

Dialectology

Linguistics 9811B 2015-16

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Office: Arts & Humanities Building ("Old Ivey") 2R12A
Course website "FRENCH 9811B 001 GW16" on Owl: <https://owl.uwo.ca>

Tuesday 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Lawson Hall Room 2205

Office Hours (Arts & Humanities Building "Old Ivey" 2R12A):

My scheduled office hours are posted on the OWL site. I am also available by appointment – e-mail me and we can arrange a time to meet.

Course Description:

This course offers graduate students the opportunity to acquire a solid grasp of the fundamental theoretical concepts of dialectology. Students will be invited to deepen their knowledge in the field by carrying out a four-phase research project (annotated bibliography, abstract, presentation, final paper) on a specific topic of particular interest to them chosen in consultation with the instructor. The course will address concepts and sub-fields such as: origins of dialectology and its relationship to other branches of linguistics, dialect geography, dialectometry, urban dialectology (i.e. Labovian variationist sociolinguistics).

The language of instruction will be English but students have the option of submitting written work in English, French or Spanish. Students in French Studies graduate programs are required to submit written work in French.

Weighting of Graded Assignments:

Chapter presentation:	10%
Bibliography assignment:	20%
Abstract	10%
Oral presentation:	20%
Research paper:	40%

Textbook and Readings:

The main textbook for the course is:

Chambers, J.K. & Trudgill, P. (1998). *Dialectology*. Second Edition. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Students will be expected to read the entire book during the course, as well as to give a short presentation and lead a class discussion on one of the chapters. The book has been ordered through the Western Book Store. Students may purchase it there when it arrives, or via an

online supplier (e.g. Indigo, Amazon). The Western Libraries copy of the book has been placed on reserve (three-day loan) at the D.B. Weldon Library.

Other course readings will be posted on the course OWL site. In addition to the textbook mentioned above, there will be approximately ten articles assigned as required reading, and some optional readings on topics studied will also be made available on the site, or can be found in the Western Libraries system. Students will do readings in addition to these on a topic of their choice for the assignments in the course.

Assignments:

Chapter presentation (to be scheduled to take place in January and February)

Each student registered in the course will present an overview of one of the chapters in the textbook (Chambers & Trudgill 1998), and lead a discussion on it. No more than one week in advance of the class, you will submit a list of questions (three to five of them) to be distributed to the class, to serve as a basis for the discussion. Your presentation should be ten to fifteen minutes in length. Starting at 4:00 p.m. on January 5, a Wiki page for signing up for a chapter and presentation date will be made available on the OWL site.

Reference list on chosen topic (OPTIONAL, NO MARK ASSIGNED: submit by February 9)

As a preliminary step to the annotated bibliography assignment, you may prepare a list of ten to fifteen bibliographic references on the topic on which you plan to do your research in the course. You may also draft a short paragraph describing the topic. Be sure to pay careful attention to the format of bibliographic references.

Annotated bibliography assignment (due February 23)

You are asked to prepare an annotated bibliography on your topic. Please see guidelines posted on the OWL site.

Abstract: (due March 15)

You are asked to prepare an abstract of the research you plan to do for the presentation and the research paper. Please see guidelines posted on the OWL site.

Presentation (April 5)

You are asked to make a presentation to the class, about 15 minutes in length (followed by 5 minutes of discussion), in which you will present the dialectological issue(s) that you are studying. Presentations will be given as part of colloquium during the last class. Please see guidelines posted on the OWL site.

Research Paper (due date: April 30)

This assignment involves preparing a well-structured research paper on a sociolinguistic topic, of about fifteen pages in length (double-spaced, 12-point format). Possible approaches:

- A synthesis of the research on a particular issue: establish a position (thesis) on the question and argue your position while critically reviewing the relevant research
- An empirical study of data from a linguistic corpus. You must pay careful attention to the information below on research ethics if you are gathering a corpus, or making any other use of human subjects.

Format for Submission of Written Assignments:

The preferred means for submission of written work in the course is as a word processing file (Microsoft Word) sent to the instructor via the OWL site on the Assignments page. This saves paper resources and facilitates the provision of timely and detailed feedback.

