

Lecture: Friday, 1:00 - 3:00 pm.

Instructor: Paul Bessler

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Course description

Throughout most of its nearly 1200-year history, the language that we now call French was not a single linguistic entity, but rather a collection of related dialects. Although socio-political factors resulted in a partial unification of these dialects during the 18th and 19th centuries, the unification was, to a large extent, outweighed by French colonization of areas such as North America and Africa, which resulted in even greater linguistic diversification. The purpose of this course is to provide an overview of the extensive variation that exists throughout the French-speaking world. Topics to be covered include phonetics (pronunciation), lexicology (word selection) and morpho-syntax (grammar). This course is taught in English. No knowledge of French or linguistics is required.

Assignments and evaluation: Test (35%), Research project (35%), Oral presentation (20%), Overall assessment (10%)

Penalty for late submission of assignments - 5% per day

Textbook: None. Required reading will be made available by the instructor.

Prerequisite: None

TIMETABLE

DATE	LECTURE
January 14	Introduction What is linguistics?
January 21	Phonetic variation - Spectrographic analysis and intonation visualization
January 28	Phonological variation - Palatalization and vowel reduction Morpho-syntactic variation - Reanalysis and grammaticalization
February 4	History of the French language
Feb 11	History of the French language
Feb 18	History of the French language
Feb 25	Reading Week - no classes
March 4	Test
March 11	Regional varieties of French - "Joual" and "Chiac"
March 18	Presentations
March 25	Presentations
April 1	Presentations
April 8	Presentations - Submission of Research Project