

French Linguistics: Text Linguistics (A005778)

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 1) French Gent

Lecturers in academic year 2026-2027

Demol, Annemie	LW06	staff member
Crible, Ludivine	LW06	lecturer-in-charge
Lauwers, Peter	LW06	co-lecturer

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 Dutch - French)	5	A
Preparatory 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 - 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 linguistics, information structure, syntax, prosody, sentence semantics, clause combining, text linguistics, discourse, research methodology

Position of the course

This course builds on the insights acquired in *French Linguistics I: Introduction* (morphosyntactic analysis of sentence structure) and *French Linguistics II* (semantics and pragmatics). It addresses the question of how French structures and hierarchizes information within sentences and across sentences. In this way, the course bridges the gap between sentence grammar and text linguistics. Both written and spoken language use are examined.

Contents

This course aims to analyze the mechanisms by which French internally structures linguistic expressions (such as word order and the redistribution of semantic roles

in the passive), organizes information (topic–focus structure, topicalization, focalization), articulates syntactic units (parataxis, hypotaxis), and marks discourse relations (Connectives, thematic progression). It also demonstrates how all these phenomena vary depending on the chosen medium (written vs. spoken) and register, with particular attention to prosodic aspects. The course thus focuses on how information is expressed through linguistic structures - that is, on the interface between form (syntax, prosody) and information structure.

Through exercises based on authentic spoken and written data, students learn to apply the analytical framework.

The overview of linguistic structures (including connectives), the vocabulary from the practice texts, as well as the writing of a paper and its oral defense, also contribute to the development of language proficiency.

Initial competences

To have attended the courses French Linguistics: introduction and French Linguistics II: semantics and pragmatics, or to have acquired the necessary skills by other means. The level of proficiency is B2-C1.

Final competences

- 1 to be able to recognize and analyze clausal patterns, both formally and semantically/pragmatically, by means of a solid conceptual apparatus
- 2 to be able to apply the linguistic conceptual apparatus to new examples and text fragments
- 3 to be aware of the fact that spoken languages has it own structures and rules, which make them very relevant to linguistic research
- 4 students master (passively) a broader array of syntactic structures, including those typical of spoken language, and extend their vocabulary through the exercises
- 5 to be able to use concordances stemming from a digital corpus
- 6 to get acquainted with the basic concepts of prosody and their application to language structures
- 7 Demonstrating command of academic language at C1 level in a written paper and in oral interaction, particularly during classes and in the oral presentation of a paper

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

Seminar-style classes combined with guided exercises. For a limited number of topics, a flipped classroom approach is used: students prepare the material independently in advance, either by reading a chapter from the course syllabus or by watching instructional videos.

A first written assignment, midway through the course, is completed in a closed setting without the use of AI. The second assignment, towards the end of the course, includes an oral comment.

This course promotes the responsible use of generative artificial intelligence (GenAI). What this entails will be explained during the course.

Study material

Type: Syllabus

Name: De la phrase au texte

Indicative price: € 10

Optional: no

Language : Other

Number of Pages : 156

Oldest Usable Edition : 2024-2025

Available on Ufora : Yes

References

- Debaisieux (dir.), Jeanne-Marie. 2013. *Analyses linguistiques sur corpus. Subordination et insubordination en français*. Paris : Lavoisier.
- Fabricius-Hansen, Cathrine & Ramm, Wiebke. 2008. *'Subordination' versus 'Coordination' in Sentence and Text. A cross-linguistic perspective*. Amsterdam: John Benjamins.
- Lambrecht, Knud. 1994. *Information Structure and Sentence Form: Topic, Focus, and the Mental Representations of Discourse Referents*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Course content-related study coaching

Close guidance during seminar sessions, along with booster sessions, including Q&A sessions.

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

Oral assessment, Assignment

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment

examination during the second examination period is possible

Extra information on the examination methods

written examen + written assignment in closed setting + written assignment with oral comment

Second examen session: written exam with transfer of the marks obtained through continuous assessment; if the continuous assessment is insufficient, a new paper is required, accompanied by an oral presentation during the exam

Calculation of the examination mark

final written exam (70%) + written assignment in closed setting (15%) + written assignment with oral comment (15%).

Facilities for Working Students

1. Possible exemption from educational activities requiring student attendance.
 2. Possible rescheduling of the examination to a different time in the same academic year
 3. Alternative time for feedback is possible
- For more information concerning flexible learning: contact the monitoring service of the faculty of Arts and philosophy.
- No course recordings available (format: interactive seminars)