GHENT UNIVERSITY

Course Specifications

Valid as from the academic year 2026-2027

Introduction to Flemish Sign Language (A001884)

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

Credits 5.0 **Study time 150 h**

Course offerings and teaching methods in academic year 2026-2027

A (semester 1)	Dutch	Gent	group work
			lecture
			independent work

Lecturers in academic year 2026-2027

Van Herreweghe, Mieke	LW06	lecturer-in-charge

Offered in the following programmes in 2026-2027	crdts	offering
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Dutch - English)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Dutch - French)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Dutch - German)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Dutch - Greek)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Dutch - Italian)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Dutch - Latin)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Dutch - Spanish)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Dutch - Swedish)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject English - German)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject English - Greek)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject English - Italian)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject English - Latin)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject English - Spanish)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject English - Swedish)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject French - English)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject French - German)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject French - Greek)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject French - Italian)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject French - Latin)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject French - Spanish)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject French - Swedish)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject German - Greek)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject German - Italian)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject German - Spanish)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject German - Swedish)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Latin - Greek)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Latin - Italian)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Latin - Spanish)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Latin - Swedish)	5	A
Master of Science in Teaching in Health Sciences(main subject Medical Sciences)	5	A
Master of Science in Teaching in Health Sciences(main subject Pharmaceutical Sciences)	5	A
Master of Science in Teaching in Health Sciences(main subject Social Health Sciences)	5	A
Master of Science in Teaching in Health Sciences(main subject Veterinary Medicine)	5	A
Elective Set Linguistics	5	A

Teaching languages

Dutch

Keywords

Flemish Sign Language, Deaf Culture, Flemish Deaf Community

Position of the course

In this introductory subject insights are offered into the linguistic aspects of Flemish Sign Language and the Flemish Deaf Community, next to a restricted basic competence in Flemish Sign Language.

Contents

Linguistic aspects of sign languages versus spoken languages, with specific focus on phonological, morphosyntactic, lexical and sociolinguistic aspects of Flemish Sign Language

Initial competences

No requirements concerning prior knowledge of Flemish Sign Language and the Deaf community in Flanders.

Final competences

1 Analyzing the phonological, morphosyntactic and lexical structures of sign languages, and in particular of Flemish Sign Language (e.g. VGT structure, typology, language variation).
2 Evaluating existing views on deafness, Flemish Sign Language and Deaf culture
3 Interpreting the sociolinguistic context and aspects of Deaf culture
4 Interpreting the developmental linguistic context and educational context of deaf children
5 A limited basic language proficiency in Flemish Sign Language
6 Project-based interdisciplinary collaboration to translate content into a practical context

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

Group work, Lecture, Practical, Independent work

Extra information on the teaching methods

- Weekly lecture
- 1 practical: limited language skills VGT
- 1 group work: interdisciplinary
- Independent work: pre-processing scientific literature
- Lecture recordings will be available for all students in this course.

Study material

Type: Handbook

Name: Grammatical aspects of the Flemish-Belgian Sign Language
Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty
Optional: no
Language : Dutch
Author : Vermeerbergen

References

Course content-related study coaching

In group; individual guidance is possible.

Assessment moments

end-of-term and continuous assessment

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

Oral assessment

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

Oral assessment

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

1. Continuous evaluation: interdisciplinary group work (20%)
2. end-of-term evaluation: oral exam

Calculation of the examination mark

- oral exam (16/20)
- paper (4/20)

Students who do not take part in the assessment of all the parts of the course evaluation cannot pass the course evaluation as a whole. Should the average mark be higher than 10/20, the final mark will be reduced to the highest non-pass mark (= 9/20).

Facilities for Working Students

1. Exemption from educational activities requiring student attendance is possible, but not from NPE-assignment.
2. It is possible to reschedule the examination to a different time in the same academic year.
3. Feedback can be given by email or by appointment.