# French Linguistics (Language, Morpho-Syntax and Lexicon; Language and Professional Communication) (LLS, LCM, ELT; 2nd - 3rd ELI, 2nd - 3rd ELRI)

## Prof. Sara Cigada

# French Language Practical Classes (Year 2, First-Level Degree)

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# French Language Practical Classes (Year 3, First-Level Degree)

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***Text under revision. Not yet approved by academic staff***

***COURSE AIMS AND INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES***

The course is divided into two modules, one per semester.

The first module concerns discourse “in context”, with a particular focus on professional and promotional communication, both written and oral. The course will examine authentic cases, taking an empirical approach to identifying the characteristics of a number of text types, such as *curriculum vitae*, cover letters, business letters, job interviews, registering the company with *Infogreffe*, business letters, business plans, market investigation *reports*, advertising messages…, including through lecturer-led tasks (TD). In addition, thanks to its practical approach, the course will focus on the key dimensions of textual communication and argumentation.

At the end of this module, students will be able to recognise the different text types at the basis of labour relations, and the use of argumentative discourse during specific communicative events in real working environments; in addition, they will be able to identify thesis, arguments, data, and *endoxa*, and assess the communicative effectiveness of a message.

The second module aims to develop language skills through the systemic study of vocabulary and morpho-syntax (loans and calques, word-formation processes, lexical *expressions figées*, syntactic structures, inflexional morphology in the spoken and written language and the systemic effects produced by homophony). The course will also focus on the history of dictionaries and grammar to understand the language policies implemented in France as early as the 16th century “in defence of the language”.

At the end of this module, students will know the lexical, inflexional and derivational morphology processes of the French language and be able to recognise them in word forms. They will be able to use these skills to understand the structure of unknown words and work out their meaning. Students will also be able distinguish between this type of process and the *figement* processes, and therefore adopt suitable comprehension and translation strategies in the presence of non-compositional segments. Students will have focused on the particular relationship between "nation" and "language" in France, resulting from the history of the language and its use as a vehicle for interacting with other languages/cultures;

***COURSE CONTENT***

The course is divided into two modules:

First module: students on a one-year course and in the third year of the ELI and ELRI curricula

1. La notion d’acte de langage : de la pragmatique à l’argumentation.
2. La communication orale et écrite dans les milieux professionnels.

Seconde module: students on a year-long course and in the second-year of the ELI and ELRI curricula

1. Le patrimoine lexical de la langue française ; la formation des mots en français ; les expressions figées ; les emprunts.
2. Les dictionnaires dans l’histoire des politiques linguistiques et culturelles françaises.
3. La morphologie flexionnelle françaises, à l’écrit et à l’oral. Les effets de l’homophonie.

***READING LIST***

First semester:

S. Cigada, *Les procédés du discours argumentatif en français,* Bookelis 2014 ; materiali del corso su BB.

Second semester:

Riegel et El., *Grammaire méthodique du français,* PUF, Paris, 2004 o edizioni successive (parti).

Reference texts:

CH. Bally, *Linguistique générale et linguistique française,* Francke, Berne 1950 (parts)

M. Grevisse – A. Goosse, *Le bon usage,* Duculot, Paris, 2011.

Details of further reading will be provided at the beginning of the course. As indicated in the Faculty Guide, this reading is mandatory for all students on the ELI and ELRI curricula - both attending and non-attending.

***TEACHING METHOD***

Frontal lectures in French. Supervised practical activities based on written and audio material provided by the lecturer. TD. Group tasks.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

By the end of Semester 1, students have the option of taking a partial written test. This will cover only one part of the syllabus for students on the semester-long course, and all the topics covered that semester for students taking the year-long course. Both groups of students can choose to take the exam on a single exam date at the end of the academic year.

For students on the ELI and ELRI curricula taking semester-long courses "French Language 2 - Language and Morpho-syntax" and "French Language 3 - Professional Communication” from the year-long course: as usual, the final mark is the result of the weighted average of the results of the written and oral interim tests (up to 1/6 and 2/6, respectively). The final examination for the students on the semester-long course begins with assessment of their knowledge of the required reading (reading aloud, translation, commentary) and continues with the discussion of the topics covered in the course through the use of examples.

The final mark will reflect: the suitability of students’ answers on a linguistic level (pronunciation, grammar, lexical accuracy and range, syntax and register) and in terms of content (relevance of answer, logical coherence of text, completeness of information, examples, personal response and originality of analysis). To pass the whole exam, students must perform adequately in all of the above areas, at the appropriate level for the year of the course in question (second or third).

