

## FRESHMEN

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On the other side of the room, Taylor and her friend Stephanie Harding study their first-year Italian textbook. Taylor is failing her Math 111 and Italian classes.

"Of the three languages that I've taken, this is by far the hardest," Taylor says. "A bunch of drunk fat guys drinking vino got together and made this language."

### Living and learning

On her first day of college, French sat on a bed in a sparsely filled residence hall room staring across at an empty bed and desk. Her roommate had not yet arrived and she was nervous about meeting her. More than dreading Taylor would turn out to be a bad roommate, French was worried she herself would be that bad roommate.

But French said it hasn't happened. "I think I'm pretty normal or average," she said, adding that they "goof on each other a lot," but always in good humor.

French still wakes her roommate up in the morning with the banging of her belt buckles against the wooden closet door when she opens it. But even that hasn't proven to be a sore point, she said.

"She just rolls over," French said. "She sleeps as long as physically possible."

Through 10 weeks, the pair has not found out all there is to know about one another. But they have learned how to get along.

"Even though we're really different, I think we've been able to accommodate

each other really well," Taylor said. "If we ever do have kind of a (tiff), we pretty much make a joke of it and shrug it off. I really, really like Jenn; sometimes I wonder if she likes me. She's hard to read. She's a tough cookie."

### Finishing with fall

French sat on the edge of her bed Thursday night with her precalculus book next to her, while her friend Joe Eriksen studied chemistry on French's laptop. Occasionally, French leaned over to help him with a problem, but mostly she was engrossed in an episode of "Will and Grace."

She has not concentrated on studying for math, but that's not a worry, she said. French pretty much knew all of the material before the class even started, she said, and she has plenty of time to brush up before the test.

She also found success in her Chemistry 221 class, where she pulled her grade up from a D to a B. She predicts that if she does well on the final she can raise it even more.

For Taylor, things are more dire. She still has three "huge" finals to do today and Tuesday, and her grades are bad.

"I'm not excited to get my grades back," she said. "I'm hoping that it's just because of my first term, but they're really bad. I might lose my scholarship."

Later this week, French will go home to Aloha for the holidays, where she's pretty sure she'll get bored.

"I just have a lot less purpose at home," she said.

French said she's supposed to

spend a lot of time with her friend from Linfield College, but it might not happen. She hasn't been able to find a job for winter break, either.

She insists she's not dreading the end of the term, though. She says she always finds something to do. Even as she speaks, she fiddles with a stapler.

### Wondering about winter

Taylor is going to be anything but bored during the break. She has two jobs lined up: working at a craft store and cleaning her neighbors' house.

But she has high hopes for winter term.

"I'm just really hoping that I'm going to buckle down and do a lot better next term," Taylor says on Friday. "The (classes) that I had this term were so hard."

French is also looking forward to winter term. She will take two chemistry classes, a writing class, history class and biology class, but she is not necessarily excited about them. Instead, she's eager to get through school as quickly as possible, she says.

After her final exams on Tuesday, Taylor will stick around to work two shifts at Hammy's Diner, then she'll head home to Gresham.

French will also be done with her last final exam Tuesday, after which she'll head home.

Neither plans to ride together on the trip home, however.

"Three hours in a car with her?" French jokes.

Taylor just grins.

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