

**DEPARTMENT OF  
MODERN EUROPEAN LANGUAGES  
(French)**

**B-stream units, 1995**

## **French Language IIB and French Language IIIB (1995)**

**(Course co-ordinator: Mr G. Halligan)**

At least one of these units is compulsory for students doing any of the majors in the B-stream. They each consist of three hours a week throughout the year, one hour each of: written language, stylistics and oral. All teaching is in French. Students enrolled in IIB and IIIB take the same oral classes (see below). The two units have separate classes for written and stylistics (see below).

### **FRENCH LANGUAGE IIB**

You will be given one exercise a fortnight, the work for the written class alternating with the work for the stylistics class. The first exercise will be for the stylistics class.

**The deadline for handing in these exercises will normally be  
Fridays at 5pm.**

**Written class (Dr P. Lane (1st semester), Mr J. Grieve (2nd semester); Wednesdays at 3 p.m., Room W107):**

The main focus of the French we shall read and write in this class will be, as in French IB/IIIS, the discursive sentence. This is the type of sentence you will need to master if you are ever to write an intelligent discussion in French, in the form of, say, an essay. The structures we shall study are of two sorts: those found inside these sentences; and those that serve to link sentences to one another. Two of the most marked features of this type of written French are the frequency of binary structures and the use of connecting words and expressions, placed usually at the beginnings of the sentences. These connectors render explicit and visible certain links of thought which, in English, often remain implicit. In studying examples of these structures and connectors, we try to become familiar with the contexts in which they appear and the functions they serve; in the regular writing exercises, we try to imitate what we have observed in reading. Most of the models of this style we look at come from recent newspaper articles and books discussing current ideas. You will find on the next page a provisional programme listing most of the structures we shall study.

We do different sorts of exercises: *résumés*, comprehension questions, *rédactions*, some translation. There will be one of these written exercises once a fortnight, alternating with the exercises set in the stylistics class. See also the proposed assessment arrangements (see below).

## **French Language IIB (continued):**

### **Stylistics (Dr P. Brown; Wednesdays at 10 a.m., room W107):**

Ce cours se propose un double but: d'une part, passer en revue une variété de styles (épistolaire, journalistique, narratif, onirique, politique, scientifique, publicitaire, etc) à partir de documents écrits et audio-visuels, pour en faire ressortir les différences et les spécificités; d'autre part, faire un découpage des textes pour en voir la cohérence interne, cerner les articulations, mots de liaison etc, qui contribuent à une grammaire textuelle, et étudier des aspects proprement stylistiques, tels que le choix de vocabulaire, le ton et le point de vue. Enfin, les étudiants auront l'occasion, en alternance avec l'analyse, de faire et de commenter leurs propres exercices de style.

## **FRENCH LANGUAGE IIIB**

You will be given one exercise a fortnight, the work for the written class alternating with the work for the stylistics class. Each week, the deadline for handing in this work, for whichever class, will be:

**Fridays, at 12 noon.**

### **Written class (Mr G. Halligan; Tuesdays at 10 a.m., room 1090, Copland Building):**

Writing in French, on a wide range of subjects, in diverse styles and with various degrees of originality (e.g. the spontaneous, the pastiche, the translation). The aim will be to achieve the most appropriate vocabulary, within the correct registers, and with the most effective syntactic structures, for any given purpose: discursive, persuasive, descriptive, narrative, etc. Critical attention will be paid to related passages of French writing, to observe the usage of French writers in analogous situations.

### **Stylistics (DR P. Lane; Thursdays at 2 p.m., room W118):**

#### **QU'EST-CE QU'UN TEXTE?**

"Telles des masses rocheuses, les textes mélangent des strates d'origines diverses. Comprimées par les forces cohésives de la pétrification, seules la couleur et la texture de ces strates en rappellent l'origine. La tâche de l'analyste éclairé ne se limite donc pas aux contraintes structurales et à la cohésion textuelle, mais inclut l'examen de la profonde hétéronomie sémantique des textes et du principe de dispersion qu'ils incorporent."  
Thomas Pavel, *Univers de la fiction*, Le Seuil, 1988.

Ce cours se propose d'interroger la notion de TEXTE, relativement, par exemple, à celles de GENRE ou encore de DISCOURS.

Propositions d'activités d'écriture et analyses textuelles conféreront à ce cours une dimension pédagogique.

## Proposed Assessment Arrangements

| Proposed assessment                                                                                                             | Marks             |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Written language</b>                                                                                                         |                   |
| Best 75% of work set                                                                                                            | 150               |
| <b>Stylistics</b>                                                                                                               |                   |
| Best 75% of work set                                                                                                            | 150               |
| An end-of-semester test (for IIB only), and<br>A three-hour end-of-year examination in written &<br>stylistics for IIB and IIIB | 100               |
| <b>Oral</b>                                                                                                                     |                   |
| Three modules, 50 marks each                                                                                                    | 150               |
| End-of-year oral examination                                                                                                    | 50                |
| <b>TOTAL:</b>                                                                                                                   | <b><u>600</u></b> |

### Working rules for assessment

All written work must be handed in on time. Late exercises cannot be accepted, except in cases of illness attested by a medical certificate. Continued absences from class will also result in exercises not being accepted. Failure to hand in at least 50% of the exercises set during the year, in both written class and stylistics, will result in ineligibility for the examination in November. This would result in failure in the unit.

After experimenting for several years with various methods of assessment, we are convinced that a combination of the year's work and end-of-year examinations is the fairest and most appropriate system. Since language learning is a cumulative process, there is a clear need for proper testing at the conclusion of each unit, in circumstances where students are called upon to show what they can do with their own resources. This has become all the more necessary as some of the work handed in, showing evidence of collaboration or outside assistance, cannot be accepted as a reliable guide to some students' progress.

In recent years, illicit collaboration on language work has increased among some students. The consultation of printed sources is permissible. Having recourse to the knowledge of another person so as to solve individual difficulties in, for instance, a *résumé* or a prose translation, is not. The essential distinction between the two modes of consultation lies in the exercise of choice and judgement. In consulting books, one must exercise these faculties; in consulting another person one borrows, not understanding, but a mere answer to a problem. Group working, such as sometimes takes place in the Departmental Centre/Library, can be open to this kind of objection.

Students are therefore urged to do their language assignments by themselves. In proven cases of illicit collaboration on such assignments, the Department will apply the principles of the Faculty's policy on plagiarism. This policy, which also refers to essays and other assignments, is set out on the last page of the 1995 Department's 'Student Handbook'.

We shall be unwilling to approve requests for special examinations from students who might wish to leave Canberra before the end of the examinations period. The only requests which might be approved would be those arising from circumstances beyond your control and supported with medical certificates.