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

Materials, texts analysed and communications on the course will be made available on Blackboard: students should register immediately on the platform and resolve any technical problems as soon as possible by contacting the relevant offices.

For students on the ELI and ELRI profiles, access to the semester-long course in “French Language 2 - Lexicon and Morpho-Syntax” is subject to passing the French Language 2 course (written and oral); likewise, access to “French Language 3 – Professional Communication” is subject to passing French Language 3 (written and spoken).

Students on the ELT, LCM and LLS profiles require good knowledge of the language as well as the key concepts and terminology of general linguistics.

Further information can be found on the lecturer's webpage at http://docenti.unicatt.it/web/searchByName.do?language=ENG or on the Faculty notice board.

# French Language Practical Classes (Year 2, First-Level Degree)

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***COURSE AIMS AND INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES***

By the end of the practical classes, students will: have acquired and consolidated their knowledge of morpho-syntactic structures and spelling conventions of the French language at an advanced level; have broadened and enhanced their lexical knowledge; and be able to apply this knowledge in their own language practice, both written and oral.

Students will understand medium-high difficulty texts (written and oral) and be able to extrapolate the key points of long and complex texts.

In terms of written skills, they will be able to produce and summarise texts on a wide range of issues (including topical) and will be able to accurately translate authentic texts (from Italian into French) on the topics covered in the course text.

In terms of the spoken language, students will have a firm grasp of phonetics and prosody; they will be able to sustain a spontaneous conversation and clearly express their point of view on a variety of topics, including at a certain level of complexity. They will demonstrate their ability to extrapolate and summarise the information in familiar texts.

The practical language classes in the second year are designed to bring students to the equivalent of advanced level B2 in the European Language Portfolio across all four skills.

***COURSE CONTENT***

Analysis of the syntactic organisation of the language, morpho-semantics, word order and pragmatic functions of contemporary French.

Analysis of text types, both oral and written.

Dictation, translation and summary-writing exercises based on written texts, with a particular focus on textual cohesion and coherence, lexical choices and register.

Introduction to the use of monolingual dictionaries.

Speaking activities in class, including the use of audio media.

***READING LIST***

Y. Delatour - D. Jennepin - M. Leon-Dufour - B. Teyssier, *Nouvelle grammaire du français: Cours de Civilisation Française de la Sorbonne,* Hachette, Paris 2004.

Recommended dictionary:

*Le Petit Robert de la langue française 2020*, Dictionnaires Le Robert, Paris 2020.

Recommended online dictionary:

https://www.cnrtl.fr/definition/

Course pack compiled and provided by the lecturer running the practical classes.

1) For students on the “Foreign Languages and Literature” and “Languages, Communication and Media” curricula, any three of the following:

M. Barrière, *Les soupers assassins du Régent,* Livre de Poche, Paris 2010.

A. Laurain, *Le chapeau de Mitterrand,* J’ai lu-Flammarion, Paris 2012.

I. Némirovsky., *Suite française*, Gallimard, Paris 2006.

E. Orsenna, *Portrait d’un homme heureux : André Le Nôtre,* Fayard, Paris 2000.

2) For students on the “Language expert for international relations” curriculum:

L. Stefanini (dir.), *A la table des diplomates. L’histoire de France racontée à travers ses grands repas (1520-2015)*, Gallimard (Folio), Paris 2019.

Two texts from the list under point 1.

3) For students on the “Language expert for business” curriculum:

S. Schweitzer, *André Citroën (1878-1935)*, Fayard, Paris 1992.

Two texts from the list under point 1.

4) For students on the “Language expert for tourism” curriculum:

B. Duteurtre, *La nostalgie des buffets de gare*, Payot, Paris 2015.

Two texts from the list under point 1.

Further information on the choice of books will be shared during the practical classes.

***TEACHING METHOD***

Lectures in class, supervised practical tasks and language lab activities.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

Written and oral interim test. For the written exam, students should refer to the general section on the organisation of the language exams sulla *Guida dello studente*.

In the oral exam, students will present and discuss an *exposé* on the reading material indicated during the practical classes (40% of the final mark), analyse the texts in terms of textual and communicative organisation and lexical and register choices (40% of the final mark) and the presentation of the life and political career of one of the presidents of the Fifth French Republic (20%).

