

MA Language Studies (Specialisation: English/French) – SH512

1. Objectives

The Programme combines academic studies with a professional orientation and offers further training in a variety of fields where specialised language competencies and skills are needed. It is expected to enhance the student's career prospects in a wide variety of sectors such as education, media, public relations and related professional sectors.

2. General Entry Requirements

Successful completion of an undergraduate degree with

- at least a Second Class or 50%, whichever is applicable or
- a GPA not less than 2.5 out of 4 or equivalent, from a recognised higher education institution.

OR alternative qualifications acceptable to the University of Mauritius.

3. Programme Requirements

At least a Second Class Degree in English, French, Joint Humanities or any other equivalent degree from a recognised higher education institution.

4. Programme Duration

	Minimum (Yrs)	Maximum (Yrs)
Master's Degree	2	4
Postgraduate Diploma	2	4
Postgraduate Certificate	1	2

5. Credits per Year

Minimum 6 credits subject to regulation 4.

6. Minimum Credits Required for Awards

	Core Modules	Dissertation	Electives	Total
Master's Degree	12 credits	12 credits	12 credits	36 credits
Postgraduate Diploma	12 credits	-	12 credits	24 credits
Postgraduate Certificate	6 credits	-	6 credits	12 credits

7. Assessment

All modules will be taught on a semester basis but will be examined at the end of the academic year. Each module will carry 100 marks with details as follows (unless otherwise specified):

Written examination of 2 hours duration (at the end of the academic year) and continuous assessment carrying 30% to 40% of total marks except for a Programme where the structure makes for other specific provision(s).

Continuous assessment can be based on seminars and/or assignments and should include at least two (2) assignments/tests per module.

An overall total of 40% for combined continuous assessment and written examination components would be required to pass the module, without minimum thresholds within the individual continuous assessment and written examination. The same criterion will apply for modules being assessed jointly. Note that all overall mark for the two modules will be considered and not the individual marks for each of the two modules.

No resit examinations will be organised. Instead, students will be allowed to carry forward a maximum of three modules at any point in time and will be allowed to sit for the examinations with the next cohort of students.

All modules of 45 hours duration carry 3 credits.

Submission Deadlines for Dissertation

First Draft: End of July in the Final Year.

Final Copy: Last working day of August in the Final Year.

8. Core Modules

Core modules will be taught in Year 1 of the programme and will include the following:

- 2 x 45 hours from the Department of English Studies;
- 2 x 45 hours from the Department of French Studies.

Question papers will be set in both English and French and students will choose the language they wish to respond in.

9. Choice of area of specialisation and choice of Electives

Students will choose their area of specialisation by the end of Semester 1 of Year 1, which is also the time at which they will choose their electives. They will be required to take four electives in their second year, at least three of which will be in their area of specialisation. The University reserves the right not to offer a given elective module.

10. Programme Plan – MA Language Studies

YEAR 1

Code	Module Name	Hrs/Wk L+P	Credits
CORE			
MALS 4101	Multilingualism/Plurilinguisme	3+0	3
MALS 4102	Theories of Language/Théories du langage	3+0	3
MALS 4201R	Research methodology in language studies/ méthodologie de la recherche en sciences du langage*	3+0	3
MALS 4202	The Language Situation in Mauritius/La situation des langues à Maurice	3+0	3

YEAR 2

Code	Module Name	Hrs/Wk L+P	Credits
MALS 5000	Dissertation	-	12
ELECTIVES			
CHOOSE ANY 4 (WITH AT LEAST 3 IN THE AREA OF SPECIALISATION)			
From Dept. of English Studies			
MALS 5101	Second Language Acquisition	3+0	3
MALS 5102	World Englishes	3+0	3
MALS 5201	Materials Development	3+0	3

MALS 5202	Issues in Literacy	3+0	3
MALS 5103	Current Developments in English language Teaching	3+0	3
MALS 5104	Cross-Cultural Communication	3+0	3

From Dept. of French Studies

MALS 5105	Acquisition du langage	3+0	3
MALS 5203	Didactique de la lecture	3+0	3
MALS 5106	Eléments de créolistique	3+0	3
MALS 5204	Français et variation	3+0	3
MALS 5107	Intercompréhension	3+0	3

- * Modules assessed 50% by continuous assessment and 50% on examination
- Depending on availability of resources, one module might also be chosen from M.A French Literature Programme for those specialising in French

11. Outline Syllabus

Core Modules

MALS 4101 - MULTILINGUALISM/PLURILINGUISME

This course investigates the dynamics of multilingual societies in terms of linguistic practices, such as language transmission and code-switching/mixing; language contact phenomena, such as the development of new varieties of English and/or French, maintenance and shift; as well as identity, ideology, and the politics of language. The coverage of multilingual societies will address sociohistorical aspects and linguistic ecologies of a wide variety of sociolinguistic situations, which exemplify many of the issues raised, and where English or French is one of the players in a multilingual society.

