

## O FRENCH: ECHANGES ANIMES

Each week, the class discusses the pros and cons of a topic of interest based on materials intended for native speakers. The selected readings supply both authentic language models as well as insight into how native speakers view the subject at hand. Readings include explanations of key words and cultural references, and are provided to class members one week prior to each class session. To assist participants in preparing for class, handouts also include questions about the reading and suggested discussion topics. Since the goal of the course is to promote a lively exchange, improve speaking skills and expand students' knowledge, a relaxed and accepting atmosphere is crucial. Topics may be chosen from the following broad themes:

THE ARTS

HISTORY

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

LANGUAGE AND CULTURE

SOCIETY

CURRENT EVENTS AND TRENDS

TRAVEL AND ADVENTURE

MODERN DILEMMAS

\* TOPIC EXAMPLES (Spring 2024):

\* Meat created in a lab – a way to combat global warming?

\* New Caledonia votes to remain French – can Kanuk traditions survive?

\* Little-known history: Refugees from Nazi Germany imprisoned in **French** concentration camps prior to the Occupation – letters from a prisoner

\* Combatting "illelectronisme", the inability to function in a digital world \*

Researchers explore the ease with which false memories can be created \*

Say no to alcohol – yes to dark chocolate?

\* France prepares for the 2024 Olympics

\* Swiss women win a historic judgment against their government for failure to

protect their right to life