GHENT UNIVERSITY

Course Specifications

Valid as from the academic year 2026-2027

French Literature: 19th-20th Centuries (A005771)

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 1)	French	Gent

Lecturers in academic year 2026-2027

Theeten, Griet	LW22	staff member
Roose, Alexander	LW07	lecturer-in-charge
Mus, Francis	LW22	co-lecturer

Offered in the following programmes in 2026-2027	crdts	offering
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Dutch - French)	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
Exchange Programme Linguistics and Literature	5	A
Linking Course Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject French)	5	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)	5	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, nineteenth century, twentieth century, text analysis

Position of the course

This advanced course, taught in French, introduces students to the development of French literature of the nineteenth and twentieth century.

Contents

History of literature: study of the process of development of French literature of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries:

1. Nineteenth Century:

a. Historical context.

b. Study of major literary movements : Romanticism, Réalism, Naturalism, fin de Siècle and Symbolism. Alternating between historical situating and textual analysis.

c. Analysis of some representative works (Chateaubriand, Hugo, Balzac, Flaubert, Zola, Baudelaire, Rimbaud, Verlaine, ...).
d. Study of the evolution of literary genres.

2. Twentieth century:
a. Historical context.
b. Study of some major literary movements: Avant-Garde, littérature engagée, Existentialism, Nouveau Roman, autobiographical writing & autofiction,based on the evolution of the various literary genres (poetry, drama, novel, essay, etc.)
c. Text analysis of some representative works (Colette, Breton, Aragon, Camus, Sartre, Beauvoir, Duras, Césaire, Quignard...).
d. Study of the evolution of literary genres.

Initial competences

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

Final competences

1 To have insight into the literary-historical developments of French literature of the nineteenth and twentieth century.
2 To have insight into the evolution of the mentalities and the cultural background in France during the nineteenth and twentieth century.
3 To have gained insight into the relation between the main literary schools in Europe, and their development.
4 To be able to analyze texts in their literary-historical context.

Conditions for credit contract

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

Conditions for exam contract

This course unit cannot be taken via an exam contract

Teaching methods

Seminar, Lecture, Independent work

Extra information on the teaching methods

- Lectures
- Seminar : the material is taught interactively and practiced in guided exercises in-class exercises. The seminar is mostly devoted to interpreting and commenting the set texts (4 to 5 C19 and C20 texts)
- Independent work: reading of the set texts and autonomous study
- No lecture recordings are available for this course.

Study material

Type: Slides

Name: Powerpoint
Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty
Optional: no
Number of Slides : 0
Available on Ufora : Yes

Type: Other

Name: Novels
Indicative price: € 40
Optional: no
Author : Will be announced at the beginning of the semester
Available on Ufora : No

References

1. Nineteenth century:
Becker (Colette), *Lire le Réalisme et le Naturalisme,* Dunod, 1992.
Bertrand (Jean-Pierre), Régnier (Philippe) et Vaillant (Alain), *Histoire de la littérature française du XIXe siècle*, Rennes, Presses Universitaires de Rennes, 2006.
Bony (Jacques), *Lire le Romantisme*, Armand Colin, 2005.
Decroix (Olivier) et De Gandt (Marie), *Le Romantisme,* la Bibliothèque Gallimard, 2010.

Dufour (Philippe), *Le Réalisme de Balzac à Proust*, PUF, coll. « Premier Cycle », 1998.
Foglia (Aurélie), *Histoire littéraire du XIX^e siècle*, Armand Colin, coll. « 128 », 2014.
Gengembre (Gérard), *Réalisme et naturalisme*, Mémo, Seuil, 1997.
Illouz (Jean-Nicolas), *Le Symbolisme,* Le Livre de poche, coll. « Références », 2004.
Marchal (Bertrand), *Lire le Symbolisme,* Dunod, 1993.
Yon (Jean-Claude), *Histoire culturelle de la France au XIX^e siècle*, Armand Colin, coll. U, 2010.

2. Twentieth century :

Baty-Delalande (H.), *Histoire littéraire du XX^e siècle*, Paris, Colin, 2016.
Calle-Gruber (Mireille), *Histoire de la littérature française du XX^e siècle ou les repentis de la littérature*, Paris, Honoré Champion, 2001.
Combe (Dominique), *Les Littératures francophones – questions, débats, polémiques*, Paris, Presses universitaires de France, 2010.
Demanze (Laurent) et Viart (Dominique), *Fins de la littérature, tome 1. Esthétiques et discours de la fin*, Paris, Armand Colin, 2011.
Demanze (Laurent) et Viart (Dominique), *Fins de la littérature, tome 2. Historicité de la littérature contemporaine*, Paris, Armand Colin, 2012.
Moura (Jean-Marc), Laborie (Jean-Claude) et Parizet (Sylvie), *Vers une histoire littéraire transatlantique*, Paris, Classiques Garnier, 2018.
Touret (Michèle), dir., *Histoire de la littérature française du XX^e siècle*, 2 vol., Rennes, Presses universitaires de Rennes, 2000 et 2008.
Viart (Dominique) et Vercier (Bruno), *La littérature française au présent : héritage et mutations de la modernité*, édition augmentée, Paris, Bordas, 2008.
Viart (Dominique), *Le Roman français au XX^e siècle*, réédition, Paris, Armand Colin, 2010.

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%)
Assessment form
Written exam. The exam is about the literature of C19, C20 and the set texts. The exam is in line with the intended final competences, i.e.: knowledge of important literary periods and writers, the importance of context, demonstration of critical and synthetic thinking pertinent to textual analysis, including of personal readings.

Calculation of the examination mark

Assessment moment: Periodical: written examen (100%)

Facilities for Working Students

1. Attendance at lessons can be discussed with the tutor.
2. The option to sit the exam at a different time within the regular exam period.
3. Feedback can be given by email, telephone or during an appointment during or after office hours

For more information concerning flexible learning: contact the monitoring service