

## Methods of Corpus Linguistics (A005891)

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

**Credits** 6.0

**Study time** 180 h

**Course offerings in academic year 2024-2025**

A (semester 1)

English

Gent

**Lecturers in academic year 2024-2025**

Brysbaert, Jorina

LW22

lecturer-in-charge

**Offered in the following programmes in 2024-2025**

[Master of Arts in Advanced Studies in Linguistics \(main subject Linguistics in a Comparative Perspective\)](#)

[Master of Arts in Advanced Studies in Linguistics \(main subject Natural Language Processing: Theory and Practice\)](#)

**crdts**

**offering**

6

A

6

A

**Teaching languages**

English

**Keywords**

Corpus linguistics

**Position of the course**

Cognitive and functional approaches to linguistics are grounded in the belief that language must be studied within the context of real communicative interactions. This perspective aligns with usage-based models of language, which emphasize that linguistic phenomena should be analyzed in relation to actual language use. As a result, corpus linguistics emerges as a vital methodological tool for researchers working within the cognitive-functional framework.

In this course, students will explore how corpus techniques can be leveraged to support cognitive and functional theory development. The course has a dual focus: first, to introduce students to advanced corpus analysis methods; and second, to illustrate how these techniques can inform and enhance linguistic theories.

Students will gain the skills necessary to apply statistical methods in R/RStudio, enabling them to analyze large collections of usage data and contribute to ongoing research in cognitive and functional linguistics.

**Contents**

The purpose of this course is to approach specific theoretical problems on a case study basis, and to introduce analytic techniques that are specifically suited to deal with those theoretical problems (e.g. collocation and keywords analysis, linear and logistic regression, correspondence analysis). These techniques will be taught through practical, user-friendly tools (in R/RStudio), enabling students to independently apply them in their own research.

**Initial competences**

Students should have a solid knowledge of basic linguistic concepts and terminology.

**Final competences**

- 1 Gain a solid understanding of corpus linguistics and how corpora can be utilized in linguistic research
- 2 Be able to independently use R/RStudio for conducting quantitative corpus linguistic research
- 3 Be able to write a scientific paper on a self-chosen topic within the field of corpus linguistics

**Conditions for credit contract**

Access to this course unit via a credit contract is determined after successful competences assessment

**Conditions for exam contract**

This course unit cannot be taken via an exam contract

**Teaching methods**

Seminar

**Extra information on the teaching methods**

The course is structured around interactive, hands-on sessions where students will analyze linguistic datasets. Each chapter/section will begin with the presentation of a case study, highlighting specific linguistic phenomena or research questions. Following the introduction, students will work through these case studies, guided by step-by-step instruction on the relevant statistical methods. Using R/RStudio, students will learn how to manage and manipulate corpus data, apply various statistical tests, and interpret the results within a linguistic context. The course emphasizes active learning, where students are encouraged to collaborate, discuss their findings, and solve problems collectively.

**Study material**

Type: Reader

Name: Reader

Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty

Optional: no

Available on Ufora : Yes

Additional information: Presentations and selected sections from the following books: - Levshina, Natalia. 2015. How to do linguistics with R: Data exploration and statistical analysis. Amsterdam & Philadelphia: John Benjamins. - Stefanowitsch, Anatol. 2020. Corpus linguistics: A guide to the methodology. (Textbooks in Language Sciences 7). Berlin: Language Science Press. - Winter, Bodo. 2019. Statistics for linguists: An introduction using R. New York & London: Routledge.

**References**

- Stefanowitsch, Anatol. 2020. Corpus linguistics: A guide to the methodology. (Textbooks in Language Sciences 7). Berlin: Language Science.
- Winter, Bodo. 2019. Statistics for linguists: an introduction using R. New York & London: Routledge.

**Course content-related study coaching**

Consultation hour

Feedback during seminars

Support via learning platform

**Assessment moments**

continuous assessment

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

Paper on a corpuslinguistic subject, including R code

**Calculation of the examination mark**

written assignment: 100%

**Facilities for Working Students**

Exemption from presence in class can be requested

Feedback can be given after consultation

