

**DEPARTMENT OF MODERN LANGUAGES
AND CULTURAL STUDIES**

www.mlcs.ca

Winter 2007

FREN 473: CANADIAN FRENCH

Instructor: Professor Geneviève Maheux-Pelletier
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Time: TR 9:30 – 10:50
Place: HC 2-30
Office Hours: TRF 11.00 – 14.00
Or by appointment

Website: <http://www.ualberta.ca/~gsm/>

Course-based Ethics Approval in place regarding all research projects that involve human testing, questionnaires, etc.?

- Yes No, not needed, no such projects involved

Course Prerequisite

Fren 372 or consent of the Department.

Course Description and Objectives:

The objective of this course is to introduce students to spoken Canadian French from a descriptive perspective. We will read several articles describing the linguistic features (pronunciation and grammar) of Québec, Ontarian, Albertan, and Acadian French. We will consider the phenomena under investigation from a sociolinguistic perspective, paying particular attention to the quantitative regularities of the features described as well as the social factors conditioning their production in Canadian French.

Required Text

Coursepack available at the university bookstore.

Grade Distribution

Presence and participation	10%
Weekly postings on the blog	10%
Midterm examination (February 15)	20%
Summary of an article (March 1)	10%
Oral presentation of the article	5%
Examination (April 5)	10%
Oral Presentation of research project (April 10 & 12)	10%
Research project (April 16)	25%

MLCS Grading Scale

Letter	%	Points	Descriptor
A+	95-100	4.0	Outstanding
A	90-94	4.0	Excellent
A-	86-89	3.7	Very good
B+	82-85	3.3	Very good
B	75-81	3.0	Good
B-	70-74	2.7	Good
C+	66-69	2.3	Satisfactory
C	61-65	2.0	Satisfactory
C-	58-60	1.7	Satisfactory
D+	55-57	1.3	Minimal Pass
D	50-54	1.0	Minimal Pass
F	0-49	0.0	Fail

Explanatory Notes

Attendance, Absences, and Missed Grade Components:

Regular attendance is essential for optimal performance in an advanced undergraduate course. In cases of potentially excusable absences due to illness or domestic affliction, notify your instructor by e-mail within two days. Regarding absences that may be excusable and procedures for addressing course components missed as a result, consult sections 23.4.2 and 23.4.3 of the University Calendar. Be aware that unexcused absences will result in partial or total loss of the grade for the “attendance and participation” component(s) of the course, as well as for any assignments that are not handed-in or completed as a result. In this course, attendance and participation will be assessed according to the participation grid and rubric given on the first day of class.

Readings:

Students are expected to read the materials assigned for the class prior to this class. Students are expected to prepare for the following class by reading the articles assigned for a given day ahead of the lesson as this will greatly facilitate class discussions. Failure to do so will be taken into consideration when assigning participation marks.

Weekly postings on our blog:

I have created a blog for our class at <http://francais-canadien.blogspot.com/>. This should be an interesting way to initiate our conversation about different linguistic aspects related to Canadian French as well as a tool to help focus our class time on issues that are interesting or difficult to you. Each week, I will be posting questions for discussion and will require everyone to respond to the questions based on our readings. You can also post a comment or question. You will be required to post your comments each Sunday by midnight.

Oral presentations:

You will present one article about Canadian French. You will be responsible for choosing the article, but I must approve your choice before you present. In addition, you will be responsible for presenting the results of your research paper.

Summary of an article:

You will be required to write one summary between 700 and 750 words.

Research paper:

You will be assigned a topic as well as a corpus. With a partner, you will be responsible for generating hypotheses about your data, analyzing it, and providing an interpretation for your result. Your research paper will be 10 to 12 page long and be organized according to the article by Mackey that we will read for class.

Language of Instruction and Communication

The language of instruction in the classroom is French. It is expected that **all** communication be carried out in the target language, inside and outside the classroom. This pertains to daily class time conversation with fellow students, instructor, and email.

Policy for Late Assignments:

Students who consult in advance with the instructor regarding contingencies preventing the timely completion of an assignment may, at the discretion of the instructor, be granted an extension. Otherwise, a 10%-per-class-day penalty will be assessed for each class day of lateness. Students may also skip no more than one blog posting without penalty.

Plagiarism and Cheating:

“The University of Alberta is committed to the highest standards of academic integrity and honesty. Students are expected to be familiar with these standards regarding academic honesty and to uphold the policies of the University in this respect. Students are particularly urged to familiarize themselves with the provisions of the Code of Student Behaviour (online at www.ualberta.ca/secretariat/appeals.htm) and avoid any behaviour which could potentially result in suspicions of cheating, plagiarism, misrepresentation of facts and/or participation in an offence. Academic dishonesty is a serious offence and can result in suspension or expulsion from the University.” (GFC 29 SEP 2003)

All students should consult the “Truth-In-Education” handbook or Website (<http://www.uofaweb.ualberta.ca/TIE/>) regarding the definitions of **plagiarism** and its consequences when detected.