Submission Deadlines:

All work in graduate courses must be submitted by the deadline set by the instructor. "Incompletes" will not be permitted without medical documentation. In order to continue to receive financial support from the School of Graduate and Post-doctoral Studies, each student must demonstrate satisfactory progression in her or his program. Regulations are available upon request from Chrisanthi Skalkos in the Department of French Studies.

Bibliographic Style:

Use of bibliographic sources is essential for research at the graduate level, and there are certain conventions for referring to the literature that it is important to follow. Style guidelines vary in terms of the format of citations in the text of a paper, the use of footnotes and endnotes, and the format of bibliographical references at the end of the paper. They also set specific guidelines for the format of subheadings, examples, tables and graphic illustrations, among other elements. The MLA style guide is not used as much in linguistics as it is in literature, while the APA is quite commonly used in linguistics. **The preferred options for linguistics papers in Western's linguistics programs are the *Canadian Journal of Linguistics* and the *Canadian Journal of Applied Linguistics* guidelines**, which can be found on the course OWL site. You are advised to choose a standard set of style guidelines and to adhere to it as consistently as possible. You should focus on the minute details of style at the right stage in the drafting of your work, without losing sleep over them; fine-tuning of bibliographic style is for final editing, but should not be neglected. While you will not be severely penalized for falling short of perfection on such points of detail, it is expected that your work does will demonstrate due attention to them. Appropriately acknowledging all sources if of course a requirement, and failure to do so can constitute plagiarism.

Plagiarism and other Scholastic Offences:

It is expected that graduate students will be aware of the regulations regarding plagiarism and other scholastic offences that are to be avoided. Here the text that the Senate recommends we include in all course outlines:

"Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site: <http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/scholoff.pdf>"

Research Ethics:

For your Research Paper, you may wish to do an empirical study of data you gather from human subjects. If you choose such a topic for your Research Paper, you must obtain ethics approval from the instructor before beginning your work with human subjects.

Information on Western's policy governing ethical research involving humans can be found on the Office of Research Ethics website: <http://www.uwo.ca/research/ethics/>

Before undertaking research involving human subjects, please complete the tutorial at the following URL: <http://tcps2core.ca/welcome>

Instructions to Student Researchers Whose Research Papers Involve Use of Human Subjects

The following instructions are a supplement to the description of the Research Paper found in the syllabus. They apply to all assignments done for the course involving work with human subjects.

- a) The purpose of the project is to carry out a research project in the field of dialectology by means of interviews and/or questionnaire used to gather data on participants' language use patterns or perception of language forms.
- b) Participants can be recruited from among your friends, family, classmates, roommates, acquaintances, or people you do not know. Please note criterion 3 in the Guidelines, which states that participants must be adults and must be "capable of free and informed consent." Be sure to read the Guidelines thoroughly. You invite people to participate by explaining the purpose of the project and providing a copy of the Letter of Information (see section c) below for more information about this Letter).
- c) Once potential participants have been given the Letter of Information and had all of their questions answered to their satisfaction, you ask them to sign the Consent Form if they consent to participate. You must prepare the Letter of Information and Consent Form using the models provided on the REB website (copies are posted on the course OWL site in the Ethics folder under Resources). These must be submitted to the instructor for advance approval.
- d) Since this project will likely involve only one session with each participant, it is not anticipated that a participant will withdraw part way through. If a participant does withdraw, assume that you cannot use any data gathered from the participant, and consult the instructor for advice.
- e) There is no formal requirement for debriefing (informing participants of the results of the research). If you do decide to do so, be sure to submit the proposed summary of the results to the instructor for approval before giving it to participants.
- f) You must not identify participants by name in your paper or anywhere else. Use pseudonyms to protect anonymity and confidentiality.
- g) Please note the following important note in the Guidelines regarding risk: "The research projects must be no more than **minimal risk**. The standard of minimal risk is defined as follows: *If potential participants can reasonably be expected to regard the probability and magnitude of possible harms implied by the participation in the research to be no greater than those encountered by the subject in his or her everyday life that relate to the research then the research can be regarded as within the range of minimal risk.*"

Schedule of Course Meetings:

The schedule of course meetings, including topics, readings and assignments for each class, can be found in the Lessons section of the OWL site.