

Modern French Linguistics: Specific Problems II (A002171)

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

Credits 5.0 **Study time 150 h**

Course offerings and teaching methods in academic year 2023-2024

A (semester 2)	French	Gent	group work
			independent work
			seminar

Lecturers in academic year 2023-2024

Crible, Ludivine	LW06	lecturer-in-charge
Feltgen, Quentin	LW06	co-lecturer

Offered in the following programmes in 2023-2024

	crdts	offering
Master of Science in Teaching in Languages(main subject Linguistics and Literature)	5	A
Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Dutch - French)	5	A
Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject French)	5	A
Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject French - English)	5	A
Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject French - German)	5	A
Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject French - Greek)	5	A
Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject French - Italian)	5	A
Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject French - Latin)	5	A
Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject French - Scandinavian Studies)	5	A
Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject French - Spanish)	5	A
Exchange Programme Linguistics and Literature	5	A

Teaching languages

French

Keywords

discourse analysis, pragmatics, interaction, discourse markers, spoken language, modern French

Position of the course

This course aims to explore the discourse level and the phenomena that arise in French spoken interaction. It focuses on the many forms and functions of *discourse markers* and other elements at the border of that category, thus deepening the students' understanding of the continuum from grammar to discourse and of the specific processes of speech production.

Contents

The course deals primarily with discourse markers, a linguistic category of expressions recruited from other grammatical classes to perform discourse-pragmatic functions in context (e.g. *donc*, *enfin*, *ben*, *alors*, *tu vois*, etc.). Through the study of their many forms and functions and of other related phenomena (such as disfluencies *eumm*, feedback signals *okay*, *d'accord* or pragmatic gestures), the course covers major aspects of language-in-use, in particular those related to spoken interaction such as reformulation, fluency or alignment. The course starts by pointing out the paradox of discourse markers as very useful and yet perceived as "filler words", and strives to resolve this paradox by exploring the forms, functions, acquisition and production of discourse markers. This course broadens the notion of linguistic function beyond syntax and semantics by fully taking into

account the role of context (e.g. the communicative situation, the speakers present). Several theoretical and methodological frameworks will be discussed and confronted, and students will be given practical introductions on the analysis of conversational corpora. Throughout the sessions, the students increase their vocabulary and regularly take the floor to express their opinion on the analysis of language functions. They also give an oral presentation, read scientific articles and conduct a short corpus-based study.

Initial competences

The course links up with "French linguistics II" and the elective course "French linguistics IV", but the latter is not a pre-requisite. The language proficiency level is C1.

Final competences

- 1 Define and describe the properties of discourse markers in spoken French
- 2 Apply different theoretical perspectives to the analysis of discourse markers in authentic examples
- 3 Understand the multiple processes of speech production and how discourse markers reflect them
- 4 Criticize and discuss scientific articles on discourse markers in French
- 5 Analyze conversational corpora with appropriate tools
- 6 Design an analytical grid and apply it to corpus data
- 7 Calculate and report inter-annotator agreement
- 8 Conduct a corpus-based study on discourse markers in spoken French
- 9 Give an academic presentation (at C1 level) about the subject matter
- 10 Acquire passive knowledge of multifunctional and creative words in spoken French

Conditions for credit contract

Access to this course unit via a credit contract is determined after successful competences assessment

Conditions for exam contract

This course unit cannot be taken via an exam contract

Teaching methods

Group work, Seminar, Independent work

Extra information on the teaching methods

Seminar : Sessions include the introduction and discussion of several approaches to discourse markers, which are then applied in in-class exercises.

Independent work : One session uses the flipped classroom format, which requires autonomous preparation online ahead of the class. In addition, limited parts of the course are given in online materials on Ufora, especially related to the research paper. Finally, students contribute to an online forum by reading and discussing research articles.

Group work : Students work on a corpus study in groups of 2 (or 3 in case of odd number of students).

Learning materials and price

Powerpoint presentations, enriched knowledge clips, selection of articles in French. All learning material is available on Ufora.

References

A list of references is provided on Ufora.

Course content-related study coaching

Guidance and feedback for the corpus study are provided both in the classroom (collective & individual) and online (individual).

Assessment moments

end-of-term and continuous assessment

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

Oral assessment

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

Oral assessment

Examination methods in case of permanent assessment

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment

examination during the second examination period is possible

Extra information on the examination methods

Students read research articles and contribute to an online forum to summarize and discuss them.

They also conduct a small corpus study on discourse markers in groups of 2 (or 3), which they present orally in class. Individual guidance by the course holder is provided.

The final exam is an open-book oral exam with a theoretical and an analytical question based on the content of the course and examples. Throughout the dialogue between teacher and student, it is checked whether the student has a sufficient understanding of the subject matter.

Students who fail the course in first session have to resubmit their assignment (non-periodic evaluation) on an individual basis if they also failed the assignment.

Calculation of the examination mark

The periodic evaluation counts for 50% and the non-periodic evaluation for 50% (forum and corpus study). As to the evaluation of language proficiency, error scales are used.

Facilities for Working Students

1. Class attendance is recommended to successfully complete the course.
2. Lectures are not recorded but sufficient online learning material is provided.
3. It is possible to take the exam at a different time within the regular exam period.
4. Possibility to receive feedback at another time: by appointment.

It is to be noted that this course is highly interactive, with no syllabus, and not very suitable for distance learning (apart from specific parts designed as such). Although attendance is not mandatory, it is highly recommended.