GHENT UNIVERSITY

Course Specifications

Valid as from the academic year 2026-2027

Context and Nuance. A Critical Reflection on Current Topics (A005503)

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

Credits 6.0 **Study time 180 h**

Course offerings and teaching methods in academic year 2026-2027

A (semester 1)	Dutch	Gent	lecture

Lecturers in academic year 2026-2027

Maryns, Katrijn	LW22	lecturer-in-charge

Offered in the following programmes in 2026-2027	crdts	offering
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Dutch - English)	6	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Dutch - French)	6	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Dutch - German)	6	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Dutch - Greek)	6	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Dutch - Italian)	6	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Dutch - Latin)	6	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Dutch - Spanish)	6	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Dutch - Swedish)	6	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject English - German)	6	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject English - Greek)	6	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject English - Italian)	6	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject English - Latin)	6	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject English - Spanish)	6	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject English - Swedish)	6	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject French - English)	6	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject French - German)	6	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject French - Greek)	6	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject French - Italian)	6	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject French - Latin)	6	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject French - Spanish)	6	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject French - Swedish)	6	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject German - Greek)	6	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject German - Italian)	6	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject German - Spanish)	6	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject German - Swedish)	6	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Latin - Greek)	6	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Latin - Italian)	6	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Latin - Spanish)	6	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Latin - Swedish)	6	A
Bachelor of Arts in Archaeology	6	A
Bachelor of Arts in East European Languages and Cultures	6	A
Bachelor of Laws in Laws	6	A
Bachelor of Science in Business Administration	6	A
Bachelor of Science in Business Economics	6	A
Bachelor of Science in Economics	6	A
Bachelor of Science in Economics (Double Degree)	6	A
Bachelor of Science in Public Administration and Management	6	A

Master of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures(main subject China)	6	A
Master of Science in Electrical Engineering (main subject Communication and Information Technology)	6	A
Master of Science in Electromechanical Engineering(main subject Control Engineering and Automation)	6	A
Master of Science in Electromechanical Engineering(main subject Electrical Power Engineering)	6	A
Master of Science in Electrical Engineering (main subject Electronic Circuits and Systems)	6	A
Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Historical Perspectives)	6	A
Master of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures(main subject India)	6	A
Master of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures(main subject Japan)	6	A
Master of Science in Electromechanical Engineering(main subject Maritime Engineering)	6	A
Master of Science in Electromechanical Engineering(main subject Maritime Engineering)	6	A
Master of Science in Electromechanical Engineering(main subject Mechanical Construction)	6	A
Master of Science in Electromechanical Engineering(main subject Mechanical Energy Engineering)	6	A
Master of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures(main subject Middle East Studies)	6	A
Master of Science in Biomedical Sciences	6	A
Master of Arts in Art History, Musicology and Theatre Studies	6	A
Master of Science in Chemical Engineering	6	A
Master of Science in Chemical Engineering	6	A
Master of Science in Civil Engineering	6	A
Master of Science in Civil Engineering	6	A
Master of Science in Complementary Studies in Economics	6	A
Master of Science in Electromechanical Engineering	6	A
Master of Science in Engineering Physics	6	A
Master of Science in Engineering Physics	6	A
Master of Science in Engineering: Ships and Marine Technology	6	A
Master of Science in Engineering: Ships and Marine Technology	6	A
Master of Science in Fire Safety Engineering	6	A
Master of Science in Industrial Design Engineering Technology	6	A
Master of Science in Information Engineering Technology	6	A
Master of Science in Materials Engineering	6	A
Master of Science in Mechanical and Electrical Systems Engineering	6	A
Master of Science in Sustainable Materials Engineering	6	A
Ghent University Elective Courses	6	A
Ghent University Elective Courses	6	A
Ghent University Elective Courses	6	A
Ghent University Elective Courses	6	A
Ghent University Elective Courses	6	A
Ghent University Elective Courses	6	A
Ghent University Elective Courses	6	A
Ghent University Elective Courses	6	A
Ghent University Elective Courses	6	A
Ghent University Elective Courses	6	A
Ghent University Elective Courses	6	A
Master of Science in Teaching in Languages (abridged programme)(main subject African Languages and Cultures)	6	A
Master of Science in Teaching in Arts and Humanities (abridged programme)(main subject Archaeology)	6	A
Master of Science in Teaching in Arts and Humanities (abridged programme)(main subject Art History, Musicology and Theatre Studies)	6	A
Master of Science in Teaching in Science and Technology (abridged programme)(main subject Biochemistry and Biotechnology)	6	A
Master of Science in Teaching in Science and Technology (abridged programme)(main subject Bioengineering)	6	A

