



School of Philosophy, Psychology and Language Sciences

LEL 2E: Structure and History of European Languages (LASC08021)

Course Organiser: Peter Ackema

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Course Secretary: Susan Hermiston

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Course aims and objectives

The basic objective of the course is to present a broad introduction to the linguistics of the languages of Europe, especially to the study of the Romance, Germanic, Celtic and Slavic languages. The course will cover both the principal historical events that have affected the development of these languages and provide a sketch of the development of modern vernaculars from their historical forebears. The course will also deal in detail with a number of specific topics that are significant in the linguistic study of the present-day European languages, including both structural topics (for example, the behaviour of clitics and the syntax of verbs) and historical and sociolinguistic topics (for example, the development of standard languages and the role of European languages in historical processes of creolisation).

Learning Outcomes

The course should give students a general intellectual context for understanding the structure and history of the languages of the main European language families, and establish a solid factual foundation for more in-depth study of linguistic topics in specific languages (e.g. in Honours level dissertations and long essays).

At the end of the course, students will be able to:

- understand the historical context of Romance, Germanic, Celtic and Slavic languages
- describe the major structural properties that characterise these language groups
- read specialised linguistic works on individual European languages
- identify and outline specific research topics that are suitable as projects for Honours long essays and dissertations
- undertake university-level courses on Romance, Germanic, Celtic or Slavic languages in the languages' home countries on a roughly equal footing with local students as regards background knowledge about the language and its history.

Schedule

	Mon 12.10-13.00 Geography, room 2.13	Wed 12.10-13.00 Geography, room 2.13	Thu 12.10-13.00 Geography, room 2.13
Week 1 (starting 13 Jan)	Introduction <i>Peter Ackema</i>	Introduction <i>Peter Ackema</i>	Guidance on essay writing <i>Peter Ackema</i>
Week 2 (starting 20 Jan)	Indo-European <i>Pavel Iosad</i>	Indo-European <i>Pavel Iosad</i>	Indo-European <i>Pavel Iosad</i>
Week 3 (starting 27 Jan)	Romance <i>Bob Ladd</i>	Romance <i>Bob Ladd</i>	Romance <i>Bob Ladd</i>
Week 4 (starting 3 Feb)	Slavic <i>Patrick Honeybone</i>	Slavic <i>Patrick Honeybone</i>	Slavic <i>Patrick Honeybone</i>
Week 5 (starting 10 Feb)	Germanic <i>Peter Ackema</i>	Germanic <i>Peter Ackema</i>	Germanic <i>Peter Ackema</i>
Flexible Learning Week			

Week 6 (Starting 24 Feb)	Celtic <i>Pavel Iosad</i>	Celtic <i>Pavel Iosad</i>	Celtic <i>Pavel Iosad</i>
Week 7 (starting 2 Mar)	Creolisation <i>Peter Ackema</i>	Creolisation <i>Peter Ackema</i>	Creolisation <i>Peter Ackema</i>
Week 8 (starting 9 Mar)	Language standardisation <i>John Joseph</i>	Language standardisation <i>John Joseph</i>	Language standardisation <i>John Joseph</i>
Week 9 (starting 16 Mar)	Syntactic issues <i>Caroline Heycock</i>	Syntactic issues <i>Caroline Heycock</i>	Morphological issues <i>Peter Ackema</i>
Week 10 (starting 23 Mar)	Morphological issues <i>Peter Ackema</i>	Phonological issues <i>Pavel Iosad</i>	Phonological issues <i>Pavel Iosad</i>
Week 11 (starting 30 Mar)	Feedback and Feedforward exam about <i>Peter Ackema</i>	Beyond European Indo- <i>Pavel Iosad</i>	Beyond European Indo- <i>Pavel Iosad</i>

Reading

Lecturers will provide lecture notes for their part(s) of the course on Learn, before the relevant week of the course. These are all essential reading. Other readings (some essential, but mostly recommended or further reading) will be mentioned in these notes, and will be given via a library Resource List linked to the course. If you want to have a look at some relevant literature before the course starts, you may find the following useful:

- Ball, Martin & Nicole Müller (eds.) (2009) *The Celtic Languages*. London: Routledge. (2nd edition).
 Comrie, Bernard (1990) *The Major Languages of Western Europe*. London: Routledge.
 König, Ekkehard and Auwera, Johan van der (eds.) (1994) *The Germanic Languages*. London: Routledge.
 Posner, Rebecca (1996) *The Romance Languages*. Cambridge University Press.
 Ramat, Paolo, and Ramat, Anna Giacalone (1998) *The Indo-European Languages*. London: Routledge.
 Sussex, Roland and Paul Cubberley (eds.) (2006) *The Slavic Languages*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Assessment

Assessment for the course consists of the following:

(i) essay (2,500 words) reporting on an individual research project on a specific topic concerning one or more of the European languages. This is worth 50% of the marks for the course. The essay is due on Monday 20 April 2020 at noon.

(ii) written exam, scheduled during the April/May exam diet at the end of the semester. This is also worth 50% of the marks for the course.

The course essay will require you to do some research (usually library research) on a topic of your choice. In some cases it may be appropriate for you to work in groups of two or three on a given topic, but all essays must be written up individually.

The exam will be a standard 2 hour exam. More detailed information, including information on the structure of the exam and what kind of questions it will contain, will be provided during the Monday lecture in week 11. The Library's collection of past exam papers contains some previous exams of this course (minus the Multiple Choice section).

Tutorials

In addition to attending the three lectures per week, you will also be assigned to a tutorial group (one hour per week). Tutorials are designed to reinforce what you have covered in the lectures.

There will be weekly tutorials, starting in Week 2. They are held on Tuesdays. You will be automatically allocated to a tutorial group that will fit with your timetable.

Should you wish to change your allotted group, this can only be done via Timetabling and within the first two weeks of Semester 2.

Feedback

Feedback is essential to learning. In this course, there will be a feedforward session devoted to the essay that forms the coursework for the course (Thursday in week 1) and a feedback/feedforward session related to the exam and any issues that have arisen during the course (Monday in week 11). However, feedback comes in many other forms as well, and we strongly encourage you to make use of all of these, including:



- Asking and answering questions in lectures or classes
- Asking questions of the Course Organiser or lecturer outside of class (email/appointment)
- Actively participating in your tutorials
- Talking about your ideas outside class with fellow LEL students
- Participating in discussion groups and study-skills events organised by the LEL students' Linguistics and English Language Society (LingSoc)
- Participating in LingSoc debates and talks

If you have any suggestions on how to improve feedback further, please contact either:

Your Tutor

The Course Organiser (Peter Ackema, packema@ling.ed.ac.uk)

Your Personal Tutor

The PPLS Student Support Office (ppls.sso@ed.ac.uk)

Marking

We use of the University's Common Marking Scheme. A full description of this scheme, including descriptors of the various grades, can be found on the following page:

<https://www.ed.ac.uk/ppls/linguistics-and-english-language/current/undergraduate/assessment/common-marking-scheme>