GHENT UNIVERSITY

Course Specifications

Valid as from the academic year 2026-2027

French Literature: Poetics in Practice (A006673)

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)	French	Gent

Lecturers in academic year 2026-2027

Schoentjes, Pierre	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 - French)	5	A
Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject French)	5	A
Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject French - English)	5	A
Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject French - German)	5	A
Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject French - Greek)	5	A
Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject French - Italian)	5	A
Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject French - Latin)	5	A
Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject French - Scandinavian Studies)	5	A
Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject French - Spanish)	5	A
Exchange Programme Linguistics and Literature	5	A

Teaching languages

French

Keywords

French literature, 21st century, contemporary literature, ecology, text analysis, ethics and aesthetics

Position of the course

This advanced course focuses on texts (close reading of French literary texts) and aims an advanced approach of contemporary French fiction (21st century) in which nature plays an important part. The course aims to give insight in a field of French literature that is on the interface between fiction and reality, aesthetics and ethics.

Contents

The central question that this course tries to answer is how contemporary French writers fictionalize ecological themes. Starting from a close reading and contextual analysis of a selection of novels in which nature takes an important place, we examine the representation of the relationship between humans and nature. The approach pays attention to history, ethics and aesthetics, is problematical and places the subject in a global context.
This course counts on an active participation of the students who are expected to reflect critically on ecological contemporary literature. This involves a personal reading of a specific novel.

Initial competences

An excellent command of the French language. It is important to speak fluently French in order to participate in the discussions. The course links up with the methodological issues and literary history presented in Ba3.

Final competences

1 Show advanced knowledge of key issues in French literature explored in the

course.
2 Demonstrate a critical approach to scientific analyses.
3 Display the ability to analyze scientifically French-speaking literary texts in French.
4 Gain insight into the core issues in French literature discussed in the course.
5 Be able to report on and present in writing and orally one's own reading and research in French (proficiency level C1).
6 Show critical, analytical and synthetic thinking as regards the issued covered in the course.
7 Elucidate aesthetic, ethical and social aspects of the issues debated in the course.

Conditions for credit contract

Access to this course unit via a credit contract is determined after successful competences assessment

Conditions for exam contract

This course unit cannot be taken via an exam contract

Teaching methods

Seminar

Extra information on the teaching methods

No lecture recordings are provided for this course.

Study material

Type: Slides

Name: Ecopoétique
Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty
Optional: no
Language : Other
Available on Ufora : Yes

Type: Reader

Name: Choix de textes
Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty
Optional: no
Language : Other
Available on Ufora : Yes

Type: Other

Name: (academic) text editions of novels, usually in paperback series. Titles will be passed on before the start of the academic year.
Indicative price: € 40
Optional: no
Available on Ufora : No

References

For those wanting a broader context:
- Pierre Schoentjes, *Ce qui a lieu: essai d'écopoétique*, Marseille, Wildproject, 2015.
- Pierre Schoentjes, *Littérature et écologie. Le mur des abeilles*, Paris, José Corti, 2020.

Course content-related study coaching

Collective and individual supervision of student papers; Interaction during courses.
Specific questions can be asked during the lecturer's or the AAP's office hours.

Assessment moments

continuous assessment

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

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

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

Extra information on the examination methods

Participation evaluation is done over the entirety of the sessions, in addition, during the final lectures, students give as a piece of work during a "mini-conference" an oral presentation that transversally reflects on a self-chosen issue in a novel not yet studied.
Unjustified long absence leads to the impossibility to present this personal research.

Calculation of the examination mark

100% non-period bound evaluation

Facilities for Working Students

Facilities:
1 Student attendance during educational activities is required
2 Possible rescheduling of the presentation to a different time in the same academic year
3 Feedback can be given by telephone or during an appointment during office hours

For more information contact the monitoring service of the Faculty of Arts and Philosophy: https://www.ugent.be/lw/nl/student/studiestudentenbegeleiding/trajectbegeleiding.htm