Master of Science in Teaching in Science and Technology (abridged programme)(main subject Biology)	6	A
Master of Science in Teaching in Economics (abridged programme)(main subject Business Administration)	6	A
Master of Science in Teaching in Economics (abridged programme)(main subject Business Economics)	6	A
Master of Science in Teaching in Science and Technology (abridged programme)(main subject Chemistry)	6	A
Master of Science in Teaching in Social Sciences (abridged programme)(main subject Communication Science)	6	A
Master of Science in Teaching in Science and Technology (abridged programme)(main subject Computer Science)	6	A
Master of Science in Teaching in Social Sciences (abridged programme)(main subject Criminological Sciences)	6	A
Master of Science in Teaching in Languages (abridged programme)(main subject East European Languages and Cultures)	6	A
Master of Science in Teaching in Economics (abridged programme)(main subject Economics)	6	A
Master of Science in Teaching in Behavioural Sciences (abridged programme)(main subject Educational Sciences)	6	A
Master of Science in Teaching in Science and Technology (abridged programme)(main subject Engineering and Technology)	6	A
Master of Science in Teaching in Science and Technology (abridged programme)(main subject Geography and Geomatics)	6	A
Master of Science in Teaching in Science and Technology (abridged programme)(main subject Geology)	6	A
Master of Science in Teaching in Arts and Humanities (abridged programme)(main subject History)	6	A
Master of Science in Teaching in Social Sciences (abridged programme)(main subject Laws)	6	A
Master of Science in Teaching in Science and Technology (abridged programme)(main subject Mathematics)	6	A
Master of Science in Teaching in Health Sciences (abridged programme)(main subject Medical Sciences)	6	A
Master of Science in Teaching in Arts and Humanities (abridged programme)(main subject Moral Sciences)	6	A
Master of Science in Teaching in Languages (abridged programme)(main subject Oriental Languages and Cultures)	6	A
Master of Science in Teaching in Health Sciences (abridged programme)(main subject Pharmaceutical Sciences)	6	A
Master of Science in Teaching in Arts and Humanities (abridged programme)(main subject Philosophy)	6	A
Master of Science in Teaching in Science and Technology (abridged programme)(main subject Physics and Astronomy)	6	A
Master of Science in Teaching in Social Sciences (abridged programme)(main subject Political Science)	6	A
Master of Science in Teaching in Behavioural Sciences (abridged programme)(main subject Psychology)	6	A
Master of Science in Teaching in Economics (abridged programme)(main subject Public Administration and Management)	6	A
Master of Science in Teaching in Health Sciences (abridged programme)(main subject Social Health Sciences)	6	A
Master of Science in Teaching in Social Sciences (abridged programme)(main subject Sociology)	6	A
Master of Science in Teaching in Health Sciences (abridged programme)(main subject Veterinary Medicine)	6	A
Master of Science in Teaching in Arts and Humanities (abridged programme)	6	A
Master of Science in Teaching in Languages (abridged programme)	6	A
Master of Science in Teaching in Behavioural Sciences (abridged programme)	6	A
Master of Science in Teaching in Economics (abridged programme)	6	A
Master of Science in Teaching in Health Sciences (abridged programme)	6	A
Master of Science in Teaching in Physical Education (abridged programme)	6	A
Master of Science in Teaching in Science and Technology (abridged programme)	6	A

Teaching languages

Dutch

Keywords

Migration, humanities, migration humanities, critical thinking, current issues, mobility, interculturality, multilingualism

Position of the course

This course is a general education course that aims to introduce students to different disciplines, perspectives, and concepts from the humanities through a specific theme that changes every one or two years. Every week different instructors from the faculty of Arts and Philosophy approach the central theme through the lens of their own discipline.

