GHENT UNIVERSITY

# Course Specifications

Valid as from the academic year 2026-2027

## Theory of Literature I: Topics in European Literary History (A005798)

**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**

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|---|---|---|
| Maes, Yanick | LW07 | staff member |
| De Temmerman, Koen | LW07 | lecturer-in-charge |
| Keunen, Bart | LW07 | 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 Oriental Languages and Cultures(main subject Japan) | 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 |

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|---|---|---|
| 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 |
| Linking Course Master of Arts in Gender and Diversity | 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 Comparative Modern Literature | 5 | A |
| Preparatory Course Master of Arts in Historical Linguistics and Literature | 5 | A |
| Elective Set Literature | 5 | A |
| Elective Set Southeast-European Language | 5 | A |

**Teaching languages**

Dutch

**Keywords**

General and comparative literature

**Position of the course**

ALW builds on and deepens two Ba1-courses: *Europese Talen in Contact* partim Letterkunde en *Inleiding tot de voornaamste moderne literaturen*. The course aims to familiarise students with concepts and issues central to the literary-theoretical and comparative study of literary texts from different periods, genres and regions. This course corresponds to the aims of the different curricula, particularly those of a bachelor in literature.

**Contents**

A survey of the concepts and issues central to the comparative study of literature from different periods, genres or regions.

Part 1 is both a theoretical-conceptual and a literary-historical exploration of the concept of fiction and related concepts throughout European narrative literature. Part 2 emphasises the comparative study of narrative genres from a historical perspective (tragedy, adventure stories, novel of emergence and idyll in their historical manifestations and in their aftereffects on contemporary popular narrative culture).

**Initial competences**

Knowledge of the terminology of literary analysis.

**Final competences**

1 To have a sound, scholarly understanding of the specific characteristics of literary texts.
2 To be able to implement various methods of analysis for the study of narratives.
3 To be able to explain the use of various methods of analysis in a broad historical, social, cultural, and philosophical context.
4 To be able to enter more advanced courses in the Master Comparative Literature and the language-specific masters.
5 To be able to reflect critically about the connections between texts from various periods, genres, and areas

**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, in which students are supposed to take notes. Personal reading of and critical reflection about the literary works on the reading list.
Lecture recordings are only made available upon request. This is done exclusively for students holding an official status as 'werkstudent' or 'topsporter' and, by exception, for students who are structurally unable to attend classes due to demonstrable, compelling circumstances (e.g., illness).

**Study material**

Type: Handbook

Name: Een reis door de Europese letterkunde
Indicative price: € 23
Optional: no
Language : Dutch
Author : Bart Keunen
ISBN : 978-9-49355-116-9

Type: Slides

Name: Powerpoint slides ALW I
Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty
Optional: no
Language : Dutch
Number of Slides : 500
Available on Ufora : Yes
Online Available : No
Available in the Library : No
Available through Student Association : No

Type: Reader

Name: Primary texts
Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty
Optional: no
Language : Dutch
Number of Pages : 200
Available on Ufora : No
Online Available : No

Available in the Library : Yes
Available through Student Association : No
Additional information: Primary texts to be read: Sophocles' Oedipus Rex, Cervantes' Don Quijote, Shakespeare's Othello, and Flaubert's Madame Bovary. Students can either purchase the four books themselves (ca. 100 EUR) or borrow them from the/a library. For all books, editions are recommended during the first class.

Type: Reader

Name: Secondary literature
Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty
Optional: no
Language : English
Number of Pages : 100
Available on Ufora : Yes
Online Available : No
Available in the Library : No
Available through Student Association : No
Additional information: Most articles are in English; one or two are in French.

**References**

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**Course content-related study coaching**

Via e-mail. 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 with multiple-choice questions

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

Written assessment with multiple-choice questions

**Examination methods in case of permanent assessment**

**Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment**

not applicable

**Extra information on the examination methods**

*Assessment form*
Final written exam in the examination period. This exam tests the knowledge of the student about the content of the course through multiple-choice questions about both the lectures and the application of the theoretical concepts.

**Calculation of the examination mark**

Periodical (100%): 40% Partim I, 40% Partim II, 20% Reading of primary texts.

**Facilities for Working Students**

1. Possible exemption from educational activities requiring student attendance
2. Alternative time for feedback is possible
For more information concerning flexible learning: contact the monitoring service of the faculty of Arts and philosophy