

Faculty of Social Sciences  
DEPARTMENT OF LINGUISTICS  
Course Information

LINGUISTICS 599.10  
**THE HISTORY AND STRUCTURE OF FRENCH**  
(WINTER 2009)

**Instructor:** Prof. D.C. Walker  
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**Course schedule:** Monday, 9:00 – 12:00, CHE 118  
**Office Hours:** By appointment

**Course description:** Detailed examination of specific topics, chosen in consultation, important in an understanding of the evolution, structure or functioning of the French language. Topics may include variation, evolution of the verb system, specific phonological issues (e.g. schwa, liaison), pronominal usage, word formation, pragmatic issues (e.g. politeness, forms of address), contact phenomena, or other matters of general interest.

**Textbook:** Fagyal, Zsuzsanna, Douglas Kibbee and Fred Jenkins (2006). *French. A Linguistic Introduction*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

**Determination of grade:** (1) two seminar presentations (10% each); (2) two short survey papers (5 pages maximum), one on a historical topic, one on a synchronic topic, confronting the issues and identifying relevant bibliography related to a specific attribute of French (10% each); (3) a research paper exploring a problem in the history or structure of French (60%; due on the last day of class). All topics (presentations, surveys, research paper) are to be chosen in consultation with the instructor. There will be no final examination.

**Note:** This course will be offered in English, based on manuals and reference material available in English. However, some ability to confront material written in French would be advantageous, given the wider range of information available in that language.

All assigned work is due on time; late work (including seminar presentations) will not be accepted without prior written permission from the instructor. Since it will depend on topics chosen, a detailed schedule of presentations and assignment deadlines will be developed in consultation with class enrollees. Students should familiarize themselves with all relevant academic regulations as published in the current University Calendar.

Work will be assessed and letter grades assigned using the undergraduate grading system described on page 45 of the 2008-2009 University of Calgary Calendar. The final grade in the course will be calculated using the grade point values corresponding to the letter grades on individual assignments.

**Plagiarism:**

Plagiarism is a serious offense, the penalty for which is an F on the assignment and possibly also an F in the course, academic probation, or requirement to withdraw.

The University Calendar states that “plagiarism exists when:

- a) The work submitted or presented was done, in whole or in part, by an individual other than the one submitting or presenting the work (this includes having another impersonate the student or otherwise substituting the work of another for one’s own in an examination or test),
- b) Parts of the work are taken from another source without reference to the original author,
- c) The whole work (e.g., an essay) is copied from another source, and/or
- d) A student submits or presents work in one course which has also been submitted in another course (although it may be completely original with that student) without the knowledge of, or prior agreement of, the instructor involved.

While it is recognized that scholarly work often involves reference to the ideas, data and conclusions of other scholars, intellectual honesty requires that such references be explicitly and clearly noted.”

Plagiarism occurs not only when direct quotations are taken from a source without specific acknowledgement but also when original ideas or data from the source are not acknowledged. A bibliography is insufficient to establish which portions of the student’s work are taken from external sources: footnotes or other recognized forms of citation must be used for this purpose.

**Undergraduate Advisor**

The Undergraduate Advisor for the department is Dr. Suzanne Curtin. If you need advice on any aspect of the program in Linguistics please contact her at: [ling.undergrad@ucalgary.ca](mailto:ling.undergrad@ucalgary.ca).