GHENT UNIVERSITY

Course Specifications

Valid as from the academic year 2026-2027

German Literature: Text Analysis and Interpretation (A006655)

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 2) German Gent

Lecturers in academic year 2026-2027

Martens, Gunther LW07 lecturer-in-charge

Offered in the following programmes in 2026-2027	crdts	offering
Master of Science in Teaching in Languages(main subject Linguistics and Literature)	5	A
Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Dutch - German)	5	A
Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject English - German)	5	A
Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject French - German)	5	A
Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject German)	5	A
Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject German - Greek)	5	A
Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject German - Italian)	5	A
Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject German - Scandinavian Studies)	5	A
Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject German - Spanish)	5	A
Exchange Programme Linguistics and Literature	5	A

Teaching languages

German

Keywords

textual analysis, critical reflection, problem solving, hermeneutics, philology, structuralism, post-structuralism,

Position of the course

- to obtain a profound insight into ideology critical and text-strategic processes in literary texts in German
- excellent mastery of the skills needed to perform textual analysis and interpretation of literary texts in German
- to be able to contribute to the scientific study of literary texts in German in a creative way
- excellent knowledge of German

Exchange students may take up this course unit, for which no prior knowledge of Dutch is required.

Contents

This course discusses current methodologies in literary studies and their relation to classical literary-theoretical approaches. The topics are closely connected to the research done in the Research Unit German Literature. Older (18th century) or contemporary (postmodern) texts with a specific thematic, genological or historical dimension are analysed and interpreted, focusing on their ideological and text-strategic features. In this way, various topics (such as the representation of paedagogical projects in the 18th century, the concept of "Europe" in 20th century German literature or the postmodern pseudo-historical novel, etc.) are brought into focus. The analyses are embedded in a theoretical discussion about the current position and practice of Hermeneutics and Interpretation in literary theory. The choices made with respect to theme, problem field and text, assure that a historical and chronological profile of German literature is offered.

The overarching topic of the seminar changes every year and will be definitively communicated to the students together with the reading list on Ufora at the beginning of the academic year. Previous topics include 'Selbsdarstellung in der Literatur' and 'Starke Frauen'.
For the academic year 2023-2024, the expected theme will be neurodiversity, as has been the case in previous years. The concept of neurodiversity can help to put established authors in a new light in German-language literary history. This approach leads to innovative text interpretations and makes it possible to critically reflect on past and current frameworks and analyses. Specific covered topics are literary depictions of hypo- and hypersensitivity, the link between trauma and neurodiversity, therapeutic writing...

Initial competences

Bachelor of Arts Linguistics and Literature. German literature V. Or having acquired otherwise the competences involved in this course.

Final competences

1 To have a profound insight into the methods and models of (new) hermeneutics, critical theory, and text interpretation
2 To apply methods and models independently in a literary analysis
3 To be able to report in German on the results of individual research orally and in writing
4 To achieve a sufficient level of German language proficiency (oral and written)
5 To have profound familiarity with the German literary tradition
6 Independently compare, select, use responsibly, and critically evaluate digital analysis methods to perform analyses (content, network, relational, spatial, structural, or stylistic). To be able to use genAI in an advanced and responsible way to write texts.

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

Seminar, Independent work

Extra information on the teaching methods

Seminar (22.5h): under the supervision of the lecturer(s) the students work acquaint themselves with an advanced research problem pertaining to the study of German literature; they discuss and evaluate research results.

Presentation (15h): students present their research findings about a text (presentation of 30 minutes)

Independent work (7,5h): the students perform the research activities necessary for the presentation.
Class recordings are only made available upon request, but in principle can be made available to everyone.

Study material

Type: Slides

Name: six literary texts in German, mostly in paperback editions, complemented by scans on Ufora
Indicative price: € 50
Optional: yes
Language : Other
Available on Ufora : Yes
Online Available : No
Available in the Library : Yes
Additional information: The reading list will be communicated via Ufora. All texts are available in digital editions online. The recommended paper editions are convenient for page references in class and can always be found in the library.

References

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Course content-related study coaching

lecturer
collective and individual coaching

Assessment moments

end-of-term and continuous assessment

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

Oral assessment, Assignment

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

Oral assessment, Assignment

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

Permanent evaluation (presentations, participation of the students) and an oral exam.

Calculation of the examination mark

Presentation: 30%
Essay: 30%
Participation: 10%
Oral exam: 30%
If the student did not pass the non-periodic evaluation, a second chance will be offered through a compensatory activity between the first and second exam period.
Students who participate in the bonus programme, can earn an extra bonus mark.
Those with a failing grade for either of the two end-of-term forms of assessment cannot pass the course as a whole. If the final score would nevertheless be a mark of 10 or more out of 20, this will be reduced to the highest unsuccessful mark (i.e. 9/20). If one does not participate in the evaluation of one or more components, one can no longer pass the course unit as a whole and the final grade, if higher than 7/20, will be reduced to the highest non-deliberable grade (i.e. 7/20).
The extra bonus mark can only be awarded to students who pass the course as a whole.

Facilities for Working Students

1. Possible exemption from educational activities requiring student attendance
2. Possible rescheduling of the examination to a different time in the same academic year
3. Alternative time for feedback is possible
For more information concerning flexible learning: contact the monitoring service of the faculty of Arts and philosophy