French Linguistics: Historical Evolution of French (A005772)

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

   Credits 3.0   **Study time 90 h**

Course offerings in academic year 2024-2025

   A (semester 2)   French   Gent

Lecturers in academic year 2024-2025

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

Offered in the following programmes in 2024-2025	crdts	offering
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Dutch - French)	3	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject French - English)	3	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject French - German)	3	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject French - Greek)	3	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject French - Italian)	3	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject French - Latin)	3	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject French - Spanish)	3	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject French - Swedish)	3	A
Exchange Programme Linguistics and Literature	3	A
Linking Course Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject French)	3	A
Preparatory Course Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Dutch - French)	5	A
Preparatory Course Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject French)	3	A
Preparatory Course Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject French - English)	5	A
Preparatory Course Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject French - German)	5	A
Preparatory Course Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject French - Italian)	5	A
Preparatory Course Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject French - Spanish)	5	A

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 from the perspective of general
   linguistics and external language history, with particular attention to the relationship between
   synchronic language variation and diachronic language evolution, and on external influence on
   language change. An overview of the origins of the lexicon in French (hereditary words,

loanwords, derivations, etc.) is followed by a study of the evolution of the phonetics of French and its impact on contemporary spelling. Particular attention is paid to the main phenomena underlying phonetic evolutions (e.g. the role of accent, palatalisation, nasalisation, diphthongisation, etc.). The analyses are illustrated with numerous examples and are accompanied by exercises in which the emphasis is not only on the analyses, but above all 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/CI

Final competences

1 To have an understanding of the relationship between synchronic language variation and diachronic language evolution.
2 Have an understanding of the global distribution and variation of French today.
3 Understanding the historical links between Latin and French.
4 To have an understanding of the main sources of the French lexicon.
5 Knowing to distinguish between inherited words and loan words.
6 Have an understanding of the phonological system of contemporary French.
7 To know and understand the main mechanisms related to sound evolutions.
8 Explain the phonetic evolution of words and understand its impact on spelling.
9 To be able to interpret data, form hypotheses and build arguments.
10 To master the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA) in its application to French.
11 Master the subject-specific terminology + be able to use the language grammatically correct and stylistically appropriate.

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 exercices. In addition, students are expected to study autonomously a part of the syllabus and to do some exercices in an independant 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.
This course assumes the responsible use of generative artificial intelligence (GAI). During the lessons, what this means will be explained.

Study material

Type: Syllabus

Name: Syllabus
Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty
Optional: no
Language : Other
Number of Pages : 94
Oldest Usable Edition : 2024-2025
Available on Ufora : Yes

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 possible in modified form

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.
To pass this course, one must participate in both the period-based evaluation and the non-period-based evaluation, and obtain at least 10/20 for both. If one has less than 10/20 for one of the two evaluation components, one can no longer pass the entire course. This means that if the final score would still be above 10/20, it will be reduced to the highest unsuccessful mark (i. e. 9/20).
Transfer of passed partial marks from the first examination period to the second examination period is possible.

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