I. COURSE OBJECTIVES:

This course is principally designed for seminarians endeavoring to acquire a reading knowledge of French in order to pursue more advanced studies, whether at their current institution or later in a doctoral program. This course supports the seminary’s mission primarily in terms of the second article of the mission statement: “To maintain academic excellence in the highest tradition of Christian scholarship in the teaching of the biblical, historical and theological disciplines.” Students will be provided with the requisite vocabulary and grammatical structures in order to read with general accuracy and moderate ease a variety of French theological texts. For maximum effectiveness, however, some important considerations with respect to scope and pedagogy are in order:

Theological French will be engaged on its own soil, using authentic texts and building reading skills from the opening chapters. No previous study of French is presumed. Each chapter is structured around a primary reading and will materially constitute, for the purposes of this class, a daily lesson. Reading passages increase gradually in length and difficulty throughout the manual. These are followed by a running vocabulary—for recognition purposes only—whose words and expressions are indicated by a footnote in the text, and also by a more extensive vocabulary list, consisting of new words to be actively assimilated. Parts of speech are signaled in parenthesis next to vocabulary items only when pertinent to avoid ambiguity. Obvious cognates—such as amen, grâce, héritage, sanctification—are generally omitted so as to encourage reading fluidity. However, a complete listing of all words, along with their wider semantic range, can be found in the glossary at the end of the manual. Grammar constructions are introduced in a graduated manner as well. These explanations do not purport to be exhaustive, which means that rule exceptions are kept to a minimum, in the larger interest of focusing attention on vocabulary acquisition and on developing of sight-reading ability. Short target-language and translation exercises are embedded within each chapter following the presentation of vocabulary or grammar units, with a view to broadening semantic understanding and to verifying mastery of forms. Finally, each chapter concludes with a general review and a “helpful hint” for reading French.

II. GENERAL GUIDELINES:

Assiduous attendance, robust preparation, and active participation will not only be required, but will be graded on a daily basis. The other requirements consist of daily homework exercises, daily vocabulary quizzes, and a final take-home translation exam. The final grade will be calculated in the following manner:
Attendance, Preparation, Participation*:  25%
Homework:  25%
Vocabulary Quizzes:  25%
Final Exam:  25%

*Each unexcused absence will lower your grade in this category by 3%.

III. GRADE SCALE:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Range</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Range</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93-100</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>73-76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90-92</td>
<td>C-</td>
<td>70-72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87-89</td>
<td>D+</td>
<td>67-69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>83-86</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>63-66</td>
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<tr>
<td>B-</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>77-79</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>0-59</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

IV. TEXTS:

The only required text is a manual, which I have in preparation (to be published by Wipf & Stock). You will thus receive the text in electronic form and will print out the chapters as needed as the course unfolds. All the words contained in the manual are included in a glossary at volume’s end. However, for your future study, the following study aids are recommended:


Monday, May 23
FRENCH PRONUNCIATION
FRENCH PROSODY

Tuesday, May 24
THE VERB ÊTRE
SUBJECT PRONOUNS
THE DEFINITE ARTICLE
GENDER AND PLURAL OF NOUNS
Thursday, May 26  THE VERB *AVOIR*
THE INDEFINITE ARTICLE
AGREEMENT AND PLURAL OF ADJECTIVES

Friday, May 27  VERBS IN *-ER*
DEMONSTRATIVE ADJECTIVES
POSSESSIVE ADJECTIVES
CARDINAL NUMBERS 0-20

Monday, May 30  Memorial Day (No class)

Tuesday, May 31  THE VERB *FAIRE*
SIMPLE PREPOSITIONS
DISJUNCTIVE PRONOUNS

Thursday, June 2  THE VERB *ALLER*
THE DEMONSTRATIVE PRONOUN *CELUI*
FORMS AND USES OF *TOUT*
NEGATIVE EXPRESSIONS

Friday, June 3  VERBS IN *-IR*
*QUEL, LEQUEL*
COMPOUND PREPOSITIONS
ADVERBS

Monday, June 6  VERBS IN *-RE*
INDIRECT OBJECT PRONOUNS
INTERROGATIVE ADVERBS
INTERROGATIVE PRONOUNS

Tuesday, June 7  *SAVOIR VERSUS CONNAÎTRE*
DIRECT OBJECT PRONOUNS
*VENIR* AND THE RECENT PAST
THE PARTITIVE

Thursday, June 8  *POUVOIR, DEVOIR, VOULOIR*
ORDINAL NUMBERS
*IL FAUT*
THE GERUND

Friday, June 10  *VOIR, CROIRE, BOIRE*
ADJECTIVES PRECEDING THE NOUN
*DIRE, LIRE, ÉCRIRE*
CARDINAL NUMBERS (CONTINUED)

Monday, June 13  *ASSEOIR, CUEILLIR, AND VÊTIR*
PRENDRE AND IRREGULAR *-RE VERBS*
PASSÉ COMPOSÉ: VERBS CONJUGATED WITH

**AVOIR**

PAST PARTICIPLE AGREEMENT

**Tuesday, June 14**

*METTRE AND SIMILAR VERBS*

POSSESSIVE PRONOUNS

*DORMIR AND IRREGULAR -IR VERBS*

PASSÉ COMPOSÉ: VERBS CONJUGATED WITH

**ÉTRE**

**Thursday, June 16**

*OFFRIR AND SIMILAR VERBS*

PRONOMINAL VERBS

THE PRONOUN *I*

THE PRONOUN *EN*

**Friday, June 17**

*PLAINDRE AND SIMILAR VERBS*

THE IMPERFECT

VERBS + INFINITIVE

THE PLUPERFECT