GHENT UNIVERSITY

Course Specifications

Valid as from the academic year 2026-2027

General Linguistics I: Theories and Methods (A005794)

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)	Dutch	Gent

Lecturers in academic year 2026-2027

Verroens, Filip	LW06	staff member
Willems, Klaas	LW06	lecturer-in-charge
Farasyn, Melissa	LW06	co-lecturer
Lauwers, Peter	LW06	co-lecturer

Offered in the following programmes in 2026-2027	crdts	offering
Bachelor of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures(main subject Arabic and Islamic Studies)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Dutch - English)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Dutch - French)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Dutch - German)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Dutch - Greek)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Dutch - Italian)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Dutch - Latin)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Dutch - Spanish)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Dutch - Swedish)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject English - German)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject English - Greek)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject English - Italian)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject English - Latin)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject English - Spanish)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject English - Swedish)	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
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
Bachelor of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures(main subject India)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Latin - Greek)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Latin - Italian)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Latin - Spanish)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Latin - Swedish)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in African Languages and Cultures	5	A
Linking Course Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Dutch)	5	A

Linking Course Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject English)	5	A
Linking Course Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject French)	5	A
Linking Course Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject German)	5	A
Linking Course Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Latin)	5	A
Preparatory Course Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Dutch)	5	A
Preparatory Course Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Dutch - English)	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 Dutch - German)	5	A
Preparatory Course Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Dutch - Italian)	5	A
Preparatory Course Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Dutch - Spanish)	5	A
Preparatory Course Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject English)	5	A
Preparatory Course Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject English - German)	5	A
Preparatory Course Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject English - Italian)	5	A
Preparatory Course Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject English - Spanish)	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
Preparatory Course Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject German)	5	A
Preparatory Course Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject German - Italian)	5	A
Preparatory Course Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject German - Spanish)	5	A
Preparatory Course Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Greek)	5	A
Preparatory Course Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Iberian-Romance Languages)	5	A
Preparatory Course Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Latin)	5	A
Preparatory Course Master of Arts in Historical Linguistics and Literature	5	A
Elective Set Linguistics	5	A
Elective Set Southeast-European Language	5	A

Teaching languages

Dutch

Keywords

Linguistic theories, linguistic methods, historical linguistics, structuralism, generative linguistics, cognitive linguistics, language data.

Position of the course

This general course provides students with an advanced scientific insight in some of the fundamental topics related to natural language and provide them with knowledge in the most important linguistic theories and methods of the 20th and early 21st century.

Contents

A review of linguistic theories and methods of the 20th century:

1) a critical overview of structural, functional, cognitive and generative linguistic models;
2) a comparison of the different models with respect to their field of study, modes

and levels of linguistic description and the research methods used;
3) applications of different theoretical approaches to concrete linguistic data.

Initial competences

To have successfully completed the course 'Introduction to (Text)Linguistics' (general course 1st Bachelor) or to have acquired the necessary skills by other means.

Final competences

1 To know the most important modern linguistic trends and methods and to be able to compare them with one another.
2 To have an insight in language in a broad sense, from different perspectives.
3 To reflect critically on the necessary distinctions and concepts in linguistic research.
4 To be able to apply different theoretical approaches to linguistic phenomena.

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, Independent work

Extra information on the teaching methods

Lectures on campus with additional reading assignments.
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: General Linguistics: Theories and methodes
Indicative price: € 10
Optional: no
Language : Dutch
Number of Pages : 150
Available on Ufora : Yes
Online Available : Yes
Available in the Library : No
Available through Student Association : No

Type: Slides

Name: Theories and methods in linguistics
Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty
Optional: no
Language : Dutch
Number of Slides : 650
Available on Ufora : Yes
Online Available : Yes
Available in the Library : No
Available through Student Association : No

References

Reading list: Jakobson (1941) on the relation between child language, aphasia and language typology; Sybesma (2002) on generative grammar; Lakoff (1987) on cognitive linguistics.

Course content-related study coaching

Collective tutoring with regard to the reading materials

Assessment moments

end-of-term assessment

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

Written assessment with multiple-choice questions, Written assessment with open-ended questions

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

Written assessment with multiple-choice questions, Written assessment with open-ended questions

Examination methods in case of permanent assessment

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment

not applicable

Extra information on the examination methods

1 *Assessment moment*
End-of-term evaluation (100%)

Assessment form
Written exam with 20 multiple choice questions and 3 essay questions (one essay question about each part of the course)

Calculation of the examination mark

Multiple choice questions: 50%, three essay questions: 50%. The three parts (of the three lecturers) count equally in the total score.

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 handouts, Powerpoint presentations and additional reading material.
For more information contact the monitoring service of the faculty of Arts and philosophy: https://www.ugent.be/lw/nl/student/studiestudentenbegeleiding/trajectbegeleiding.htm