was able to gain the same experiences as in person. I sort of like breakout rooms more than in person groups too. It's less chaotic and easier to have a one on one discussion with your group.
I thought that they were equal.
I generally preferred the virtual class more out of convenience because I disliked running to Lorch Hall in the mornings. However I think the in person portion was necessary and helped me be more engaged with the material.
I feel like it was a better atmosphere for communicating when in person, but I also felt more anxious to participate then. On the other hand, I did not learn as well online, but I felt more comfortable speaking.

University of Michigan

Fall 2021 Instructor Report With Comments

FRENCH 231-025: Second-Year

Miriam Akoto

11 out of 18 students responded to this evaluation.

Responses to University-wide questions about the course:

	SA	A	N	D	SD	N/A	Your Median	Univ-wide Median	School/College Median
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Responses to University-wide questions about the instructor:

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Written Comments

Which aspects of this course did you like best? (Q902)

Comments
I love Prof. Akotooooooooo!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
I really enjoyed watching videos and studying about cultures alongside the language of French.
I liked the composition / extended writing assignments.
I liked being in class and discussing things with the class and the teacher.
I liked learning about the language via movies, because that was more interesting and felt more valuable to real life conversations.
I though the film aspect of the class was really well done, especially with the second two films. In all honesty the reason that I've had such a great experience with this class has had a lot more to do with the instructor than the content its self. Madam Akoto has created an atmosphere truly unlike any other course. Every single class has been well planned and it's genuinely exciting to come to class. Madam Akoto is incredibly accessible and does everything she can to ensure that students are comfortable and learning to their best ability. I do not think I would have had even close to as positive of an experience without her as my professor.
I enjoyed breakout rooms and small groups the best because I felt like i got to really connect with other students. Along with that, I felt like that's where I learned the most.
The structure of the class helped me to learn the information more deeply instead of just listening in class. This is the first French class that I have felt adequately prepared for each test, and like I am retaining the taught information. Dr. Akoto has been instrumental in my success in this course.
Miriam was very accessible as a professor. I really enjoyed the course!
I enjoyed the in-person discussions and the topics that were covered in this class. Madame Akoto is my favorite teacher I had this year, she was just awesome. She was excited about the language and brought that energy to class everyday.

Which aspects of this course did you like least? (Q903)

Comments
The workload was too heavy :(
The sheer amount of homework to do on a daily basis left me overwhelmed. A lot of my work ended up being late or not representative of my ability due to the amount.
The canvas quizzes would sometimes mark significant portions of an answer wrong for a missing accent or a typo. In general, I have difficulty learning new grammar, so I did not particularly enjoy that part.
I did not like that the class was flipped.
The workload was incredibly overwhelming and much greater than all of my other classes. It was really difficult to keep up with, both because of the amount but also because different assignments were due at different times which made it confusing.
While I understand the idea behind the flipped classroom approach, I think it assumes that students have a huge amount of time to dedicate to this class. In reality most students are enrolled in three or four other classes at the same time, and in many cases the workload of French is larger then all the other courses combined. There have been nights where it is simply not possible to go to sleep between the workload of french and other courses. I can understand using the flipped classroom model when students are French majors but I think a bit more content instruction in class might lower the workload into a more manageable amount.
I did not enjoy having to teach myself the material. I did not feel as if this was the most conducive to my best type of learning.
There was a lot of work, but that was necessary for the flipped classroom structure.
I did not like having to teach myself the material at home and it being reinforced in class. I was not a fan of the flip learning strategy.

Compare the in-person and the virtual class. (Q1880)

Comments
I like in-person class better
In-person felt more comfortable to practice my French.
Most times in breakout rooms virtually, it's more difficult to have conversations than in person.
I liked in person much better because I enjoy face-to-face teaching more but that is just a preference, the virtual and in-person classes were identical otherwise.
They were very similar.
I personally like having both Virtual and In person. I think with in person classes it's obviously more conducive to discussions but break out rooms on virtual classes have made it much easier to get to know my other classmates.
In the in-person classes I felt that I learned more than I did in the virtual because I felt more easily able to ask questions about the material as well as just participate more in general. The virtual classes hindered my learning because it's easy to get distracted and not fully invest yourself in what you are learning.
The virtual class allowed us to do more longer term group work while in-person we could actively participate as a whole. I thought they were very complimentary.
The two classes were quite similar and at times could have been substituted for either. However, the virtual classes seemed to be less instructive on concepts, but more useful because she incorporated many breakout rooms for small discussions, which allowed us to use what we learned in class. The in-person classes were incredibly useful for really hammering home what we earned at home. There was extensive explanation and usage of the material.