

French Linguistics III (A000593)

Course size *(nominal values; actual values may depend on programme)*

Credits 3.0 **Study time 90 h**

Course offerings in academic year 2026-2027

Lecturers in academic year 2026-2027

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Offered in the following programmes in 2026-2027

crdts **offering**

Teaching languages

French

Keywords

French historical linguistics, phonetics, phonology, morphology, lexicon, inherited words, language evolution

Position of the course

The purpose of this module (1 block per week) is to give an insight into the genesis of French from Latin. More specifically, we will study : 1. the lexical heritage from Latin (the share of Latin inherited words in the French lexicon) 2. sound evolutions and their traces in contemporary spelling 3. similarities with other Romance languages.

This course prepares students for a thorough study of Old French texts.

Contents

The first part of the course focuses on the genesis of French and on the origin of the French lexicon (inherited words, loanwords, derivations, etc.). Then follows a study of the evolution of the sounds in French and its impact on contemporary French spelling. Particular attention is paid to the main phenomena that underlie the phonetic developments (e.g. the role of the accent, palatalization, nasalization, diphthongization, etc.). The analyses will be illustrated with numerous examples and exercises, which focus not only on the phonetic evolution, but also on scientific argumentation.

Initial competences

To have completed the French linguistics I and II course or to have mastered the intended competence in another way.

Expected language skills : B2/C1

Final competences

- 1 Have insight into the historical connections between Latin and French
- 2 Explain the phonetic evolution of words and understand their impact on spelling
- 3 Differentiate between inherited words and loanwords
- 4 Interpret linguistic data, form hypotheses and build scientific argumentations
- 5 Master the specific terminology + to use the language grammatically correctly and in a stylistically accurate way

Conditions for credit contract

Access to this course unit via a credit contract is unrestricted: the student takes into consideration the conditions mentioned in 'Starting Competences'

Conditions for exam contract

Access to this course unit via an exam contract is unrestricted

Teaching methods

Group work, Seminar, Independent work

Extra information on the teaching methods

During the contact hours, the learning material will be taught in an interactive way and applied to exercises. In addition, students are expected to study autonomously a part of the syllabus and to do some exercises in an independent way. During the classes references will be made to this material and there will be room to ask questions. Finally, the students also deepen one particular aspect of the course by means of a collective video presentation.

The classes take place on campus; if needed (e.g. due to Covid), occasional switching to online streaming may be envisaged.

Study material

None

References

Englebert A. 2009. *Introduction à la phonétique historique du français*. Bruxelles, De Boeck/Duculot. (available in the library)

Laborderie N. 1994/2009. *Précis de phonétique historique*, Paris, Colin. (available in the library)

Régnier C. & Bonnard H. 1989, *Petite grammaire de l'ancien français*. Paris, Magnard (available in the library)

Walter H. 1994, *L'aventure des langues en Occident. Leur origine, leur histoire, leur géographie*, Paris, Laffont, 103-129 ; 225-275. (available in the library)

Course content-related study coaching

Guidance during self-study and group work.

Assessment moments

end-of-term and continuous assessment

Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the first examination period

Written assessment with open-ended questions

Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the second examination period

Written assessment with open-ended questions

Examination methods in case of permanent assessment

Presentation

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment

examination during the second examination period is not possible

Extra information on the examination methods

Written exam consisting of several open questions about theoretical issues and their application.

Group work micro-teaching (video presentation). The assessment includes both content and form (language).

Calculation of the examination mark

Written exam : 80 %; group work : 20 %.

For the assessment of language proficiency, error scales are used.

Facilities for Working Students

1. Possible exemption from educational activities requiring student attendance
2. Possible rescheduling of the exam to a different time in the same academic year
3. Feedback can be given by email or during an appointment (on campus or online)
4. The students receive additional reading and can count on guidance by the assisting staff.

For more information concerning flexible learning: contact the monitoring service of the faculty of Arts and Philosophy

