

FR266-15 Introduction to French Linguistics

26/27

Department

School of Modern Languages and Cultures

Level

Undergraduate Level 2

Module leader

Will Amos

Credit value

15

Module duration

11 weeks

Assessment

60% coursework, 40% exam

Study location

University of Warwick main campus, Coventry

Description

Introductory description

This module introduces students to the major sub-fields within theoretical and applied linguistics. Stretching your understanding of French beyond its use as a mere tool of communication and means of cultural production, you will consider the nuts and bolts of the language, and how it is created, structured, and interpreted. This module offers you a unique opportunity to look under the bonnet of the language you are learning. For instance, where do meanings come from, and how does a language make new words for new things? How does French vary in different places, and according to who is speaking? What is the relationship between the spoken and written forms, and how does this affect our understanding of 'language'?

Topics include:

etymology - where words come from and how new ones are created

semantics - how meaning is created within and behind words

morphology - how language is structured within word units

syntax - how language is structured within sentence segments

phonetics - how speech sounds are created and transcribed

sociolinguistics - how users modify their language based on personal characteristics, audience, and social norms

We will study the fundamental theories and emerging ideas within these areas of linguistics, and build up a greater understanding of how French works, and where, how, and why it varies. In addition to analysing the language critically and scientifically, this will broaden your understanding of French as it is currently developing, and equip you with the tools to recognise, describe, and improve your own mastery of the language ahead of the year abroad.

Module aims

- Introduce students to theoretical and applied linguistics
- Apply linguistic theories and methods to the structural study of French, and its evolution, maintenance, and development
- Complement current offering in French studies with coverage of etymology, morphology, phonetics and phonology, semantics, sociolinguistics, and syntax
- Consolidate language learning through a closer understanding of the components of meaning, and their contribution to French language structure

Outline syllabus

This is an indicative module outline only to give an indication of the sort of topics that may be covered. Actual sessions held may differ.

The purpose of the module is to introduce intermediate-level students to the fundamental aspects of French linguistics, via weekly lectures and follow-up seminars for which the students will prepare worksheets and other exercises. Two lectures (plus seminars) will be dedicated to each of sociolinguistics, phonetics, and syntax; one lecture (plus seminar) will be dedicated to etymology, semantics, morphology, and phonology. Ahead of the exam, revision materials in the same format will be made available through Moodle, along with a revision session.

Learning outcomes

By the end of the module, students should be able to:

- - To gain understanding of the structural and linguistic principles of French, its governance and variation, according to theoretical and applied linguistic theories and methods
- - To develop a general familiarity with key developments in linguistics, and the ways in which the composite features of French have been, and are, studied scientifically
- - To become proficient in phonetic transcription and drawing syntactic tree diagrams
- - To be able to think more critically and in-depth about the construction of meaning(s) in French, and language more broadly
- - To consolidate learning in the language programme with alternative explanations for points of grammar, register, and vocabulary selection.

Indicative reading list

[Reading lists can be found in Talis](#)

[Specific reading list for the module](#)

International

All modules delivered in SMLC are necessarily international. Students engage with themes and ideas from a culture other than that of the UK and employ their linguistic skills in the analysis of primary materials from a non-Anglophone context. Students will also be encouraged to draw on the experiences of visiting exchange students in the classroom and will frequently engage with theoretical and critical frameworks from across the world.

Subject specific skills

This module will develop students' linguistic skills through engaging with primary materials in the target language. It will build students' capacity to engage with aspects of French culture through analysis of this primary material and through seminar discussion aimed at deeper critical thinking. In particular, students' awareness of French linguistics will be enhanced through lectures and seminars which engage in scholarship in the field.

Transferable skills

All SMLC culture modules demand critical and analytical engagement with artefacts from target-language cultures. In the course of independent study, class work and assessment students will develop the following skills: written and oral communication, creative and critical thinking, problem solving and analysis, time management and organisation, independent research in both English and their target language(s), intercultural understanding and the ability to mediate between languages and cultures, ICT literacy in both English and the target language(s), personal responsibility and the exercise of initiative.

Study

Study time

Type	Required
Lectures	9 sessions of 1 hour (6%)
Seminars	9 sessions of 1 hour (6%)
Other activity	4 hours (3%)
Private study	128 hours (85%)
Total	150 hours

Private study description

n/a

Other activity description

Two two-hour revision sessions are held before the exam, usually towards the end of term 3. The module leader books a room separately for these, offering slots based on students' timetables.

Costs

No further costs have been identified for this module.

Assessment

You do not need to pass all assessment components to pass the module.

Assessment group D5

	Weighting	Study time	Eligible for self-certification
Assessment component			
Written Assignment	60%		Yes (extension)
Standard-length SMLC essay of 2000-2500 words, on a choice of three questions relating to topics covered during the module. To be submitted in term two.			

Reassessment component is the same

Assessment component			
Centrally-timetabled examination (On-campus)	40%		No
The exam will consist of a series of short answers, transcriptions, and diagram drawings.			

-
- Answerbook Pink (12 page)

Reassessment component is the same

Feedback on assessment

Feedback will be provided in the course of the module in a number of ways. Feedback should be understood to be both formal and informal and is not restricted to feedback on formal written work. Oral feedback will be provided by the module tutor in the course of seminar discussion. This may

include feedback on points raised in small group work or in the course of individual presentations or larger group discussion.

Written feedback will be provided on formal assessment using the standard SMLC Assessed Work feedback form appropriate to the assessment. Feedback is intended to enable continuous improvement throughout the module and written feedback is generally the final stage of this feedback process. Feedback will always demonstrate areas of success and areas for future development, which can be applied to future assessment. Feedback will be both discipline-specific and focussed on key transferrable skills, enabling students to apply this feedback to their future professional lives. Feedback will be fair and reasonable and will be linked to the SMLC marking scheme appropriate to the module.

[Past exam papers for FR266](#)

Availability

Pre-requisites

n/a

Courses

This module is Core optional for:

- Year 2 of ULAA-MR00 Undergraduate Law with French

This module is Option list B for:

- UPOA-M163 Undergraduate Politics, International Studies and French
 - Year 2 of M163 Politics, International Studies and French
 - Year 3 of M163 Politics, International Studies and French