GHENT UNIVERSITY

# Course Specifications

Valid as from the academic year 2026-2027

## German Literature II (A000335)

**Course size** *(nominal values; actual values may depend on programme)*

**Credits 5.0** **Study time 150 h**

**Course offerings in academic year 2026-2027**

**Lecturers in academic year 2026-2027**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Benzing, Carolin Juliane | LW07 | staff member |
| Martens, Gunther | LW07 | lecturer-in-charge |

| **Offered in the following programmes in 2026-2027** | **crdts** | **offering** |
|---|---|---|

**Teaching languages**

German

**Keywords**

German, literary studies, 19th Century German literature

**Position of the course**

This advanced course teaches students to be proficient in German on an advanced level and helps them acquire an advanced linguistic awareness. The course offers an advanced scientific insight in the specific characteristics of literary texts and the ways in which literature functions historically.

**Contents**

In this course, the evolution of German literature in and surrounding the 19th century is dealt with, by means of specific case studies. By studying representative texts, students are not only familiarised with historical and ideological backgrounds and the aesthetical principles and programmes, but are also invited to actively cooperate in text analysis and literary critical argumentation.
The course deals with changing attitudes towards education, childhood and coming-of-age. Romanticism is characterised by an idealisation of childhood (Jean Paul), which leads to a typical incrimination of Enlightenment ideals and figurations of education (e.g. in E.T.A. Hoffmann). Despite very upbeat philosophical plans to reform education (Goethe; Humboldt), however, schooling remains a privilege of the happy few, while the doubtful practices of "Schwarze Pädagogik" persist well into the 20th Century. We discuss rites of passage in text of the main currents of 19th Century German literature, e.g. Vormärz, Biedermeier, Realism and Naturalism, which allows us to articulate a counter-history of the influential genre of the Bildungsroman.

**Initial competences**

To have successfully completed the course German literature I or to have acquired the necessary skills by other means.

**Final competences**

1 To be able to use an advanced knowledge of German.
2 To be able to apply advanced knowledge of German literary traditions while analysing literary texts and situating them in a historical and stylistic context.
3 To be able to put the tools of analysis into practice on an advanced level.
4 To be familiar with historical and ideological backgrounds and aesthetical principles and programmes.

5 To be able to actively cooperate in text analysis and literary critical argumentation.
6 Be familiar with the basic concepts and the inter- and transdisciplinary possibilities of Digital Humanities. (Digital Skills) To be able to use genAI in an advanced and responsible way to write texts.

**Conditions for credit contract**

Access to this course unit via a credit contract is unrestricted: the student takes into consideration the conditions mentioned in 'Starting Competences'

**Conditions for exam contract**

Access to this course unit via an exam contract is unrestricted

**Teaching methods**

Seminar, Lecture, Independent work

**Extra information on the teaching methods**

- Lecture (30h)
- Practicum: the students develop their research skills by means of three exercises. The first exercise aims at their search strategies; for the second students define a problem to be analysed; the third exercise aims at a detailed analysis of a specific text fragment. The latter two are short composition exercises. The students get generic information about the way in which they can handle the exercises and receive individual feedback about their research skills. Students are also encouraged to participate in the film screenings and lectures belonging to the studium generale.
- Independent work (7.5h)

Class recordings are made available and can be accessed by anyone.

**Study material**

Type: Slides

Name: six literary texts in German, mostly in paperback editions, complemented by scans on Ufora
Indicative price: € 50
Optional: yes
Available on Ufora : Yes
Online Available : No
Available in the Library : Yes
Available through Student Association : Yes
Additional information: The reading list will be communicated via Ufora. All texts are available in digital editions online. The recommended paper editions are convenient for page references in class and can always be found in the library.

**References**

Wolfgang Beutin, Deutsche Literaturgeschichte. Von den Anfängen bis zur Gegenwart. 7., erweiterte Auflage. Stuttgart: J.B. Metzler 2013. ISBN 3-476-02247-9. 29,95 Eur

**Course content-related study coaching**

Individual tutoring.

**Assessment moments**

end-of-term and continuous assessment

**Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the first examination period**

Oral assessment, Written assessment open-book

**Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the second examination period**

Oral assessment, Written assessment open-book

**Examination methods in case of permanent assessment**

Assignment

**Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment**

examination during the second examination period is possible

**Extra information on the examination methods**

*Assessment moment*
Periodical: exam (80%) and non-periodical: continuous assessment (20%)

(If a student does not pass the non-periodical evaluation, a second chance is offered by means of a compensatory activity between the first and second exam period.)

*Assessment form*

- Written exam (open book with 4 questions on insight), completed by an oral exam with written preparation. In the second exam period, new problems will be introduced.
- Portfolio evaluation: assessment of each of the three tutorium exercises (interpretive bibliography, definition of a research problem; analysis of a text fragment)
- Students can obtain an extra credit by reporting on extracurricular activities as part of their 'Bonusprogramm'.

Language proficiency is an important part of the course's evaluation. Students are encouraged to learn from feedback on test versions of written texts, to partake in in-class discussions, but also to take advantage of any opportunity to immerse themselves in the language (by consulting television and online news media etc.). The level to be reached is detailed in the "course description" above.

**Calculation of the examination mark**

Written exam: 40%
Oral exam: 40%
Portfolio: 20%
Students who participate in the bonus programme, can earn an extra bonus mark if the quality of the report meets criteria.
Those with a failing grade for either of the two end-of-term forms of assessment cannot pass the course as a whole. If the final score would nevertheless be a mark of 10 or more out of 20, this will be reduced to the highest unsuccessful mark (i.e. 9/20). If one does not participate in the evaluation of one or more components, one can no longer pass the course unit as a whole and the final grade, if higher than 7/20, will be reduced to the highest non-deliberable grade (i.e. 7/20).
The extra bonus mark can only be awarded to students who pass the course as a whole.

**Facilities for Working Students**

1 Although attendance is highly desirable, working students may be exempted from attendance. For those classes where active participation is evaluated (e.g., tutorials), you will need to complete a substitute task that demonstrates your attainment of the intended competencies. The substitute task will be communicated to you by the instructors.
2 The exam can be scheduled at a different time within the academic year.
3 You can receive feedback at times other than those designated, preferably through conversations (on campus or online), both during and after office hours, or via email.

For additional information, please contact the responsible instructor or one of the co-instructors.
For more information contact the monitoring service of the faculty of Arts and philosophy: https://www.ugent.be/lw/nl/student/studiestudentenbegeleiding/trajectbegeleiding.htm