Faculty of Arts and Letters

FLTR2630 Introduction to automatic text processing

[30h] 5 credits

Teacher(s):	Cédrick Fairon
Language:	French
Level:	Second cycle

Aims

Specialists in social sciences are often faced with situations where they must work with large amounts of textual data (literary, historical, or political texts; linguistic research data, etc.). Computer tools offer undeniable advantages for the analysis, organization, sorting or formatting of this information. One should thus be able to master these tools and select an appropriate approach method. The aim of this course is to provide students with the key to choosing and using methods of analysis adapted to different contexts of textual data processing.

More specifically, the course aims to allow students to :

1) select, use, and possibly adapt or conceptualise specialised computer tools in the field of textual data processing;

2) perceive and criticise the particularities and limits of specialised software;

3) becom acquainted with the intellectual procedure implied by recourse to data processing in the social sciences.

Main themes

The course describes different typical situations justifying recourse to computer analysis and presents the main steps of such analyses (analysis of needs, choice of software or of procedures answering to the identified needs, application of the elaborated analysis procedure).

Special attention will be paid to the practical application of this software through exercises on concrete cases : screening and formatting texts, finding and extracting information, statistical word processing, etc.

Content and teaching methods

Classes are divided between lectures presenting the tools and methods, and tutorials aiming to allow students to experiment with methods and software.

Other information (prerequisite, evaluation (assessment methods), course materials recommended readings, ...)

Nil.

Other credits in programs

HIST21	Première licence en histoire	(3 credits)
HIST22	Deuxième licence en histoire	(3 credits)
ROM21	Première licence en langues et littératures romanes	(3 credits)