Ce cours a pour objectif de sonder la dynamique sociolinguistique à l'œuvre dans des sociétés plurilingues. On abordera, entre autres, les thèmes suivants : les pratiques linguistiques, la transmission des langues, les alternances codiques, les phénomènes liés aux langues en contact, l'émergence de nouvelles variétés de l'anglais et/ou du français, le maintien et le transfert des langues, les aspects identitaires et idéologiques liés aux langues et la glottopolitique. Circonscrire différents types de sociétés nous permettra d'aborder les aspects socio-historiques ainsi que les écologies linguistiques d'une grande variété de situations sociolinguistiques. Celles-ci permettront, à leur tour, d'illustrer un certain nombre d'aspects que le cours abordera et qui ont trait à des milieux plurilingues au sein desquels l'anglais et/ou le français apparaît comme l'une des langues partenaires.

MALS 4102 - THEORIES OF LANGUAGE/THEORIES DU LANGAGE

This module will first explore the main theories of language: classical philology, comparative grammar, structural linguistics (Saussure, Jacobson, Hjelmslev), taxonomic structuralism (Bloomfield, Harris, etc.), the functional view of language (Martinet), generative grammar (Chomsky), language ecology (Mufwene, Calvet, Skutnab-Kangas), etc. This module will also consider how these approaches can contribute to our understanding of English and French, in their oral and written forms.

Seront évoquées dans un premier temps les grandes théories du langage: philologie classique, grammaire comparée, linguistique structurale (Saussure, Jacobson, Hjelmslev), distributionnalisme (Bloomfield, Harris, etc.) fonctionnalisme (Martinet), générativisme (Chomsky), écologie du langage (Mufwene, Calvet, Skutnab-Kangas), etc. Dans un deuxième temps nous verrons comment ces différentes perspectives peuvent être mises à contribution pour une étude approfondie du français et de l'anglais, aussi bien à l'écrit qu'à l'oral.

MALS 4201R - RESEARCH METHODOLOGY IN LANGUAGE STUDIES/METHODOLOGIE DE LA RECHERCHE EN SCIENCES DU LANGAGE

The module aims at training students to identify, elaborate and manage the different stages of a research project in language studies: literature search, definition of the problem/research question, formulation of hypotheses, aims of research, choice of theoretical framework, methodological tools, data collection, data analysis and interpretation. Special attention will be paid to the specificities of the language corpus, and to the literature available on the Mauritian situation. Taking into account the particularities of the Anglophone

and Francophone approaches to same phenomenon, the issue of objectivity of the scientific discourse as socio-historically situated, will be discussed. The Module will be examined 50% written Exams.

Ce module vise à former les étudiants à identifier, élaborer et gérer les différentes étapes d'un projet de recherche en sciences du langage: recherche documentaire, définition de la problématique, formulation des hypothèses et des objectifs, choix du cadre théorique, aspects méthodologiques, construction de corpus et analyse, interprétation des résultats. Une attention spéciale sera accordée au corpus linguistique dans ce qui fait sa spécificité ainsi qu'à la bibliographie disponible en linguistique sur le contexte mauricien. En partant des particularités inhérentes à l'approche anglophone et francophone d'un même phénomène, on abordera la question de l'objectivité scientifique en tant que discours socio-historiquement situé.

MALS 4202 - THE LANGUAGE SITUATION IN MAURITIUS/LA SITUATION DES LANGUES A MAURICE

The aim of this module is to take a sociolinguistic approach to studying language issues in Mauritius. In this module, we will explore such issues as multilingualism, language choice and language use, language and identity, language and ethnicity, language planning (codification and standardisation), language in education, language and the media.

Ce module a pour objectif d'approcher la question des langues à Maurice sous l'angle de la sociolinguistique. Seront traitées, tour à tour, les questions liées au plurilinguisme, au choix et à l'utilisation des langues, à l'aménagement linguistique, aux liens entre langues et identité, langues et ethnicité, langues et enseignement/éducation et langues et médias.

MALS 5000 – DISSERTATION

Dissertation will carry 12 credits. The language of the dissertation will depend on the specialisation students opt for. A synopsis of the Dissertation has to be submitted to the Programme Coordinator at the beginning of the 3rd semester. The length of the Dissertation should be from 10 000 to 14 000. There will be an oral examination for the Dissertation.

ELECTIVES

English Studies:

MALS 5101 - SECOND LANGUAGE ACQUISITION

This course focuses on the distinctly human instinct of language acquisition. It examines how, why, and under what conditions human beings acquire language, both their first and – more to the point of this course – their second. While such a focus may seem simple and clear to language teachers, the human instinct of language acquisition comprises several complex dimensions or facets that are explored in this course, including the linguistic, psycholinguistic, cognitive, socio-pragmatic, micro sociolinguistic, and macro sociolinguistic dimensions. While much of the course material covers scholarly literature, such as research, regarding these theoretical dimensions, some time will be dedicated to discussing their implications for instructional strategies in the second language classroom. The goal of this course is to help students develop a strong theoretical foundation with regard to language acquisition, one on which they will base future decisions in their classrooms.

