

Linguistics 9610a / French 9610a, fall 2018: *Comparative Romance Linguistics*

Instructor: David Heap

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Course Description

In this course students become familiar with different levels of linguistic structure (phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics) in various Romance languages, from both synchronic and diachronic perspectives. Each person is encouraged to investigate at least one 'national' variety (Portuguese, Spanish, French, Italian, Rumanian) and a non-national variety (Galician, Asturian, Leonese, Aragonese, Catalan, Valencian, Occitan, Franco-Provençal, Rumantsch, Piedmontese, Frioulisan, Sardinian, Arumanian, etc.). We will critically examine research in different fields, including sociolinguistic variation and the status of « dialects » across the Romance language family. Comparative research using empirical data is encouraged (though not required) for the course papers. The language of instruction is English but students French programs are required to write their course papers in French. Students in other programs (e.g. Hispanic Linguistics) have the option of submitting course work in Spanish.

Evaluation: Students are expected to complete the following

One or more chapter summaries (in class)

Annotated bibliography.

Abstract / conference presentation proposal.

Oral Research Presentation (as at a scholarly conference).

Final Research Paper (as for an academic conference proceedings or a journal)

Regular attendance and participation

The weighting and timing of these items will be discussed and determined together at our first meeting in September. Group / pair work (co-authorship) is possible for some of these items, by prior arrangement with the instructor.

Readings: these will evolve as a function of individual interests and in consultation with the instructor. Good starting points include chapters of:

Harris, Martin & Nigel Vincent (eds). 1990. *The Romance languages*.

Oxford University Press. PC43.R635 (currently on reserve, Weldon 1st floor).

Ledgeway, Adam & Martin Maiden. 2016. *The Oxford guide to the Romance languages*.
PC43.O75 2016