

Methods in Corpus Linguistics and Experimental Linguistics (A006624)

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) English Gent

Lecturers in academic year 2026-2027

de Schryver, Gilles-Maurice	LW21	lecturer-in-charge
De Sutter, Gert	LW22	co-lecturer
Ghyselen, Anne-Sophie	LW06	co-lecturer

Offered in the following programmes in 2026-2027

	crdts	offering
Master of Science in Teaching in Languages(main subject African Languages and Cultures)	5	A
Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Linguistics)	5	A
Master of Arts in African Studies	5	A
Exchange Programme African Languages and Cultures	5	A
Exchange Programme Linguistics and Literature	5	A

Teaching languages

English

Keywords

corpus linguistics, corpus-based translation science, experimental linguistics, language documentation, language study, linguistic data, linguistic analysis, empirical methods

Position of the course

This course provides students with a solid foundation in empirical linguistic research methods, focusing on both corpus linguistics and introductory experimental approaches. It plays a central role in the methodological training within the Linguistics track of the Master in Linguistics & Literature, and is also embedded in the MA in African Studies and the Advanced Master in Linguistics: Natural Language Processing. The examples are typically adapted to students' language profiles, so the course does not focus on any specific language or domain.

Students are encouraged to connect the techniques introduced in this course to their own linguistic interests and academic backgrounds. The course supports the development of skills needed for independent MA-level research.

Contents

The course is organised into three modules:

1. Corpus linguistics – methods and applications

Introduction to corpus design, annotation, and linguistic analysis using tools such as WordSmith Tools, the Sketch Engine and R. Students learn about collocates, plots, patterns, clusters, timelines, keyword analysis, as well as exploratory statistics and graphical representations, applied to diverse research topics (e.g. lexicon, syntax, variation, discourse).

2. Case studies and practical training

Students apply corpus methods to datasets relevant to their own interests or programme context (e.g. African languages, translation science, sociolinguistics, language technology). This includes guided analysis and reflection on methodological choices.

3. Experimental methods

Introduction to basic experimental paradigms in linguistics, such as acceptability judgements, priming, and reaction time studies. Includes discussion of ethical considerations, data interpretation, and relevance for different linguistic subfields.

Initial competences

Basic knowledge of linguistic concepts and research methodology.

Final competences

- 1 Define and investigate linguistic research questions using empirical data.
- 2 Design and conduct corpus-based analyses.
- 3 Critically reflect on the strengths and limitations of corpus and experimental methods.
- 4 Work with software tools relevant to corpus and experimental linguistics.
- 5 Communicate empirical findings in an academically appropriate manner.

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

Group work, Seminar, Lecture, Independent work

Extra information on the teaching methods

- Interactive lectures and hands-on workshops.
- Guided analyses of linguistic datasets.
- Individual assignments and project work.
- Peer and instructor feedback.
- Independent study and coaching sessions.

Study material

Type: Slides

Name: Methods in Corpus Linguistics and Experimental Linguistics

Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty

Optional: no

Language : English

Number of Slides : 500

Oldest Usable Edition : only the most recent is useful

Available on Ufora : Yes

Online Available : No

Available in the Library : No

Available through Student Association : No

References

A reading list will be made available on Ufora and may include selections from:

- McEnery, T., & Hardie, A. (2012). *Corpus Linguistics: Method, Theory and Practice*.
- Biber, D., et al. (1998). *Corpus Linguistics: Investigating Language Structure and Use*.
- Baayen, R. H. (2008). *Analyzing Linguistic Data: A Practical Introduction to Statistics Using R*.
- O'Keefe, A., & McCarthy, M. (eds.) (2010). *The Routledge Handbook of Corpus Linguistics*.

Course content-related study coaching

Feedback during and after class, via e-mail, and through the Ufora course site.

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

Participation, 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**1. Classes**

Attendance of the classes is important, as part of the overall mark is given based on the success of completing the various tasks performed during class.

2. Presentations

Students choose their own project, working with their own corpus or corpora. In class weeks 11 and 12 they give an oral presentation of all the steps they took, the methods and theoretical frameworks they used, and the (preliminary) results of their research.

Calculation of the examination mark

One-third of the final mark derives from the classwork, **two-thirds** from the oral presentation of one's own project.

Facilities for Working Students

None.