GHENT UNIVERSITY

Course Specifications

Valid as from the academic year 2026-2027

German: Language Proficiency – Literary Texts (A005739)

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

Credits 5.0 **Study time 150 h**

Course offerings in academic year 2026-2027

A (semester 2)	German	Gent

Lecturers in academic year 2026-2027

Benzing, Carolin Juliane	LW22	staff member
Gilson, Elke	LW07	lecturer-in-charge

Offered in the following programmes in 2026-2027	crdts	offering
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Dutch - German)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Applied Language Studies: a combination of at least two languages(main subject Dutch, English, German)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Applied Language Studies: a combination of at least two languages(main subject Dutch, French, German)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Applied Language Studies: a combination of at least two languages(main subject Dutch, German, Italian)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Applied Language Studies: a combination of at least two languages(main subject Dutch, German, Language Technology)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Applied Language Studies: a combination of at least two languages(main subject Dutch, German, Russian)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Applied Language Studies: a combination of at least two languages(main subject Dutch, German, Spanish)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Applied Language Studies: a combination of at least two languages(main subject Dutch, German, Turkish)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject English - German)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject French - German)	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
Exchange Programme Applied Language Studies	5	A
Exchange Programme Linguistics and Literature	5	A
Linking Course Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject German)	5	A
Linking Course Master of Arts in Multilingual Communication: a combination of at least two languages	5	A
Linking Course Master of Arts in Translation: a combination of at least two languages	5	A
Preparatory Course Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject German)	5	A
Preparatory Course Master of Arts in Interpreting: a combination of at least two languages	5	A
Preparatory Course Master of Arts in Multilingual Communication: a combination of at least two languages	5	A
Preparatory Course Master of Arts in Translation: a combination of at least two languages	5	A

Teaching languages

German

Keywords

German, language proficiency, literary texts, techniques for text analysis

Position of the course

This is a course for first-year students of Linguistics and Literature or Applied Linguistics who have taken their first steps in the curriculum. It builds on the language proficiency training in the first semester: on the one hand, students raise their oral and written proficiency to a higher level through discussion, small oral presentations and writing tasks. On the other hand, they learn basic techniques of literary text analysis, also using digital means. They apply these to accessible contemporary texts, graphic novels, films and radio plays, which deal with topical social issues. Through this dual focus, students acquire basic skills in academic writing and are encouraged to reflect on the contents and style of literary texts and related genres.

Contents

This course entails a reading list of recent texts from different genres (narrative prose, graphic novel, poetry, drama, essayistic prose), which deepen students' reading skills. The first lessons are hands-on sessions, in which the teachers show students how to engage in text analysis, and how to report on it. In the subsequent lessons, the students themselves get the floor. They individually complete a writing assignment and take turns orally presenting their findings in a comprehensible way. They then enter into discussions with their fellow students. In doing so, they practise both writing (paraphrase, synthesis, analysis, critical evaluation, etc.) and conversation techniques (agreement, objection, nuance, etc.). Together with the lecturers, students explore the library, the possibilities of digital humanities and of genAI for writing. Students receive individual feedforward (e.g. by means of a draft) and feedback on each of the subtasks; in this way, they can monitor their learning process well and adjust it where necessary.

Initial competences

To have successfully completed the course Duits: taalvaardigheid I: basisgrammatica or to have acquired the necessary skills by other means.

Final competences

1 To have a basic command of German and to be able to apply it in oral and written communication
2 To master research strategies on a basic level
3 To be able to conduct elementary literary text analysis, also using digital means, and to report on this
4 Using genAI at a basic level to improve language and style

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, Practical, Independent work

Extra information on the teaching methods

Seminar, independent work, language practicals. This course involves two 75min course units per week per group; we aim for an ideal-typical group size of 25 participants; with current numbers, that brings us to three groups.
Active participation in class is expected for this course and is reflected in the assessment. In exceptional cases, seminars may be recorded and made available upon specific request. In the event of absence, participation must be compensated for by completing alternative assignments.

Study material

Type: Software

Name: Office, Calibre, AntConc, Voyant
Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty
Optional: no

Type: Other

Name: about four primary texts in German, usually in paperback form, complemented by scans and audiovisual materials via ufora
Indicative price: € 45

Optional: no
Language : Other
Available in the Library : Yes
Additional information: The reading list will be communicated on ufora. The suggested paper editions are convenient for page references in class. They will also be available in the library.

References

Course content-related study coaching

individual and group tutoring

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

Participation, Presentation, Assignment

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment

examination during the second examination period is possible in modified form

Extra information on the examination methods

End-of-term assessment (oral exam) and continuous assessment (bibliography, presentation, reaction paper, digital text analysis, Zuhörerpapier, writing assignment and participation in class). In the second exam period, a substitute task will be provided for participation.

Calculation of the examination mark

End-of-term assessment: oral exam 30%
Continuous assessment: 70%, consisting of: presentation 20%, bibliography: 7,5%, "reaction paper": 7,5%, digital humanities analysis: 7,5%, Zuhörerpapier: 7,5%, writing assignment on the presentation with reflection on the use of AI for academic tasks: 10%, participation (class discussion): 10%
+ active participation in tutorial sessions -> bonus mark
Those with a failing grade for the end-of-term assessment cannot pass the course as a whole. If the final score would nevertheless be a mark of 10 or more out of 20, this will be reduced to the highest unsuccessful mark (i.e. 9/20). If one does not participate in the evaluation of one or more components, one can no longer pass the course unit as a whole and the final mark, if higher than 7/20, is reduced to the highest non-deliberable mark (i.e. 7/20).

The extra bonus mark can only be awarded to students who pass the course as a whole.

Facilities for Working Students

1 Although attendance is highly desirable, working students may be exempted from attendance. Students can make use of extra learning materials on Ufora or of recordings of classes to reach the course goals. For those classes where active participation is evaluated, you will need to complete substitute tasks that demonstrates your attainment of the intended competencies. The substitute tasks will be communicated to you by the instructors.
2 The exam can be scheduled at a different time within the academic year.
3 You can receive feedback at times other than those designated, preferably through conversations (on campus or online), both during and after office hours, or via email.
For all information on facilities, please contact the responsible instructor or one of the co-instructors before the start of the semester.