GHENT UNIVERSITY

Course Specifications

Valid as from the academic year 2026-2027

French Literature: Ideas in Context (A006674)

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) French Gent

Lecturers in academic year 2026-2027

Roose, Alexander 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
Master of Arts in Historical Linguistics and Literature	5	A
Exchange Programme Cultures and Languages in Context	5	A
Exchange Programme Linguistics and Literature	5	A

Teaching languages

French

Keywords

French literature, 17-19th century, text analysis, poetics, history of literature, history of ideas

Position of the course

In-depth study of French literature
Close reading and contextual analysis of a selection of literary works that are representative of the period under study.

Contents

In the lectures, French literature of classicism and enlightenment is studied and discussed from one central theme such as the 'invention of freedom' or 'la cause des femmes', on the position and rights of women.
Depending on the theme studied, 4 to 5 texts will be studied (spread over the three periods):
For the theme 'the invention of freedom', for example, we read: Etienne de La Boétie (*Discours sur la servitude volontaire*), La Fontaine (*Fables*) or Fénélon (*Les Aventures de Télémaque; Lettre à Louis XVI), Montesquieu (*Les Lettres persanes), Françoise de Grafigny (*Lettres d'une Péruvienne*), Rousseau (*Du Contrat Socia*l) Olympe de Gouges (*Zamore et Mirza*), Constant, (*La liberté des anciens et des modernes).*
For the theme 'la cause des femmes', for example, we could read: Marie de Gournay (E*galité entre hommes et femme*s), Madame de Lafayette, *La Princesse de Clèves, Madame de Montpensie*r; Madame D'Aulnoy (*Le Nain Jaune, La Bonne*

petite souris) ; Françoise de Grafigny, Olympe de Gouges, (*la Déclaration des droits de la femme et de la citoyenne*) en Madame de Duras *(Ourika).*

Initial competences

An excellent command of the French language. The course links up with the methodological issues and literary history presented in Ba3.

Final competences

1 Gain profound insight into the individuality of French literature (16-18th century), its developments and contextual influences.
2 Master the terminology and basic concepts of text analysis.
3 Be able to evaluate the use of various methodologies with regard to text types.
4 Demonstrate this knowledge in a personal scientific analysis.
5 Be able to accurately present an analysis of a literary text both orally and in writing.

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, Lecture

Extra information on the teaching methods

Er worden geen lesopnames voorzien voor dit vak.

Study material

None

References

A precise reference list wil be posted on Ufora at the beginning of each academic year.

Course content-related study coaching

Library of French Literature; collective and individual supervision of student papers.

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

Assignment

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment

examination during the second examination period is possible

Extra information on the examination methods

The four or five set texts are presented and questioned in chronological order during lectures. Students will then work with notes and the reading suggestions (e. g. Quentin Skinner, De Dijn, Ph. Petit) and write one longer, well informed essay and, in addition, 2 short essays on several (set) texts.

Calculation of the examination mark

100% continuous assessment

Facilities for Working Students

1. Possible exemption from educational activities requiring student attendance, a task is imposed in substitution
2. Possible rescheduling of the examination to a different time in the same academic year
3. Feedback can be given by email, telephone or during an appointment during or after office hours

For more information concerning flexible learning: contact the monitoring service