Required Notes:

“Policy about course outlines can be found in Section 23.4(2) of the University Calendar.” (GFC 29 SEP 2003).

FRENCH 473

Course Calendar

(tentative)

Part 1: Le français québécois

January 9	Syllabus, general concepts in linguistics
January 11	Introduction : Oui... au français québécois standard ! (Martel & Cajolet-Laganière)
January 16	Historical Background (Hamers & Hummel)
January 18	Consonants: /r/, assibilation (Dumas, 1-19)
January 23	Consonants: /l/ dropping (Poplack & Walker)
January 25	Vowels: diphthongs, /wa/ (Dumas 21-39)
January 30	Grammar and syntax : Pronouns (Dumas 46-66)
February 1	Grammar and syntax: the case of « ne » (Sankoff & Vincent)
February 6	Grammar and syntax: the future tense (Poplack & Turpin); Avoir/être (Sankoff & Thibault)
February 8	Grammar and syntax: the subjunctive (Poplack)
February 13	Review
February 15	Mid-Term Examination
February 19-23	Winter Break
February 27	Oral presentation of the article
March 1	Oral presentation of the article Written summary of article is due
March 6-8	Research methodology (Mackey) Term project: independent work at the library (mandatory) – Geneviève will be there to provide assistance.

Part 2: Le français hors Québec

March 13 Le français acadien: introduction (Flikied)

March 15 Le français acadien: the future tense (King & Nadasdi)

March 20 Le franco-ontarien: introduction (Beniak & Mougeon)

March 22 Le franco-ontarien : variation (Nadasdi, Mougeon & Rehner)

March 27 Immersion programs in Ontario (Nadasdi, Mougeon & Rehner)

March 29 French language maintenance in minority settings (Iqbal)

April 3 Review

April 5 **Examination**

April 10-12 Oral presentation of the research projects

(Written version of research project is due April 13 before 4 pm)

List of articles in the coursepack

- Beniak, Édouard & Raymond Mougeon. "Recherches sociolinguistiques sur la variabilité en français ontarien." Le français canadien parlé hors Québec : un aperçu sociolinguistique. Eds. E. Beniak & R. Mougeon. Québec: Les Presses de l'Université Laval, 1989. 69-104.
- Dumas, Denis. Nos façons de parler: les prononciations en français québécois. Québec: Presses de l'Université du Québec, 1987.
- Flikeid, Karen. "Structural aspects and current sociolinguistic situation of acadian French." French and Creole in Louisiana: Topics in Language and Linguistics. Ed. Albert Valdman. New York: Plenum Press (1997). 255-286.
- King, Ruth & Terry Nadasdi. "Back to the future in Acadian French." French Language Studies 13 (2003): 323-337.
- Hamers, Josiane F. & Kirsten M. Hummel. "The Francophones of Quebec: Language Policies and Language Use." International Journal of Social Language 105/106 (1994): 127-152.
- Iqbal, Isabeau. "Mother Tongue and Motherhood: Implications for French Language Maintenance in Canada." The Canadian Modern Language Review 16.3 (2005): 305-323.
- Mackey, Alison. "Introduction to Research." Second Language Research: Methodology and Design. Mahwah, NJ : Lawrence Erlbaum, 2005. 1-24.
- Martel, Pierre & Hélène Cajolet-Laganière. « Oui... au français québécois standard. » Interface 16.5 (1995): 14-25.
- Nadasdi, Terry, Raymon Mougeon & Katherine Rehner. "Expression de la notion de «véhicule automobile» dans le parler des adolescents francophones de l'Ontario." Francophonies d'Amérique 17 (2004) 91-106.
- Poplack, Shana. «Prescription, intuition et usage: Le subjonctif français et la variabilité inhérente.» Langage et société 54 (1990): 5-33.
- Poplack, Shana & Danielle Turpin. "Does the FUTUR have a future in (Canadian) French?" Probus 11 (1990):133-164.
- Poplack, Shana & Douglas Walker. "Going through (L) in Canadian French." Diversity and Diachrony. Ed. D. Sankoff. Amsterdam: Benjamins. 173-198.
- Sankoff, Gillain. & Pierrette. Thibault. « L'alternance entre les auxiliaires AVOIR et ETRE en français parlé à Montréal. » Langue française 4 (1977): 81-108.
- Sankoff, Gillian. & Diane Vincent. « L'emploi productif du ne dans le français parlé à Montréal. » Le français moderne 45 (1977): 243-256.