GHENT UNIVERSITY

Course Specifications

Valid as from the academic year 2026-2027

German Literature: Narrative Analysis and Rhetoric (A006656)

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)	German	Gent

Lecturers in academic year 2026-2027

Benzing, Carolin Juliane	LW07	staff member
Gilson, Elke	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

German literature, Narratology, Rhetoric, Figural Speech, Literary Canon, societal questions

Position of the course

At the start of the MA-programme, students use literary analytical methods and tools in an independent manner. Now, time has come to earn the skill not only to execute research, but also to supervise and assess it. This is the main objective of this course.
This course can be taking up by (advanced) exchange students.

Contents

This course particularly deals with the advanced analysis of narrative and rhetorical processes (and the interaction between both) in literary prose, poetry and drama from the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries in German. The emphasis lies on unconventional speech, i.e. a type of speech that does not rely on the sovereignty of the speaker (indirect, involuntary, invisible speech). Starting from a specific thematic connection between texts from different contexts of literary history, to which a relevant or historically important societal question is linked (e.g. poverty and inequality, ecology and animal rights, normativity and deviance; the life cycle, gender relations; modernity and alienation; labour and Bildung; illness and death; refugees and migration, war). Goal of the course is to enable students not only to perform their analysis, but to evaluate (metareflexively) their own analytic practice as well. A second goal is to train socially valuable skills important to the curriculum: to take a stand in a debate, thereby attempting to establish consensus, to deliver a (formal) speech, to display literary sensitivity in a non-literary setting. A compulsory part of the course is an activity that students complete extra muros

and report on afterwards.
The reading list of this course will be announced well before the start of the semester via the UGent electronic learning platform.

Initial competences

Learning results achieved in the Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature: German

Final competences

1 to have a profound insight into the methods and models of narratology and rhetorics
2 to be able to report on the results of individual research orally and in writing in excellent German (ERK C1, for students specifically focusing on German: C2; learning outcome M.1.1; M.2.1: M.4.1), using (digital) tools in a deontological and responsible manner
3 to have profound familiarity with the German literary tradition
4 to have profound a insight into the specifics of literary communication.
5 to be able to organise and guide consultation within a small team by making use of analytical tools from literary studies ("entrepreneurial humanities")
6 To be able to establish links between the texts discussed in the seminar and literary practices in other languages, media 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

Seminar, Practical, Independent work, Peer teaching

Extra information on the teaching methods

Seminar (20h): under the supervision of the lecturer the students immerse themselves in the advanced analysis of poetry, drama and prosa texts; they discuss and evaluate research results.
Peer teaching (5h): students individually present their research findings about the chosen texts and hereby make use of the format of the Mikroreferat on the one hand and a formal speech on the other.
Independent work (20h): the students perform the research activities necessary for writing a concluding paper. The students go through a glossary of specialized rhetorical and narratological concepts (with case studies).
Practicum: The students gain field work experience and document it.

Attendance in class is expected, but the sessions can be recorded and made available on request. In such cases, class participation must be compensated for by completing an alternative assignment.

Study material

Type: Other

Name: about four primary texts in German, complemented by scans on ufora
Indicative price: € 65
Optional: no
Additional information: The reading list will be communicated via ufora. All texts will also be available in the library. The recommended edition is convenient for page references in class.

References

Lahn, Silke & Meister, Jan Christoph: *Einführung in die Erzähltextanalyse* (Metzler) ISBN: 978-3-476-02226-4 XI, 311 S. – 19,95 Eur
Beutin, Wolfgang: *Deutsche Literaturgeschichte. Von den Anfängen bis zur Gegenwart* (Metzler, J B) ISBN: 978-3-476-02247-9 XIII, 761 S. – 29,95 Eur

Course content-related study coaching

collective and individual tutoring

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, Peer and/or self assessment, Assignment

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

Students prepare a "Mikroreferat" per genre and deliver a formal speech about a subtheme of choice at the end of the semester. In this speech, they depart from the reading of the texts discussed to explain their personal views on the relationship of literature to the central social problem.
They actively take part in the discussion by means of questions and critical remarks.
They write an essay, in which they express a metareflexive point of view.
They defend their essay against critical remarks or elaborate upon the implications of their views. They find relevant text examples for the terms from the glossary.
Reaching the desired level of language proficiency is part of the learning competences of this course. This proficiency is supported by feedback on writing and speaking tasks, by self-study and by self-testing at the start and at the end of the semester.

Calculation of the examination mark

Continuous assessment (CA): 50%, end-of-term assessment (ETA): 50%, divided as follows:
CA:
- Participation and position papers: 20%
- Speech: 20%
- Extra muros + report: 10%

ETA:
- Essay: 20%
- Oral exam (incl. glossary): 30%

Since students are expected to convincingly explain the methodological and substantive views emerging from the paper during the oral examination, the result of the oral examination can affect the result for the paper. Participation in the continuous and end-of-term evaluation is mandatory. If one does not participate in both evaluations, 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). Those who fail the end-of-term evaluation can get at most 9/20 for the course as a whole.

Facilities for Working Students

Facilities:
1 Although attendance is highly desirable, working students may be exempted from attendance. Students can make use of extra learning materials on Ufora or of recordings of classes to reach the course goals. For those classes where active participation is evaluated, you will need to complete a substitute task that demonstrates your attainment of the intended competencies. The substitute task will be communicated to you by the instructors.
2 The exam can be scheduled at a different time within the academic year.
3 You can receive feedback at times other than those designated, preferably through conversations (on campus or online), both during and after office hours, or via email.
For all information, please contact the responsible instructor or one of the co-instructors at the start of the semester.

For general information on flexible paths contact the monitoring service of the faculty of Arts and Philosophy: https://www.ugent.be/lw/nl/student/studiestudentenbegeleiding/trajectbegeleiding.htm