

French Linguistics: Semantics and Pragmatics (A005773)

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

Credits 4.0 **Study time 120 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
Crible, Ludivine	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)	4	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject French - English)	4	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject French - German)	4	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject French - Greek)	4	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject French - Italian)	4	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject French - Latin)	4	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject French - Spanish)	4	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject French - Swedish)	4	A
Exchange Programme Linguistics and Literature	4	A
Linking Course Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject French)	4	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)	4	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

Modern French, linguistics, semantics, pragmatics, research methodology, research skills

Position of the course

This course aims to introduce the students to the main models in semantics and pragmatics of French and to enrich their vocabulary. The students are introduced to scientific research in the field of French linguistics through in-class supervised assignments.

Contents

Critical survey of the main theories in meaning analysis, from historical semantics to the cognitive and pragmatic models. The various analytical techniques will be applied to a variety of French examples. Both lexical and grammatical semantics are discussed. In particular, the course covers 4 clusters :

- lexical semantics
- the syntax-semantics interface
- discourse semantics
- pragmatics

Initial competences

To have completed the course French Linguistics I or to have acquired the necessary skills by other means.

Expected language level : B2

Final competences

- 1 Understand, define and recognize several theoretical frameworks of semantics
- 2 Understand, define and recognize several mechanisms of meaning change from Latin to contemporary French
- 3 Understand, define and recognize several mechanisms of lexical and meaning variation in contemporary French
- 4 Apply different semantic frameworks to the analysis of French words and sentences
- 5 Restate, compare and criticize dictionary definitions
- 6 Report on research in a synthetic and accurate way
- 7 Acquire (passive) knowledge of a broad vocabulary from different registers, level B2/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

This course unit cannot be taken via an exam contract

Teaching methods

Seminar, Independent work

Extra information on the teaching methods

In the seminar, the learning material is presented in an interactive way and assimilated during the practical exercises. A limited part of the course material is provided on Ufora.

Several lessons include supervised exercises that are part of the permanent evaluation.

The lessons take place on campus.

Teaching methods may be modified if this proves necessary.

Study material

Type: Syllabus

Name: Syllabus of the course French Linguistics II

Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty

Optional: no

Language : Other

Available on Ufora : Yes

Additional information: The slides are also provided, as well as videoclips on Ufora.

References

The syllabus is the only required reference.

Additional references are provided in the syllabus.

Course content-related study coaching

By the professor and the assistants on a collective as well as an individual basis

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

examination during the second examination period is possible

Extra information on the examination methods

First examination session : Written exam + in-class assignments

Second examination session : written exam + in-class assignments (transferred from 1st session)

Calculation of the examination mark

First examination session : written exam (80%) - in-class assignments (20%)

Second examination session : written exam (80%) - in-class assignments (20%)

The calculation of the final mark for the written exam and for the assignments takes into account the level of French. Major lexical or grammatical mistakes are penalized (up to 3 points out of 20 can be removed from the total).

In the second session, the grade for the assignments from the first session are directly transferred. It is not possible to re-take the permanent evaluation to improve the grade.

Facilities for Working Students

1. Absence is allowed
2. Lectures will not be recorded but sufficient online learning material will be 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