UCLouvain

lfra1331

2026

French Lexicology

5.00 credits	22.5 h	Q1

Teacher(s)	Fairon Cédrick ;
Language :	French
Place of the course	Louvain-la-Neuve
Main themes	Describe the main ways in which the French lexicon functions, using structural (distributional) or constructional approaches. Reflect on the relationship between lexis and grammar.
Learning outcomes	**At the end of this learning unit, the student is able to :** 1 Explore how the lexical system works in synchronicity. 2 Raise awareness of the potential of the lexicon.
Evaluation methods	Individual assignment to be submitted before the examination period, and a written examination during the examination period.
Teaching methods	The course combines lectures, practical sessions, required readings, and an individual assignment.
Content	Overview of the main issues addressed in lexicology and presentation of the field in relation to neighbouring disciplines such as lexicography, metalexicography, terminology, lexicometrics, etc. Analysis of the development of thinking about the lexicon through the evolution of descriptive tools, from medieval bilingual glossaries to electronic dictionaries, collaborative dictionaries such as *Wiktionary* , and dictionaries developed with the assistance of artificial intelligence. Discussion of lexical phenomena and study of the tools required for their analysis: • in relation to the meaning (lexical semantics) and form (morphology) of lexical units; • from the perspective of lexical creativity, including both endogenous neology (derivation, compounding, semantic development) and exogenous neology (borrowing). Discussion of the relevance and implications of the study of lexicology in contemporary society, and of the relationship between the theoretical concepts covered in the course and linguistic phenomena observed in everyday language use.
Inline resources	See links on Moodle.
Bibliography	Bibliographie disponible sur Moodle.
Other infos	The use of artificial intelligence tools in the preparation of the individual assignment is limited to the conditions specified in the assignment guidelines. Any work that does not comply with the rules set out in this document will be deemed inadmissible and will, in particular, result in a failing grade.
Faculty or entity in charge	ELAL

Programmes containing this learning unit (UE)

Program title	Acronym	Credits	Prerequisite	Learning outcomes
Minor in French Studies (only available for reenrolment and ELAL Bachelor transitional programmes)	MINFRAN	5		
Bachelor in Ancient and Modern Languages and Literatures	LAFR1BA	5		
Minor in Linguistics (only available for reenrolment)	MINLING	5		
Bachelor in French and Romance Languages and Literatures : General	ROM1BA	5		
Bachelor in Modern Languages and Literatures : General	ROGE1BA	5		