

The Diachronic Study of French (A002627)

Course size	<i>(nominal values; actual values may depend on programme)</i>		
Credits 5.0	Study time 150 h	Contact hrs	40.0 h

Course offerings and teaching methods in academic year 2023-2024

A (semester 1)	French	Gent	seminar independent work
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Lecturers in academic year 2023-2024

Van Acker, Marieke	LW06	staff member
Lauwers, Peter	LW06	lecturer-in-charge

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
Master of Arts in Historical Linguistics and Literature	5	A
Exchange Programme Linguistics and Literature	5	A

Teaching languages

French

Keywords

Language change, phonetics, morpho-syntax, grammaticalization, word order, determination, historical socio-linguistics

Position of the course

This course is part of the program of the Master HTL and of the Master Language and Literature, French. It aims to give an insight into the major changes that the French language has undergone since the 9th century, esp. on the morpho-syntactic and socio-linguistic level.

Contents

The course consists of two parts :

- a theoretical part, which deals with the main morpho-syntactic evolutions : the disappearance of the case system, the evolution of word order, the developing of articles and other determiners, the cliticisation of pronouns, grammaticalization and the development of adverbs
- an applied part, in which these evolutions are observed in text excerpts from the ninth to the seventeenth century and which also focuses on socio-linguistic evolutions.

Students also translate and analyze texts themselves and realize a research paper, in which they apply the developed knowledge and skills. They can count on guidance for this.

Initial competences

The course links up with "French linguistics III" (Ba2) - diachronic phonetics and lexicology - of the Linguistics and Literature programme. Students also need to have a basic linguistic knowledge of French morphosyntax (as provided in courses such as French Linguistics 1). The students are expected to have a language proficiency level B2/C1.

Final competences

- 1 Have insight into the main morpho-syntactic and socio-linguistics evolutions of French
- 2 Understand and analyze French texts from different periods
- 3 Situate texts within the evolution of French and apply theoretical models on texts
- 4 Present research results, both in oral and written form
- 5 Build scientific argumentations
- 6 Master academic writing (expected language level C1)

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

Guided self-study, seminar: coached exercises

Extra information on the teaching methods

The theoretical part consists mainly of seminars, which comment on the main linguistic evolutions from Latin to French. These evolutions are illustrated in examples and short text fragments.

The applied part consists of a seminar with guided exercises, in which texts from the 9th to the 17th century are read collectively. Linguistic evolutions are observed in texts and discussed from a socio-linguistic perspective.

The guided tutorial consists of the reading of scientific articles on specific aspects of language evolution. References to these articles are made in class and there is room for questions.

The individual paper consists of an autonomous analysis of a text fragment, which is presented orally and in a written paper.

The classes take place partly on campus, partly online (via Bongo or MS Teams).

If needed because of Covid restrictions, online teaching may be provided (via Zoom).

Learning materials and price

The syllabus, ppt-presentations, videos, scientific articles and a selection of texts are provided on Ufora.

References

- Buridant C. 2000. *Grammaire nouvelle de l'ancien français*. Paris, Sedes.
- Carlier A. 2006. Du démonstratif à l'article défini : le cas de *ce* en français moderne. *Langue française* 152, 96-113. http://www.cairn.info/article.php?ID_ARTICLE=LF_152_0096
- Fournier N. 2001. Expression et place des constituants dans l'énoncé en français classique : la relation sujet-verbe et la relation verbe-objet. *Langue française* 130, 89-107. http://www.persee.fr/web/revues/home/prescript/article/lfr_0023-8368_2001_num_130_1_1028
- Marchello-Nizia C. 2001. Grammaticalisation et évolution des systèmes grammaticaux. *Langue française* 130, 33-41. http://www.persee.fr/web/revues/home/prescript/article/lfr_0023-8368_2001_num_130_1_1025
- Prévost S. 2006. Grammaticalisation, lexicalisation et dégrammaticalisation : des relations complexes, *Cahiers de Praxématique* 46, 121-139. <http://halshs.archives-ouvertes.fr/docs/00/08/79/98/PDF/prevost-biblio14.pdf>

Course content-related study coaching

Interactive support via Ufora (forums, e-mail), personal support by appointment

Evaluation methods

end-of-term and continuous assessment

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

Oral examination

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

Oral examination

Examination methods in case of permanent evaluation

Participation, assignment

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent evaluation

examination during the second examination period is possible

Extra information on the examination methods

The individual paper consists of (i) a written analysis of a text fragment in Old or Middle French, which deals with both literary-historical aspects and linguistic changes ; (ii) an oral defense of the paper, consisting of a short oral presentation by the student, followed by a discussion with the supervisors, in which the student's knowledge of the course contents are evaluated.

Not only the content of the paper and its presentation is evaluated, but also the grammatical correction and the stylistic accuracy, both in writing and orally.

The participation consists of active participation in the on campus or online seminars.

Second examination session: idem

Calculation of the examination mark

(1) Exam 60%

(2) Participation 15% + Paper 25%

In order to succeed for the course, students must achieve at least 10/20 on both parts of the evaluation.

Facilities for Working Students

1. Possible exemption from educational activities requiring student attendance and evaluation on the sole basis of the assignment

2. Feedback can be given by email, MS Teams, during a (digital) appointment during or after office hours

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