

SYLLABUS – FREN 5150 Research Project Seminar in French
Course Topic: Data-Driven Learning, Spring 2023

This syllabus was revised on February 27, 2023.

The schedule for weeks 8-15 was adjusted because several dates were incorrect.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Within a framework of data-driven learning and teaching, students engage in research related to foreign language curriculum, instruction, or assessment through project design, literature review, data collection, data analysis, and presentation of results. The final project is a research report in the format of a journal article.

Prerequisite(s): Enrollment in the M.A. French program or department approval.

May be repeated for credit as topics vary.

INSTRUCTOR

Lawrence Williams – lawrence.williams@unt.edu

Office: LANG 405F

Phone: (940) 565-2404

MEETINGS

Monday, LANG 311, 5:00 pm – 7:50 pm (see the weekly schedule below)

COURSE OBJECTIVES

The learning opportunities provided in this course will help you to do the following:

- find and evaluate resources for conducting research on a specific topic;
- synthesize and organize information in English and French;
- collect and analyze data related to teaching French as a foreign language; and
- present information in French through different modes of communication.

REQUIRED READINGS

- *World-Readiness Standards for Learning Languages*, a publication of the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (2015) that will be on reserve at Willis Library or in Room 105 of the Language Building (our Language Lab).
- Since each student or group of students will have slightly different topics (related to the course topic), not everyone will have the same list of additional required readings.

CANVAS

We will use [Canvas](#) for some aspects of this course.

Help Desk: Sage Hall, Room 330 – (940) 565-2324 – [e-mail](#) – [website](#)

ATTENDANCE

UNT Policy 06.039 – [Student Attendance & Authorized Absences](#)

ONLINE RESOURCES

[Le grand dictionnaire terminologique](#)

[Le trésor de la langue française informatisé](#)

COMMUNICATION

- You can contact me by sending a message in Canvas.
- I will make every attempt to reply to messages within 24 hours.
- You may send me e-mail in English or French. This choice will not affect your grade.
[I often send administrative announcements, clarifications, and instructions in English in order to avoid misinterpretations or potential confusion.]

ASSIGNMENTS

Every assignment submitted in Canvas is due before midnight local time on the due date. See Appendix A in this syllabus for information about typing international characters.

You may work on the research project individually or in a group of 2. In order for you to work in a group of 2, you must schedule a consultation with the instructor during Week 1 or Week 2 of the semester so that I can provide you with specific details associated with working as a team.

DURING THE SPRING 2023 SEMESTER, THERE MAY BE A TOTAL OF ONLY 3 STUDENTS IN THIS COURSE. IF THIS IS THE CASE, IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE FOR EVERYONE TO WORK TOGETHER. WE CAN DISCUSS THIS AS A GROUP.

Project Proposal [50 points]

- This will be due at the end of Week 3 of the semester.
- Students will give informal presentations during the regularly scheduled class period during Week 3 in order to share their projects with the entire class. This will require you to begin practicing how to explain your project in a condensed way to other people.
- The main focus of your written proposal must be the design of the study.
- You must include at least one main (overarching) research question.
- You must include a list of a minimum of 5 journal articles that you have already decided to include in your literature review. This list must follow the style guidelines of the American Psychological Association (the most widely used guidelines for projects in any area of Applied Linguistics).
- Guidelines and an evaluation rubric for the written proposal are provided in Canvas. Since the informal presentation is not graded, there is no evaluation for this component of the research project.

Literature Review [50 points]

- By the end of Week 6 of the semester, you need to demonstrate that you have read 5 of the 10 (total) research articles (from journals that publish peer-reviewed research) that are required for this project. During the remainder of the semester, you must read and summarize at least 5 additional research articles that will be included in your final (written) version of the research project.

- Students will give informal presentations during the regularly scheduled class period during Week 6 in order to share the highlights of their literature review with the entire class.
- Guidelines and an evaluation rubric are provided in Canvas.

Data Set [50 points]

- Since this part of the research project will be due at the end of Week 9 of the semester, you must collect some data during Weeks 7-9.
- Students will give informal presentations during the regularly scheduled class period during Week 9 in order to explain their data set/corpus to the entire class.
- Since this course focuses on survey-driven research, your main source of data for this project must come from a survey that you developed based on the required readings, classroom discussions, and consultations with the professor.
- Guidelines and an evaluation rubric are provided in Canvas.

