GHENT UNIVERSITY

Course Specifications

Valid as from the academic year 2026-2027

French Literature: 16th-18th Centuries (A005770)

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

Credits 4.0 **Study time 120 h**

Course offerings in academic year 2026-2027

A (semester 2) French Gent

Lecturers in academic year 2026-2027

Theeten, Griet	LW07	staff member
Roose, Alexander	LW07	lecturer-in-charge

Offered in the following programmes in 2026-2027	crdts	offering
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Dutch - French)	4	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject French - English)	4	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject French - German)	4	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject French - Greek)	4	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject French - Italian)	4	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject French - Latin)	4	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject French - Spanish)	4	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject French - Swedish)	4	A
Exchange Programme Linguistics and Literature	4	A
Exchange Programme Medieval Studies and Auxiliary Sciences	4	A
Linking Course Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject French)	4	A
Preparatory Course Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Dutch - French)	5	A
Preparatory Course Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject French)	4	A
Preparatory Course Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject French - English)	5	A
Preparatory Course Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject French - German)	5	A
Preparatory Course Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject French - Italian)	5	A
Preparatory Course Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject French - Spanish)	5	A

Teaching languages

French

Keywords

French literature, Renaissance, Baroque, Classical era, and Enlightenment

Position of the course

This advanced course, taught in French, introduces students to the development of French literature from the Renaissance, the Baroque era, the classical era and the Enligthenment (16th -18th century.

Contents

Content

1. History of literature: origins and development of French literature from the Renaissance and the 'Grand Siècle' to the era of the Enlightenment. a. Renaissance: Humanism (novels and short stories by Rabelais, Louise Labé, and Marguerite de Navarre, poetics of Du Bellay and Ronsard, the essays of Montaigne; b. C17 i. Baroque: features, short stories by Camus, poetry, theatre by

Corneille. ii. Classicism: theatre by Racine and Molière; fables by La Fontaine c.C18 Enlightenment: short stories by Voltaire, essay by M. du Châtelet and Rousseau epistolary novels by Montesquieu and Laclos.
2. Poetry, fables and short stories (Renaissance and Baroque, Enlightenment): retorics and analysis.

Initial competences

To have successfully completed the course French literature I or to have acquired the necessary skills by other means.

Final competences

1 To have insight into the literary-historical developments of French literature.
2 To have insight into the evolution of the mentalities and the cultural background in France.
3 To have insight into the coherence and the evolution of literary trends in Europe.
4 To have basic knowledge of the different stadia in the evolution of the French language.
5 To be able to analyse texts in their particular literary-historical contexts.

Conditions for credit contract

Access to this course unit via a credit contract is determined after successful competences assessment

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

Lectures
Independent work: reading of the set texts (4 texts,from different era and different genres).
No lecture recordings are available for this course.

Study material

None

References

Terence Cave, Sarah Kay, Simon Gaunt, *A Short History of French Literature*, Oxford UP, 2003.
Xavier Darcos, *Histoire de la Littérature française*, Paris, Hachette Education, 1992.
Denis Hollier (dir.), *De la littérature française*, Bordas, 1993.
Michel Prigent dir.), *Histoire de la France littéraire*, Paris, PUF, 2006 (trois tomes).
Alain Viala, *Le Moyen Age et la Renaissance*, Paris, PuF, 2014.
Alain Viala, *L'Age classique et les Lumières*, Paris, Puf, 2015.

Course content-related study coaching

Feedback
Specific questions can be asked during the lecturer's office hours.

Assessment moments

end-of-term assessment

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

Written assessment

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

Written assessment

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: Periodical (100%)

Exam: 4 questions: 1.A period or approach; 2.reading of a studied text ; 3. critical analysis of a poem or fable; 4. critical approach of the studied texts.

(At least one of the questions will be about one of the set texts)/

Calculation of the examination mark

Assessment moment: Periodical: written examen (100%)

Facilities for Working Students

- Possibility of exemption from attending the lectures and substitute assignment
- the exam can be organised at a different time during the same academic year
- feedback by appointment