GHENT UNIVERSITY

Course Specifications

Valid as from the academic year 2026-2027

Ancient Rhetoric (A001887)

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, English	Gent	independent work
			lecture

Lecturers in academic year 2026-2027

De Temmerman, Koen	LW07	lecturer-in-charge
Athanasopoulou, Anna	LW07	co-lecturer
Van Pelt, Julie	LW07	co-lecturer

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
Bachelor of Arts in History	5	A
Master of Science in Teaching in Languages(main subject Linguistics and Literature)	5	A
Exchange Programme Classics	5	A
Preparatory Course Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Greek)	5	A
Elective Set Literature	5	A

Teaching languages

English, Dutch

Keywords

Ancient rhetoric, theory and practice, rhetoric and literature, rhetorical education in Antiquity, sophisms, persuasive strategies in modern speeches

Position of the course

This basic course offers knowledge of and insights into the historical development and the functioning of ancient rhetoric (the production of texts, stylistics, argumentation), the rhetorical analysis of ancient texts and the post-classical development of rhetoric. Attention is paid also to the adoption of ancient rhetorical theories and strategies in non-classical texts, such as speeches of the US president Barack Obama.

Contents

The history of ancient rhetoric from the sophists to the rhetorical school manuals of late Antiquity; the functioning of ancient rhetoric as a system for both text-production and textual analysis; ancient stylistics; ancient informal logic; fallacies; the rhetorical organization of literature; ancient rhetorical techniques in modern speeches.

Initial competences

Knowledge of Latin or Greek is **not** required for students in order to follow this course.

Final competences

1 To have an insight into the historical development and the functioning of ancient rhetoric (the production of texts, stylistics, argumentation)
2 The rhetorical analysis of ancient texts (in translation) and modern speeches.
3 To have an insight into the post-classical development of rhetoric and the application of rhetorical theories for the analysis of non-classical texts
4 To think critically about the rhetorical encryption of ancient and non-ancient (literary, social, political) communication.

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

Lecture and group exercises in rhetorical analysis. Preparation of lectures by students at home.
No lecture recordings.

Study material

Type: Handbook

Name: D. Praet, Stijlvol overtuigen. Geschiedenis en systeem van de antieke rhetorica. Gent 2001.
Indicative price: € 20
Optional: no
Language : Dutch
Author : Danny Praet
Online Available : No
Available in the Library : Yes
Usability and Lifetime within the Course Unit : regularly
Additional information: A reader of theoretical and literary ancient rhetorical texts, modern audio-visual illustrations.

Type: Slides

Name: Powerpoint-slides about the lectures.
Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty
Optional: no

Available on Ufora : Yes

Additional information: Powerpoint-slides about the lectures.

Type: Reader

Name: Unpublished reader with articles.
Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty
Optional: no
Available on Ufora : Yes

Additional information: This reader is made available by the professor on Ufora

Type: Handouts

Name: Handouts.
Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty
Optional: no
Available on Ufora : Yes

Additional information: Handouts distributed by the professor before or during the lectures.

Type: Other

Name: Notes taken by the students during the lectures.
Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty
Optional: no
Additional information: Notes taken by the students during the lectures.

References

Extensive bibliography in handbook.

Course content-related study coaching

Available for questions before and after lectures.

Assessment moments

end-of-term assessment

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

Written assessment with open-ended questions

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

Written assessment with open-ended questions

Examination methods in case of permanent assessment

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment

not applicable

Extra information on the examination methods

The exam consists of an open question involving interpretation and synthesis, a few smaller questions about specific terms and/or concepts, and exercises/analysis such as those done in class. Students are expected to answer questions in language that is grammatically and syntactically correct. Serious language mistakes are penalized.

Calculation of the examination mark

100% periodical assessment

Facilities for Working Students

- Possible exemption from certain educational activities requiring student attendance
- Possible rescheduling of the examination to a different time in the same academic year
- Feedback can be given by an appointment during or after office hours

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