GHENT UNIVERSITY

Course Specifications

Valid as from the academic year 2026-2027

Introduction to Text-Linguistics (A002714)

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

Credits 3.0 **Study time 90 h**

Course offerings and teaching methods in academic year 2026-2027

A (semester 2)	Dutch	Gent	lecture

Lecturers in academic year 2026-2027

Verroens, Filip	LW06	staff member
Willems, Klaas	LW06	lecturer-in-charge

Offered in the following programmes in 2026-2027	crdts	offering
Bachelor of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures(main subject Arabic and Islamic Studies)	3	A
Bachelor of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures(main subject China (China Track))	3	A
Bachelor of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures(main subject China (UGent Track))	3	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Dutch - English)	3	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Dutch - French)	3	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Dutch - German)	3	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Dutch - Greek)	3	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Dutch - Italian)	3	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Dutch - Latin)	3	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Dutch - Spanish)	3	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Dutch - Swedish)	3	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject English - German)	3	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject English - Greek)	3	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject English - Italian)	3	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject English - Latin)	3	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject English - Spanish)	3	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject English - Swedish)	3	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject French - English)	3	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject French - German)	3	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject French - Greek)	3	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject French - Italian)	3	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject French - Latin)	3	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject French - Spanish)	3	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject French - Swedish)	3	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject German - Greek)	3	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject German - Italian)	3	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject German - Spanish)	3	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject German - Swedish)	3	A
Bachelor of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures(main subject India)	3	A
Bachelor of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures(main subject Japan)	3	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Latin - Greek)	3	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Latin - Italian)	3	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Latin - Spanish)	3	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Latin - Swedish)	3	A
Bachelor of Arts in African Languages and Cultures	3	A

Bachelor of Arts in East European Languages and Cultures	3	A
Bachelor of Arts in Moral Sciences	3	A
Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy	3	A
Elective Set Linguistics	3	A

Teaching languages

Dutch

Keywords

Functions of language, language system, language variation, language use, text structure, text interpretation, types of meaning.

Position of the course

This general introductory course provides a basic insight in the phenomenon language to create an elementary linguistic consciousness.

Contents

This course is based on two questions, "What is natural language?" and "What is a text?", and consists of two parts. In the first part, the specific semiotic and systematic character of language is discussed and the variation in natural language in general and the languages in the world (including multilingualism, language change, the variation of writing systems etc.) are introduced. The link between language and thought receives attention and comprehensible introductions to sign language research and modern neurolinguistics are given as well. The second part of this course draws the students' attention to functions of language in language use (texts and dialogues). The structure of texts (including the distinction between spoken and written language) is especially focused on the interpretation and decoding of texts (discourse analysis), including the creative use of texts, viz. translation. A number of specific aspects can be studied in depth on the basis of additional reading material.

Initial competences

No specific prerequisites.

Final competences

1 To have a basic knowledge of the essential terminology of modern linguistics.
2 To have a basic knowledge of the diversity of language systems and of the diversity of language use.
3 To put the basic concepts of modern linguistic scientific research into practice.
4 To have an elementary linguistic awareness.
5 To have a basic insight in the semiotic characteristics of natural languages.
6 To be able to put the basics of linguistic analysis into practice for the study of a representative number of manifestations of language.

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

Extra information on the teaching methods

1. Lectures with plenary exercises, based on the syllabus and the texts of the reading list.
2. Exercises (mutliple choice questions) are posted on Ufora after each lecture, along with correct answers.
Lectures on campus.
Lecture-based sessions are recorded and made available to specific target groups (upon request).
This course assumes the responsible use of generative artificial intelligence (GenAI). During the lessons, what this means will be explained.

Study material

Type: Syllabus

Name: Introduction to Linguistics: Language system and text
Indicative price: € 7
Optional: no
Language : Dutch
Number of Pages : 90
Available on Ufora : Yes
Online Available : Yes
Available in the Library : No
Available through Student Association : No

Type: Slides

Name: Powerpoint presentations Introduction to Linguistics: Language system and text
Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty
Optional: no
Language : Dutch
Number of Slides : 800
Available on Ufora : Yes
Online Available : Yes
Available in the Library : No
Available through Student Association : No

References

Reading list:
- First-language acquisition (A. M. Schaerlaekens 2000)
- Sign languages (A. Baker 2008)
- Multilingualism in multicultural Europe (G. Extra & K. Yagmur 2004)
- Translation studies: Translation of culture-specific items (D. Grit 2004).

Course content-related study coaching

Group tutoring and individual tutoring supported by one assistant and two student coaches (who take care of all General Courses lectured at the faculty).

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 moment
End-of-term evaluation (100%).
Assessment form
Written exam consisting of 50 multiple-choice questions (syllabus, reading list and lectures). Cut-off score: 30/50 = 10/20.

Calculation of the examination mark

100% written exam consisting of multiple-choice questions.

Facilities for Working Students

Facilities:
1 Possible exemption from educational activities requiring student attendance
2 Feedback can be given by email
Extra information:
Studying the notes of fellow students is recommened to fully understand the subject matter which is summarized in the syllabus.
For more information contact the monitoring service of the Faculty of Arts and Philosophy: https://www.ugent.be/lw/nl/student/studiestudentenbegeleiding/trajectbegeleiding.htm