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# French Language I (Language and Phonology)

## Prof. Michela Murano

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

The course sets out to equip students with the basic theoretical and practical knowledge of French phonetics and phonology, also considering its variations in other French-speaking countries.

At the end of the course, students will be able to:

* define the main topics explained during the course;
* clearly expose in French the phenomena analysed in class and support them with relevant examples;
* use the International Phonetic Alphabet to describe French phonology and explain the vowel system through the *trapèze vocalique*;
* recognise and analyse French phonetic and phonological aspects in short examples of written or oral texts (created using either the standard alphabet or the IPA), as well as identify the diastratic, diaphasic, and diatopic variation to which they may belong;
* identify some French diatopic variations explained during the course and describe their phonetic and phonological features.

***COURSE CONTENT***

Transcription de l’oral et API. Éléments de phonétique articulatoire, acoustique et perceptive. Phones, phonèmes et allophones. Système phonologique du français : voyelles, consonnes, semi-voyelles. Variétés du français parlé dans la Francophonie. La prosodie : syllabe, pauses et débit ; accentuation et rythme; mélodie et intonation. Enchaînement et liaison. E caduc.

***READING LIST***

1. P. Léon, *Phonétisme et prononciations du français,* A. Colin, Paris, 2011, 6e éd.
2. M.T. Zanola (éd.), *Le français de nos jours. Caractères, formes, aspects*, coll.Studi superiori, Carocci, Roma 2023.
3. E. Galazzi-G. Boulakia, *«L’ "r" du temps», Cahiers de Recherche de l’Ecole doctorale en Linguistique française,* 6, Lampi di Stampa, Milan, 2012, pp.1 35-150.
4. E. Galazzi, *«L'alphabet phonétique international à ses débuts.* *Transcription universelle et variations»,* *L'Analisi Linguistica e Letteraria*, 1996, 1, pp. 47-64.

The lecturer will provide additional information on the reading list (including websites) during the course and post it on Blackboard.

***TEACHING METHOD***

Classroom lectures that comprise listening to audio recordings and relative phonetic analysis.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

Oral exam in French. Knowledge of content proposed in class and in the texts listed in the bibliography will be assessed. Assessment criteria will include accuracy of answers, correct use of adequate language, and communication skills in a foreign language. The final mark will be calculated as the weighted average of the results of the written and oral language test (up to a maximum of 1/6 and 2/6 of the final mark respectively).

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

There are no prerequisites for attending the course.

Students must check Blackboard regularly for course updates and materials.

Three-year course students: in each year, the Language exams must start with either the written or oral language test. Students must pass both intermediate tests to qualify for the final *French Language I (Language and Phonology)* exam. Students must attend *French Language Practical Classes (Year 1, Three-year Course students)* to prepare for the intermediate tests.

The course is open also to students (on the three-year degree and the master's degree) who have an additional one-year or two-year language in their study plans. (title: *French Language and Linguistics* or *French Language and Linguistics 1, Two-year Course*). On the master's degree, the course may also be added to any programme with a substitute two-year language and to option B of *The art and industry of narration: from literature to cinema and TV* programme. These students must take *French Language Practical Classes* in both semesters *(One-year Course students; Year 1, Two-year Course students),* and are referred to the course programme for information concerning syllabus and assessment method.

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 1, Three-year Course Students)**

Dott. Valérie Durand; Dott. Patrizia Guasco; Dott. Franca Orione

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

This course aims to provide students with the key concepts of French phonetics, morphosyntax, and vocabulary.

At the end of the course, students will reach an intermediate level of French (between B1 and B2 of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages).

***COURSE CONTENT***

At the end of the course, students will be able to:

– acquire listening and speaking skills to be used in everyday situations;

– identify and articulate French phonemes, rhythmic structures, and intonation, also through the use of IPA symbols;

– learn basic morphology and sentence structures;

– use basic vocabulary.

***READING LIST***

Group 1 (beginners and false beginners):

C. Viola, *Cours de français de première année*, *groupe débutant,* EDUCatt, Milan, 2018.

C. Viola, *Cahier des verbes et exercices de conjugaison,* Libreriauniversitaria.it Ed., Padua, 2011.

C. Viola, *Prenez la parole! Activités de compréhension et expression orales et écrites,* COURSE PACK, 2017 that can be downloaded from Dr Patrizia Guasco’s Blackboard page or purchased (the photocopy office in Largo Gemelli, close to the university library) Edificio Gregorianum, ground floor.

V. Durand-F. Orione-C. Viola, *Neuf contes pour nos enfants - Fiches pédagogiques* EDUCatt, Milano, 2015.

CD-Rom *Neuf contes pour nos enfants*, Ed. De vive voix.

The audio CD may be purchased online only.

Group 2 and 3 (intermediate):

Y. Delatour-D. Jennepin-M. Leon Dufour-B. Teyssier, *Nouvelle Grammaire du Français. Cours de Civilisation Française de la Sorbonne,* Hachette.

Aa.Vv., *Les 500 exercices de grammaire,* Niveau B1, Hachette (livre + corrigés intégrés).

D. Abry-M.L. Chalaron, *Les 500 exercices de Phonétique,* Niveau B1/B2, Hachette FLE.

V. Durand-M. Murano-F. Orione-C. Viola, *Sons et graphies: Activités d’emploi de l’Alphabet Phonétique International - Pour une prononciation et une orthographe correctes,* COURSE PACK, March 2015.

V. Durand-F. Orione-C. Viola, *Neuf contes pour nos enfants - Fiches pédagogiques,* EDUCatt, Milano, 2015.

CD-Rom *Neuf contes pour nos enfants*, Ed. De vive voix.

