FREN 1620 Elementary French. Six semester hours.

An intensive oral and written introduction to French for students with no prior knowledge of the language. Through pattern drills, the course stresses acquisition of vocabulary, pronunciation, and the formation of sentences in everyday conversation. Six hours plus one hour lab. (Cross-listed with FREN 1311 and FREN 1312)

Justification:
These courses are meant to address a persistent problem we have with low enrollments in introductory foreign-language courses. Few degrees require another language (beyond Spanish, for which many of our students receive test credit), so enrollments in classes like Portuguese and, to a lesser extent, French, have unpredictable but often low enrollments. Complicating this is the fact that the 1311s -- the first of the two courses -- often make, whereas the 1312s (for a variety of reasons) do not, stranding those few students who need the remaining three hours of credit.

These new courses are admittedly experimental: they're six hours of credit -- equivalent to taking 1311 and 1312 in one semester. Because we'll be crosslisting each half of the semester with the equivalent three-hour section, students needing just one or the other (it's more likely they'll need 1312) can enroll for a half-semester course, while students needing all six hours can enroll for 1320 and be done with the requirement in one term. The classes will meet four days (75 minutes) or five days (three 50-minute, two 75-minute) each week for the semester. There are of course, sound pedagogical reasons for scheduling foreign language classes to meet daily, but this will still be a less compressed learning experience than the summer term.
Syllabus

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Prerequisites: None

Course outcomes for FREN 1620:

By the end of the semester, students will:

- have knowledge about life in France and other Francophone countries;
- have the ability to communicate in French in simple sentences using the present and near future tenses;
- be able accurately to conjugate verbs from the three major groups;
- be comfortable with basic everyday vocabulary;
- be able to tell time and use a calendar;
- be able to count and use numbers in a variety of ways;
- be able to describe themselves, their families, their friends, and their surroundings;
- be able to order in a restaurant, ask for directions, and introduce people to one another;
- be able to use variations of the interrogative and negative forms; and,
- be able to use basic French grammar correctly.