GHENT UNIVERSITY

Course Specifications

Valid as from the academic year 2026-2027

General Linguistics II: Language Variation and Language Change (A005800)

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

Van Acker, Marieke	LW06	staff member
Willems, Klaas	LW06	lecturer-in-charge
Cuomo, Andrea	LW06	co-lecturer
Enghels, Renata	LW06	co-lecturer
Simonenko, Alexandra	LW06	co-lecturer

Offered in the following programmes in 2026-2027	crdts	offering
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 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
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 English)	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 German)	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

Teaching languages

Dutch

Keywords

Historical linguistics, comparative linguistics, linguistic typology, Greek, Latin, German languages, Romance languages

Position of the course

This advanced course specializes in historical-comparative and typological linguistics. The students are initiated in the most important methods, which are then applied in language specific modules on Greek, Latin, Romance or Germanic languages.

Contents

This course contains 6 general lectures on historical/comparative linguistics, historical sociolinguistics, language contact and language typology. The students subsequently follow a language specific module (Classical, Romance or German languages) on the basis of their language profile.
Within the specific language module, the students prepare a critical summary of an article in which correlations and links are set out between the article and the concepts and theories exposed during the course. The results are discussed in a (video)class (microteaching).
Linguistic profile: students who combine two Romance or Germanic languages or study Latin-Greek choose the respective modules. Students who combine a Romance and Germanic language, or combine Latin or Greek with another language, choose a particular module.

Initial competences

The student is acquainted with the basics of general and comparative linguistics (bachelor courses Europese Talen in Contact, Inleiding tot Taal- en Tekststructuren, Algemene Taalwetenschap I) and has knowledge of concrete linguistic case studies of specific languages (acquired through courses of German, English, Dutsch, French, Spanish, Italian, Greek, Latin, and/or Swedish linguistics).

Final competences

1 To understand, recognize and be able to provide definitions for the main concepts and methodologies within historical-comparative linguistics.
2 To understand, recognize and be able to provide definitions for the main concepts and methodologies within contact linguistics.
3 To be familiarized with the main concepts and methodologies within historical sociolinguistics.
4 To understand, recognize and be able to provide definitions for the main concepts and methodologies within language typology.
5 To apply these concepts and methodologies through the analysis of case studies and/or text fragments in specific languages or language groups.
6 To critically read and apply scientific literature on the topics discussed in the course.
7 To gain insight into the diversity within and between language (familie) groups.
8 To gain awareness of the crucial role of language in human interactions and cultural production.
9 Make use of digital research environments and search strategies to identify

research objects.
10 To present research data or results taking into account a specific target audience, with a possibility of applying GenAI, if used responsibly where relevant and necessary.
11 To gain the capacity to critically evaluate and to make use of inter- and transdisciplinary possibilities of Digital humanities.

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

Group work, Seminar, Lecture, Independent work

Extra information on the teaching methods

- 6 interactive lectures on the main methods and theories which serve as the starting point for this course (incl. 1 guest lecture); pratical application of these concepts during classes.
- 5 language group specific seminars on particular case studies
- 1 lecture devoted to the microteaching sessions prepared by the students (video class)

Lecture-based sessions are recorded and made available to specific target groups (upon request).

Study material

Type: Slides

Name: provided via Ufora.
Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty
Optional: no
Language : Dutch

Type: Reader

Name: provided via Ufora.
Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty
Optional: no

References

general sessions:
Dorothée Aquino-Weber, Sara Cotelli & Andres Kristol (eds.). *Sociolinguistique historique du domaine gallo-roman. Enjeux et méthodologies.* Berne : Peter Lang, 2009.
Fortson, B. (2010): *Indo European language and culture: an introduction.* Oxford: Blackwell.
Manuel Hernández-Campoy J. & Juan Camilo Conde-Silvestre, *The Handbook of Historical Sociolinguistics,* Oxford, Blackwell, 2012.
Kortmann, B. & van der Auwera, J. (2011): *The Languages and Linguistics of Europe.* Walter de Gruyter.
Song, J.J. (2010): *The Oxford Handbook of Linguistic Typology.* Oxford: OUP.
Vellupilai, V. (2012): *An introduction to Linguistic Typology.* Amsterdam/ Philadelphia: Benjamins.
Language-specific modules:
Ringe, D. (2006): *From Proto-Indo-European to Proto-Germanic.* Oxford: University Press.
Roegiest, E. (2009). *Vers les sources des langues romanes.* Leuven: Acco.
Weiss, M. (2009): *Outline of the Historical and Comparative Grammar of Latin.* Ann Arbor: Beech Stave Press.

Course content-related study coaching

By all teachers through appointment.
Students are strongly encouraged to engage in interaction, to ask questions during the classes, and to take additional notes.

Assessment moments

end-of-term and continuous assessment

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

Written assessment with open-ended questions

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

Written assessment with open-ended questions

Examination methods in case of permanent assessment

Participation, Presentation

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

At the end of the semester there is a written examen that tests the theoretical and practical knowledge of the student. The exam includes open questions on:
1. the introductory courses
2. practical questions on the skills and knowledge acquired during the language-specific modules.
Within the specific language module, the students prepare a critical summary of an article (in which correlations and links are set out between the article and the concepts and theories exposed during the course). The results are discussed in a (video) class through microteaching.
A part of the permanent evaluation consists of the evaluation of presence and participation by the student.
Students who do not take part in the assessment of one or more parts of the course evaluation cannot pass the course. Should the average mark be higher than 10/20, the final mark will be reduced to the highest non-pass mark (= 9).

Calculation of the examination mark

80% periodical (written exam)
20% non-periodical
- microteaching, with a possibility of applying GenAI, if used responsibly where relevant and necessary.

Facilities for Working Students

Facilities:
1 Possible exemption from educational activities requiring student attendance with alternative tasks.
2 Presence in classes with non-periodical evaluation is compulsory.
3 Possible rescheduling of the examination to a different time in the same academic year.
4 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 syllabus.