GHENT UNIVERSITY

Course Specifications

Valid as from the academic year 2026-2027

Theory of Literature (A001045)

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

De Temmerman, Koen	LW07	lecturer-in-charge
Keunen, Bart	LW07	co-lecturer

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

Teaching languages

Dutch

Keywords

General and comparative literature

Position of the course

ALW builds on and deepens two Ba1-courses: *Europese Talen in Contact* partim Letterkunde en *Inleiding tot de voornaamste moderne literaturen*. The course aims to familiarise students with concepts and issues central to the literary-theoretical and comparative study of literary texts from different periods, genres and regions. This course corresponds to the aims of the different curricula, particularly those of a bachelor in literature.

Contents

A survey of the concepts and issues central to the comparative study of literature from different periods, genres or regions.
Part 1 is both a theoretical-conceptual and a literary-historical exploration of the concept of fiction and related concepts throughout European narrative literature.
Part 2 emphasises the comparative study of narrative genres from a historical perspective (tragedy, adventure stories, novel of emergence and idyll in their historical manifestations and in their aftereffects on contemporary popular narrative culture).

Initial competences

Knowledge of the terminology of literary analysis.

Final competences

1 To have a sound, scholarly understanding of the specific characteristics of literary texts.
2 To be able to implement various methods of analysis for the study of narratives.
3 To be able to explain the use of various methods of analysis in a broad historical, social, cultural, and philosophical context.
4 To be able to enter more advanced courses in the Master Comparative Literature and the language-specific masters.
5 To be able to reflect critically about the connections between texts from various periods, genres, and areas

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

Lecture, Independent work

Extra information on the teaching methods

Lectures, in which students are supposed to take notes. Personal reading of and critical reflection about the literary works on the reading list.
Lecture recordings are only made available upon request. This is done exclusively for students holding an official status as 'werkstudent' or 'topsporter' and, by exception, for students who are structurally unable to attend classes due to demonstrable, compelling circumstances (e.g., illness).

Study material

Type: Slides

Name: Powerpoint slides ALW I
Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty
Optional: no
Language : Dutch
Number of Slides : 500
Available on Ufora : Yes
Online Available : No
Available in the Library : No

Type: Reader

Name: Primary texts
Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty
Optional: no
Language : Dutch
Number of Pages : 500
Available on Ufora : No
Online Available : No
Available in the Library : Yes
Available through Student Association : No
Additional information: Students can either purchase the books (price approximately 100 EUR) or borrow them from the/a library. For each book an edition is suggested during the first class.

Type: Reader

Name: Secondary literature
Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty
Optional: no
Language : English
Number of Pages : 100
Available on Ufora : Yes
Online Available : No
Available in the Library : Yes
Available through Student Association : No
Additional information: Most articles are in English; one or two are in French.

References

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Course content-related study coaching

Specific questions can be asked during the lecturer's office hours.

Assessment moments

end-of-term assessment

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

Written assessment with multiple-choice questions

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

Written assessment with multiple-choice questions

Examination methods in case of permanent assessment

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment

not applicable

Extra information on the examination methods

Assessment form
Final written exam in the examination period. This exam tests the knowledge of the student about the content of the course through multiple-choice questions about both the lectures and the application of the theoretical concepts.

Calculation of the examination mark

Periodical (100%): 40% Partim I, 40% Partim II, 20% Reading Primary texts. An insufficient score on one of the two Partims automatically results in an insufficient score for the whole course.

Facilities for Working Students

1. Possible exemption from educational activities requiring student attendance
2. Possible rescheduling of the examination to a different time in the same academic year
3. Alternative time for feedback is possible

For more information concerning flexible learning: contact the monitoring service of the faculty of Arts and philosophy