The audio CD may be purchased/downloaded online.

Group 4 (advanced):

F. Bidaud, *Grammaire du français pour italophones (quarta edizione),* UTET Università *2020*, ISBN 9788860085849.

F. Bidaud, *Exercices de grammaire française pour italophones (troisième édition),* UTET Università 2021, ISBN 9788860086525.

D. Barreau, M. Brechtel, D. Gros, *Travailler l’oral avec la radio,* Editions FLE PUG Presses Universitaires de Grenoble, Mars 2019, ISBN 978-2-7061-4258-1

***TEACHING METHOD***

Lectures include:

– listening activities;

– phonetic correction activities;

– speaking activities;

– grammar explanations, exercises, and translation of sentences;

– preparatory activities for the dictate.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

Written and oral assessment (known as “prove intermedie”), which are the same for all groups and profiles.

The written assessment consists of a grammar test with reading comprehension (70% of the final mark), writing (10%), and dictation (20%).

The oral assessment will test students’ ability to tell, describe, interact, and express an opinion on everyday topics. Assessment criteria include correct use of phonetics, as well as knowledge of French grammar, vocabulary, morpho-syntactic structures, and IPA reading.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

There are no prerequisites for attending the course.

All students who are not beginners will be asked to do a placement test in order to define their linguistic level and therefore find the best group for them.

Students are expected to show motivation and a strong commitment towards the study of French. Course attendance and constant training are *fundamental* to reach the objectives of this course.

All the groups will dedicate two hours per week to the study of the oral language: activities will include phonetic correction and discrimination, and/or listening and speaking.

The course will also offer students the possibility to do mock exams.

Students who can’t attend classes must inform the lecturers during the course.

A remedial course will be organised for students of the second and third year, or for the ones who have not completed university exams within set time period. It will be held by Prof. Orione and take place ONLY during semester 1. Students can find the timetable in the timetable section of the faculty. Course attendance is highly recommended.

Registration is ONLY possible if authorised by the faculty or the relevant coordinating professor.

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 (One-year Students; Year 1, Two-year Course Students)**

## Dott. Patrizia Guasco

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

Foundation course in the French language designed to develop listening and speaking skills, the ability to produce simple written texts on general and everyday topics, understand videos or short documentaries taken from the main French news channels (France24, France 2, etc.), and introduce students to conversing on the relevant topics.

The target level of overall communicative competence is level A2 + B1 of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages, which corresponds for French to the International DELF Niveau B1 Certificate, awarded by the French Ministry of Education from the French Institutes.

***COURSE CONTENT***

Studying basic grammar and phonetics. Acquiring key vocabulary for expressing oneself in everyday situations. Developing listening and comprehension skills through the use of audio-visual resources. Developing the ability to read a simple text.

***READING LIST***

Course pack prepared by the lecturer teaching the practical classes (semester 1) downloadable from the course *Blackboard* page and also available from the Largo Gemelli photocopy office, in the *passaggio Biblioteca* of the Gregorianum building, ground floor.

Course pack prepared by the lecturer teaching the practical classes (semester 2) downloadable from the course *Blackboard* page and also available from the Largo Gemelli photocopy office, in the *passaggio Biblioteca* of the Gregorianum building, ground floor.

L. Parodi, M. Vallacco, *Grammathèque (3a edizione),* CIDEB, 2010.

L. Parodi, M. Vallacco, *Grammathèque (3a edizione) - Exercices,* CIDEB, 2010.

 Recommended bilingual dictionary:

R. Boch, *Il Boch, Dizionario bilingue italiano-francese italiano-francese*, Zanichelli-LeRobert, ult. ed.

***TEACHING METHOD***

The first day of lectures will include the course presentation and a test to assess language skills only for false-beginner, intermediate and advanced students; those who are categorised as intermediate/advanced level are still encouraged to take the semester 1 classes together with the beginner/false beginner students, as they will play an active role during lectures: reading dialogues or excerpts, explaining vocabulary, explaining the simplest grammar rules, supporting other students, etc.

Grammar exercises, oral and written comprehension exercises.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

The written part will consist in a verbal comprehension multiple-choice exercise, a grammar test and a short written production exercise without a dictionary.

The oral part will consist of a presentation in French of a video chosen by the student from those indicated by the lecturer (divided by level) and a text analysed during the year.

The final mark for the language exam is out of 30 and is established using an assessment grid divided as follows: 10 points for verbal comprehension, 5 for the written test, 8 for phonetics, 4 for grammatical accuracy and 3 for fluency.

The written and oral language exams will take place on the dates communicated by the language lecturer. Students must pass the written and oral exams in order to qualify for Prof. Murano’s Language and Linguistics exam or Prof. Verna’s French Language and Literature exam.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

Students who have a DELF B1 certificate or higher, or an ESABAC, from the previous three years do not need to take the written language test.

*All students* are obliged to enrol on the lecturers’ Blackboard courses.

Non-attending students must find out about syllabi and reading list, and make contact with the lecturers in good time before the exams.

The course is open to students of Foreign Languages and Literatures (first-level degree course) that plan to take a one-year or two-year course in a third language (Language C); students of the Arts Faculty taking French (6 or 12 credits); Philology beginner students and Master’s Degree students of Language Sciences and Foreign Languages, Literature and Cultures that plan to take a one-year or two-year course in a third language, as well as students on *The Art and Industry of Narration: from Literature to Cinema and TV* profile who choose a second language (16 ECTS credits).

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.