Contents

A current social theme will be explored using insights from the humanities. In the 2025-2026 academic year, we will address the theme "Migration".
Migration is a dynamic phenomenon that profoundly shapes both individuals and societies.
People migrate for many reasons: love, education, work, safety, or climate change. Migration can be temporary or permanent, voluntary or forced, near or far. This course takes an interdisciplinary approach to migration through the lens of the Migration Humanities – a research field that explores migration using the tools and insights of the humanities, such as history, philosophy, linguistics, literary studies, art history, and area studies.

While migration is often studied within social science, economic, legal, or political frameworks, the humanities shed light on how migration is experienced, narrated, remembered, and represented through language, imagery, literature, and culture. Philosophy offers tools for thinking through the ethical questions migration raises – ranging from ethics with regard to border controls or tensions between universal human rights and national sovereignty, to the rights and responsibilities of newcomers. History helps us understand how migration has shaped identities, driven cultural exchange, and transformed societies over time. Archaeological research into the material traces of migration – from ancient trade routes to modern refugee camps – reveals how migration leaves lasting marks on landscapes and heritage. Linguistics and applied linguistics examine how migration leads to language contact and change, how language skills, language use, and language ideologies can either open up or limit access to services and social spaces, and how migration is framed in public discourse – in media, politics, and law – influencing both public perception and policy. Literary and art studies allow us to explore how migration is imagined, how migrant stories are told, and how literary and visual representations shape the way we view migration. Area studies complement insights from receiving countries with crucial transnational perspectives – showing how migration creates global connections, how migrant networks operate, and how communities across different parts of the world respond to the challenges and opportunities that migration brings.
The lectures will introduce students to a broad spectrum of humanities approaches to migration. Every week, one or more experts from a different discipline will shine their light on the topic. Each time, a general reflection on the contribution a particular humanities discipline can make to a better understanding of and/or effective approach to migration will be combined with one or more case studies demonstrating that added value.
For more information, see www.ugent.be/lw/contextennuance.

Initial competences

Final competences

1 Having the ability to approach social issues and views critically and from an interdisciplinary perspective.
2 Having the ability to contextualize and interpret research results from the humanities within a societal frame of reference.
3 Having the ability to reflect on the stratification of cultural phenomena, both in

terms of interculturality and in terms of continuity and change in a long-term perspective.
4 Having a basic knowledge of the diversity of disciplines within the humanities.
5 Having insight into the theoretical models used within the humanities.

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

This course unit cannot be taken via an exam contract

Teaching methods

Seminar, Lecture

Extra information on the teaching methods

The introductory lecture will explain the annual theme will be explained, and the contribution of the migration humanities to the migration debate will be discussed in general terms. Migration humanities is an interdisciplinary field of research that examines migration as a fundamentally human experience, viewed through the lens of cultural, historical, linguistic, literary, philosophical, and artistic practices.

The subsequent lectures will each be taught by one or more experts from different disciplines. Each of these lectures requires preparation by the students, such as reading a literary or academic text, watching a film (or excerpt), listening to a podcast, or visiting an exhibition.
In addition to this general preparation, at the start of the semester students are divided into interdisciplinary groups, at least one of which is designated for each lecture to (a) give a short presentation on their insights from the pre-assigned reading, (b) prepare discussion questions, and (c) moderate the interactions with the experts. These discussion questions are shared with the other students in advance via the Ufora learning platform and serve as a starting point for the debate and interaction during the lectures.
Lecture recordings are made available to students with special circumstances or those with a valid reason for absence.

Study material

Type: Slides

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

Type: Reader

Name: Preparatory readings
Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty
Optional: no
Available on Ufora : Yes

References

Course content-related study coaching

Interactive teaching in the classroom, office hours.

Assessment moments

end-of-term and continuous 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

Participation, Presentation

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment

examination during the second examination period is possible

Extra information on the examination methods

Participation, presentation, and a brief written report per group: (a) a one-pager summarizing the key insights and discussion questions (to be submitted in advance via Ufora), (b) a short presentation during class, and (c) discussion questions and moderating the discussion. The specific details will be announced during the first class.

Calculation of the examination mark

Exam: 90%
Participation/limited written output: 10%
If students do not participate in both components of the evaluation, they cannot pass the course, and the final mark, if higher than 7/20, will be lowered to the highest non-deliberable mark (7/20).

Facilities for Working Students

Class attendance is mandatory and will be included in the calculation of the final score.