

French Linguistics: Introduction (A005768)

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

Credits 5.0 **Study time 150 h**

Course offerings in academic year 2026-2027

A (semester 2) French Gent

Lecturers in academic year 2026-2027

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

Offered in the following programmes in 2026-2027

	crdts	offering
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Dutch - French)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject French - English)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject French - German)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject French - Greek)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject French - Italian)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject French - Latin)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject French - Spanish)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject French - Swedish)	5	A
Exchange Programme Linguistics and Literature	5	A
Linking Course Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject French)	5	A
Preparatory Course Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject French)	5	A

Teaching languages

French

Keywords

French, linguistics

Position of the course

This introductory course aims to help students gain an understanding of the French language as a research object. After an introduction to French in general and the Francophony, a significant part of the course is devoted to the scientific description and analysis of morphosyntaxis and to lexicology/lexicography. In addition, students learn to work responsibly and critically with the main grammars and dictionaries, and are introduced to the heuristics of French linguistics.

Contents

- Introduction to French syntax: principles of (functional) analysis at sentence level and exercises; basic principles of constituent analysis.
- Systematic study of the word: morphology, word classes and lexicology (focusing on lexical semantics).
- Introduction to some historical and sociological aspects of French language
- Introduction to the most important reference grammars and (types of) dictionaries; critical comparison; basic heuristics of French linguistics

Initial competences

Knowledge and skills in French corresponding to those of 6th year high school pupils ("eindcompetenties secundair onderwijs").

Final competences

- 1 acquire a solid conceptual grid comprising the basic concepts of research in French linguistics w.r.t. the analysis of the clause, clause combining, word classes, morphology and lexicology
- 2 to apply the reference grid presented on new data
- 3 acquire a (passive) knowledge of a broad array of syntactic structures and usages of words
- 4 understand in which respect modern linguistic (hence scientific) approaches of language differ from those of traditional prescriptive grammar
- 5 to be able to use grammars and dictionaries in an effective way
- 6 to have a clear understanding (on the basis of comparison) of the global structure and specificity of the most important reference grammars (and dictionaries).
- 7 to accept that linguistic structure allows often for various analyses
- 8 to know the most relevant databases and to know how to use them efficiently to find relevant publications about linguistic topics and to locate them within in the UGent libraries.
- 9 students know where French is spoken, which varieties exist and which other languages are spoken in France

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, Lecture, Independent work

Extra information on the teaching methods

This course assumes the responsible use of generative artificial intelligence (GAI). During the lessons, what this means will be explained.

Study material

Type: Handbook

Name: Riegel M. - J.-Chr. Pellat - R. Rioul. 2014 [1994]. Grammaire méthodique du français. Paris: PUF.

Indicative price: € 20

Optional: no

Language : Other

Author : Riegel M., Pellat Chr. & Rioul R.

Oldest Usable Edition : 2014

Usability and Lifetime within the Course Unit : regularly

Usability and Lifetime within the Study Programme : regularly

Usability and Lifetime after the Study Programme : regularly

Additional information: This is the most important reference grammar; very affordable.

Type: Syllabus

Name: Linguistique française: introduction

Indicative price: € 10

Optional: no

Language : Other

Number of Pages : 233

Oldest Usable Edition : 2024-2025

Additional information: Available via TopCopy

Type: Slides

Name: powerpoints used during classes

Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty

Optional: no

Number of Slides : 300

Oldest Usable Edition : 2024-2025

Available on Ufora : Yes

Online Available : Yes

Type: Reader

Name: reading for lexicography/lexicology

Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty

Optional: no

Language : Other

Number of Pages : 50

Oldest Usable Edition : 2024-2025

Available on Ufora : Yes

Online Available : Yes

References

Riegel M. - J.-Chr. Pellat - R. Rioul. 2014 [1994¹]. *Grammaire méthodique du français*. Paris: PUF. (+/-20 euro)

Course content-related study coaching

Group tutorials, both for exercises and team work (per 2).

Questions can also be asked during course breaks, after classes and by appointment.

Question session at the end + interactive forum during exam period.

Assessment moments

end-of-term and continuous assessment

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

Written assessment

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

Written assessment

Examination methods in case of permanent assessment

Assignment

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment

not applicable

Extra information on the examination methods

Assessment moment

Final exam (95 %) + report on team work (5%)

Assessment form

Written exam with closed-ended and open-ended questions on insight and knowledge. Focus is on application of the theory.

Team work on basic heuristics and comparison of reference grammars.

Calculation of the examination mark

final exam (95%) + report on team work (5%)

Participation to the team work is compulsory; no exam without team work

Facilities for Working Students

1. Possible exemption from educational activities requiring student attendance;

team work can be made individually

2. The examination cannot be rescheduled

3. Alternative time for feedback is possible

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