

**Structure of French: Syntax and Semantics
FR 383M (#36905)**

Spring 2013

Monday & Wednesday, 12:30 – 1:45 pm, HRH 2.106C

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Office Hours Monday & Wednesday 2:00 – 3:00 & by appointment

Description

This course is an introduction and overview of major issues in modern French syntax, and to a somewhat lesser degree, semantics. Topics will include basic notions of syntactic analysis as well as classic and outstanding questions in the study of French syntax, for example: the analysis of subject-verb inversion, thematic roles and verb valence, the position of adverbs, verb raising, the status of subject and object pronouns, quantification, main and subordinate clause structure, and word order permutations like dislocations and clefts. These and other topics will be addressed in light of recent theoretical approaches, both formalist and functionalist. Readings, including both primary literature and extracts from textbooks and other instructional materials, will be in both French and English. The language of instruction (French, English, or both) will be determined based on the composition of the class. Evaluation will be based on problem sets, preparation of discussion questions, exam(s), and active participation. Intended for first- and second-year graduate students, the course has no prerequisite other than an interest in linguistic analyses of French. Please do not hesitate to contact the professor in advance with any questions.

Evaluation

The course grade will be determined as follows:

1.	Class participation & preparation	10%
2.	Article presentation	15%
3.	Homework assignments (3 x 10%)	30%
4.	Mid-term exam	20%
5.	Final exam	25%

1. Class participation: Evidence of diligent and thoughtful preparation, active participation, insightful questions and critiques – all the things that make the class richer, more productive, more interesting, more lively.
2. Article presentation: 25 minute presentation, **with handout**. Situate the article, walk us through the problem and analysis, summarize the argumentation, provide a quick critique.
3. Homework: two problem sets, 1 literature review exercise
4. Mid-term: done in class
5. Final exam: during final exam week

University of Texas Honor Code

The core values of The University of Texas at Austin are learning, discovery, freedom, leadership, individual opportunity, and responsibility. Each member of the university is expected to uphold these values through integrity, honesty, trust, fairness, and respect toward peers and community.

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E-mail is recognized as an official mode of university correspondence; therefore, you are responsible for reading your e-mail for university and course-related information and announcements. You are responsible to keep the university informed about changes to your e-mail address. You should check your e-mail regularly and frequently—I recommend daily, but at minimum twice a week—to stay current with university-related communications, some of which may be time-critical. You can find UT Austin’s policies and instructions for updating your e-mail address at <http://www.utexas.edu/its/policies/emailnotify.php>

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By UT Austin policy, you must notify me of your pending absence at least fourteen days prior to the date of observance of a religious holy day. If you must miss a class, an examination, a work assignment, or a project in order to observe a religious holy day, I will give you an opportunity to complete the missed work within a reasonable time after the absence.

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If you are worried about someone who is acting differently, you may use the Behavior Concerns Advice Line to discuss by phone your concerns about another individual’s behavior. This service is provided through a partnership among the Office of the Dean of Students, the Counseling and Mental Health Center (CMHC), the Employee Assistance Program (EAP), and The University of Texas Police Department (UTPD). Call 512-232-5050 or visit <http://www.utexas.edu/safety/bcal>

Tentative Course Schedule

Week	Date	Discussion	Assignments
1	14 janv.	introduction & overview	
	16 janv.	Laenzlinger 2003 intro	
2	21 janv.	FÉRIÉ - PAS DE COURS	
	23 janv.	Laenzlinger 2003 ch. 1 Fagyal, Kibbee, & Jenkins 2006: 93-99	
3	28 janv.	Laenzlinger 2003 ch. 2	
	30 janv.	Rowlett 2007 ch. 3: 62 – 84	
4	4 févr.	Rowlett 2007 ch. 3: 84 – 101	
	6 févr.	Bernstein 2001 <i>presenter:</i>	
5	11 févr.	Hirschbühler & Labelle 1999 ch. 3	
	13 févr.	Laenzlinger 2003 ch. 4 Lambrecht 1987 <i>presenter:</i>	
6	18 févr.	Kayne 1975 ch. 1: 1 – 41	
	20 févr.	Kayne 1975 ch. 1: 41 – 65	HW #1 handed out
7	25 févr.	Laenzlinger 2003 ch. 5 Hirschbühler & Labelle 1999: 231-241	HW #1 due
	27 févr.	Laenzlinger 2003 ch. 6 Fagyal, Kibbee, & Jenkins 2006: 130-136	
8	4 mars	Rizzi & Roberts 1989 <i>presenter:</i>	
	6 mars	MID-TERM EXAM	

SPRING BREAK

9	18 mars	Coveney 2002 ch. 6	
		<i>presenter:</i>	
	20 mars	Laenzlinger 2003 ch. 7	
10	25 mars	De Cat 2007 ch. 4	
		<i>presenter:</i>	
	27 mars	Laenzlinger 2003 ch. 8	HW #2 handed out
11	1 avr.	Lambrecht & Lemoine 2004	HW #2 due
		<i>presenter:</i>	
	3 avr.	Laenzlinger 2003 ch. 9	
		Battye, Hintze, & Rowlett 1992: 222-226	
12	8 avr.	Laenzlinger 2003 ch. 10	
	10 avr.	Pollock 1989: 365 – 391	HW #3 handed out
13	15 avr.	Pollock 1989: 391 – 424	HW #3 due
	17 avr.	Vance 1995	
		<i>presenter:</i>	
14	22 avr.	Laenzlinger 2003 ch. 11	
		Fagyal, Kibbee, & Jenkins 2006: 115-120	
	24 avr.	Kayne 1976	
15	29 avr.	Auger 1996	
	1 mai	rattrapage/révision	
FINAL EXAM			

Bibliography

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