Marks will be awarded for: contents and constitutive factors of students’ spoken French; appropriateness of their expression and communicative effectiveness; phonetics and phonology; relevance of their answers and ability to engage in dialogue; depth of their linguistic and stylistic analysis of the texts.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

This syllabus applies to all students, regardless of their starting level in the first year. In order to learn effectively and acquire long-lasting knowledge, students must participate proactively in practical classes and regularly complete the tasks assigned to consolidate knowledge and the language skills developed in class.

Students must pass the final exam in the first year (i.e. French Language 1 - Language and Phonology / Language and Literature 1) in order to access the interim tests in the second year.

Further information can be found on the lecturer's webpage at http://docenti.unicatt.it/web/searchByName.do?language=ENG or on the Faculty notice board.

# French Language Practical Classes (Year 3, First-Level Degree)

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***COURSE AIMS AND INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES***

The practical classes are designed to analyse the complex lexical and syntactic structures of French, in order to enhance: knowledge of vocabulary in various specialist fields; skill in making stylistic and register choices; and knowledge of the rhetorical structures used within various professional sectors. There will be a particular focus on developing advanced skills in terms of oral expression as well as interpreting, reformulating, summarising and paraphrasing complex spoken and written texts.

The series of practical language classes in the third year of the course is designed to bring students up to level C1 across all four skills in the European Language Portfolio.

***COURSE CONTENT***

Recognition and application of prosodic features: oral production and meta phonological variation. Practising the *exposé oral*.

Practical translation exercises from Italian and French based on descriptive, fictional, academic and informative texts in the fields of literature and science and technology, with source text analysis in terms of type and style.

Practical classes on writing summaries of written and/or oral texts.

Introduction to the analysis of the argumentative techniques available in the French language through reading and listening to complex texts.

Analysis of professional and commercial written and spoken communication.

***READING LIST***

Course pack compiled by the lecturers leading the practical classes.

Details of further reading material will be provided at the beginning of the academic year.

Course grammar books:

M. Riegel et al., *Grammaire méthodique du français,* PUF, Paris,1994 ed edizioni successive.

R. Wagner - L. Pinchon, *Grammaire du français classique et moderne, Hachette Superieur,* Paris,1991 and subsequent editions.

Recommended dictionaries:

*Le Nouveau Petit Robert*, Dictionnaires Le Robert, Paris 2014.

*Nouveau dictionnaire des synonymes*, Larousse, Paris.

R.Boch, *Il Boch, dizionario francese-italiano italiano-francese, quinta edizione,* Zanichelli/Le Robert, Bologna 2007.

*DIF*, Paravia, Turin 2007.

*Dizionario Francese*, Garzanti Linguistica, 2014.

J.Beauchesne, *Le mot juste, dizionario delle combinazioni tipiche delle parole francesi,* Zanichelli, Bologna 2003.

Recommended on-line dictionaries:

https://www.garzantilinguistica.it/ricerca/

https://www.cnrtl.fr/definition/

https://www.treccani.it/vocabolario/

https://www.larousse.fr/dictionnaires/francais-italien

https://www.larousse.fr/dictionnaires/italien-francais

https://www.larousse.fr/dictionnaires/francais-monolingue/

***TEACHING METHOD***

Lectures supervised practical tasks and work in the language lab.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

Written and oral interim test. For the written exam, students should refer to the general section on the organisation of the language exams under *Programmi dei corsi* (*Courses Programme*).

The oral exam is divided into two parts: an *exposé oral* and a discussion of the texts on the reading List.

1. The *exposé oral* (topic chosen by the students based on the instructions provided during the practical classes): explanation of the choices made, presentation of content (20% of the final mark), analysis of textual and communicative organisation, rhetorical structure, lexical choices and cultural references (30% of the final mark).
2. Discussion on written and oral texts used in the practical classes (50% of the final mark).

Marks will be awarded based on: contents and constitutive factors of students’ spoken French; appropriateness of their expression and communicative effectiveness; phonetics and phonology; relevance of their answers and ability to engage in dialogue; depth of their linguistic and stylistic analysis of the texts; quality of their argumentation and degree of mastery of the French language; time management, personal and cultural knowledge about the texts and knowledge of the cultural context.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

Students must pass the final exam in the second year (i.e. the French Language 2 - Language and Phonology / Language and Literature 2) in order to access the interim tests in the third year.

In order to learn effectively and build up long-lasting knowledge, students must participate proactively in practical classes and regularly complete the tasks assigned to consolidate knowledge and the language skills developed in class.

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