MALS 5102 - WORLD ENGLISHES

The aim of this module is to contextualise the spread of English as a first language and as a second language worldwide. This module will also consider the historical, political, social and cultural context against which varieties of English have emerged in specific contexts. Varieties of world Englishes such as African, Asian, European, and North and South American varieties of English will be explored in some detail, with the aim to study some of the linguistic differences existing among these various versions of English used around the world. The module will also explore attitudes towards varieties of world Englishes.

MALS 5103 - CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE TEACHING

This course focuses on the development of ELT from the traditional Grammar Translation Method to Communicative Language Teaching including Content-based Teaching and Task-based learning. Particular attention will be given to CLT and the role it plays in the teaching of receptive and productive skills, grammar and vocabulary, syllabus design and testing and evaluation.

MALS 5104 - CROSS-CULTURAL COMMUNICATION

This course is designed to give students an interdisciplinary understanding of the interplay between language and cross-cultural communication. Students will be introduced to theoretical concepts and practical knowledge about cross-cultural communication. They will be required to apply theories to actual situations through case studies and small-scale surveys, as well as reflecting on their own experiences in dealing with issues arising from communication in cross-cultural contexts.

MALS 5201 - MATERIALS DEVELOPMENT

Taking into account the possibilities and challenges of the local educational context, this module aims to help students to critically select and evaluate commercial materials for their language classes. It also aims to accompany students as they adapt existing materials or develop their own materials for use in their language and literature classes.

MALS 5202 - ISSUES IN LITERACY

This module aims to consider the major theoretical approaches to the conceptualisation of literacy. Drawing on the distinction made between the autonomous and the ideological approaches to conceptualisations of literacy, this module will take a historical approach and will provide students with differing lenses through which to read literacy events and literacy practices in an increasingly multiliterate world.

French Studies :

MALS 5105 - ACQUISITION DU LANGAGE

Ce cours sera organisé autour des principales théories de l'acquisition du langage. Le premier volet sera consacré aux stades du développement du langage chez l'enfant. Nous y aborderons les courants de pensée issus de la psychologie du développement (maturationalisme, behaviorisme, connexionnisme etc.), ainsi que la théorie chomskyenne et la psycholinguistique. L'appropriation de la langue seconde et le bilinguisme seront au centre du deuxième volet du cours. *Acquisition*, *apprentissage* et *appropriation* seront les premières notions abordées. Nous analyserons ensuite les modèles d'acquisition de la L2, tout en nous concentrant sur la situation mauricienne. Enfin, nous analyserons les problèmes liés à l'appropriation d'une L2 dans le contexte plurilingue mauricien.

MALS 5106 - ELEMENTS DE CREOLISTIQUE

Il s'agira d'étudier les différents aspects socio-historiques et socio-linguistiques liés à la genèse, au statut et au fonctionnement des langues créoles dans les sociétés où elles sont présentes. En partant de la dimension polysémique qui caractérise le terme "créole" lui-même, ainsi que ses dérivés substantivés que sont la « créolisation » et la « créolité », aussi bien dans l'espace que dans le temps, on tentera de mettre en évidence toute la complexité diglossique, anthropologique, sociologique (voire politique) qui en a fait aujourd'hui l'un des concepts interrogatifs majeurs des sciences sociales et humaines lorsqu'il s'agit d'étudier les sociétés post-coloniales historiquement liées à l'esclavage. Sur le plan strictement linguistique, nous tenterons également d'analyser les structures phonologiques, morphologiques, syntaxiques et lexicosémantiques des langues créoles à base (lexicale) française, parmi lesquelles figure le créole mauricien.

MALS 5107 - INTERCOMPREHENSION

L'objectif de ce module est d'initier les étudiants aux divers aspects liés au concept de l'intercompréhension en tant que nouveau mode de gestion du plurilinguisme dans le domaine des sciences sociales : définition, contexte d'émergence, théories, outils de développement et pratiques. Partant de l'expérience européenne, il s'agira d'étudier les possibilités de développement de ce type de communication, focalisée sur les stratégies de compréhension, dans le contexte plurilingue mauricien et celui des échanges régionaux au niveau de l'océan Indien.

MALS 5203 - DIDACTIQUE DE LA LECTURE

Le cours sera axé sur la problématique de la lecture et couvrira les thèmes suivants: les défis de la lecture dans le monde contemporain, la lecture et la diversité des supports écrits, les types de lecteurs, le lecteur en échec, l'enseignement de la lecture.

MALS 5204 - FRANÇAIS ET VARIATION

Il s'agira d'étudier le français non pas comme un système abstrait et homogène, mais dans la réalité des pratiques sociales, multiples et variées, dans lesquelles il évolue constamment. Seront abordées, sur le plan théorique, des questions relevant aussi bien de la variation interne au français (variation intralinguistique), que celle relevant de l'extralinguistique (intervention de facteurs externes à la langue) et de l'interlinguistique (contacts de langue en milieu francophone). Plus empiriquement, on s'intéressera au français dans ses différentes formes (français standard, français oral, français écrit, français zéro, etc.), ses différents lectes (régiolectes, sociolectes, ethnolectes, etc.), ses différents registres (formels, soutenus, familiers, administratifs, littéraires, etc.) ainsi que ses modes d'acquisition (compétence native, appropriation comme langue seconde, étrangère, etc.).

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