Data Analysis [50 points]

- You are not required to submit a formal draft of your data analysis at the end of Week 12. However, you are required to meet at least once with the instructor during the regularly scheduled class period during Weeks 10-12 in order to explain what you have found in your data and to ask questions about your data.
- Guidelines and an evaluation rubric are provided in Canvas.

Oral Presentation of Data [100 points]

- The main focus of your in-class presentation during Week 14 must be data analysis.
- Guidelines and an evaluation rubric are provided in Canvas.

Research Project [200 points]

- The written version of the research project will be due during the week of final exams on the date when you normally would have had a final exam. This final project replaces the final exam.
- Guidelines and an evaluation rubric are provided in Canvas.

POINTS FOR ASSIGNMENTS & EXAMS

Category	Points
Project Proposal	50
Literature Review	50
Data Set	50
Data Analysis	50
In-Class Presentation	100
Final Research Project	200
TOTAL	500

POINTS & COURSE LETTER GRADES

Point Range	Letter Grade
450-500	A
400-449	B
350-399	C
300-349	D
0-299	F

Follow the steps below to determine your grade.

- Calculate the total number of points that you earned during the semester.
- Find the point range for your total number of points in the first column (Point Range), then look at the second column (Letter Grade) in order to know what your grade for the course will be.

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

- Underlined items include in-class presentations or other assignments.
- This course requires a combination of classroom instruction and individual research consultations with students, as indicated in the weekly schedule provided below.

Week 1 – January 16, 2023 [Martin Luther King, Jr. Day – University closed]

Week 2 – January 23, 2023

- Explanation of Syllabus
- Discussion of the Research Project Components
- Research Proposal Design
- Finding, Evaluating, and Selecting Relevant Journal Articles

Week 3 – January 30, 2023

- Examples of data-driven learning
- Informal, non-graded discussion of preliminary Project Proposal ideas

Week 4 – February 6, 2023

- Students give informal presentations of project proposals (we will discuss all the ideas together, and there is no grade for this discussion)
- Written Project Proposal can be submitted by the end of the week in Canvas

Week 5 – February 13, 2023 [no classroom meeting]

- Independent work (preparation of the literature review)

Week 6 – February 20, 2023

- Students give informal presentations of highlights of the literature review
- The literature review (at least 5 articles) can be submitted by the end of the week in Canvas

Week 7 – February 27, 2023 [no classroom meeting]

- Individual consultations with the instructor during the regularly scheduled class period are recommended
- Students continue collecting/organizing data

REVISED SCHEDULE FOR WEEKS 8-15

Week 8 – March 6, 2023

Classroom meeting, LANG 311 (Discussion; Data analysis)

Spring Break – March 13, 2023

Week 9 – March 20, 2023

Individual work, no classroom meeting

Note: An individual consultation with the instructor is recommended during week 9 or week 10.

Week 10 – March 27, 2023

Individual work, no classroom meeting

Note: An individual consultation with the instructor is recommended during week 9 or week 10.

Week 11 – April 3, 2023

Classroom meeting, LANG 311 (Discussion; Data analysis)

Week 12 – April 10, 2023

Individual work, no classroom meeting

Note: An individual consultation with the instructor is recommended during week 12 or week 13.

Week 13 – April 17, 2023

Individual work, no classroom meeting

Note: An individual consultation with the instructor is recommended during week 12 or week 13.

Week 14 – April 24, 2023

Classroom meeting, LANG 311 (Discussion; Data analysis)

Week 15 – May 1, 2023

Individual work, no classroom meeting

Note: An individual consultation with the instructor is recommended during week 15.

Final Project

- The final project is due in Canvas by Monday, May 8, 2023.
- All students will be given an automatic 48-hour extension until Wednesday, May 10, 2023.
- There is no final exam because the final project replaces the final exam.

Appendix A

Typing International Characters

There are many resources on line that explain how to type letters that include symbols that are not used in English. A few of these resources have been provided below for your convenience; however, you may prefer to use different online resources, and that is your choice.

In the field of Linguistics, international characters are called diacritics, even though people often refer to them as *accents* or *accent marks*. French diacritics include 3 accents and 2 other symbols.

FRENCH DIACRITICS

Example	Name (in English)	Name (in French)
é	acute accent	l'accent aigu
è	grave accent	l'accent grave
ê	circumflex accent	l'accent circonflexe
ë	diaeresis	le tréma
ç	cedilla	la cédille

ONLINE RESOURCES

Microsoft Office Support - [International Characters](#)

Muhlenberg University - [Typing Guide for Accents](#)

University of Manitoba - [How to Type Accents](#)