GHENT UNIVERSITY

# Course Specifications

Valid as from the academic year 2026-2027

## Comparative Linguistics: Indo-European Languages (A006749)

**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**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Willems, Klaas | LW06 | lecturer-in-charge |
| Kulikov, Leonid | LW06 | co-lecturer |

| Offered in the following programmes in 2026-2027 | crdts | offering |
|---|---|---|
| Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Dutch) | 5 | A |
| Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Dutch - English) | 5 | A |
| Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Dutch - French) | 5 | A |
| Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Dutch - German) | 5 | A |
| Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Dutch - Greek) | 5 | A |
| Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Dutch - Italian) | 5 | A |
| Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Dutch - Latin) | 5 | A |
| Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Dutch - Scandinavian Studies) | 5 | A |
| Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Dutch - Spanish) | 5 | A |
| Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject English) | 5 | A |
| Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject English - German) | 5 | A |
| Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject English - Greek) | 5 | A |
| Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject English - Italian) | 5 | A |
| Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject English - Latin) | 5 | A |
| Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject English - Scandinavian Studies) | 5 | A |
| Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject English - Spanish) | 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 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 |
| Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Greek) | 5 | A |
| Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Historical Perspectives) | 5 | A |
| Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Iberian-Romance Languages) | 5 | A |
| Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Latin) | 5 | A |
| Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Latin - Greek) | 5 | A |
| Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Latin - Italian) | 5 | A |
| Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Latin - Scandinavian Studies) | 5 | A |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Latin - Spanish) | 5 | A |
| Master of Arts in Historical Linguistics and Literature | 5 | A |

**Teaching languages**

Dutch

**Keywords**

Cognate languages, sound laws, analogy, culture and home country of the speakers of Proto-Indo-European.

**Position of the course**

This course aims at making the students be aware of the network of relations between the Indo-European languages, and understand the methodology of comparative linguistics.

**Contents**

History of the problems treated and the answers proposed by Historical and Comparative Indo-European linguistics. Its genesis is explained within the general historical context. The network of correspondences, in the several domains of language, between the Indo-European linguistic groups (branches), is studied, with special emphasis on the classical languages, Old Indic, Germanic and Romance. An overview of the external history of Proto-Indo-European based on linguistic and archaeological evidence. An overview of the Indo-European mythologies; reconstruction of the Proto-Indo-European mythology and cosmogony.

**Initial competences**

Basic knowledge of linguistics and linguistic concepts.

**Final competences**

The students understand the methodology of comparative linguistics, and know the fundamental facts about the network of relations between the Indo-European languages and mythologies.

**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**

Lecture

**Extra information on the teaching methods**

No lecture recordings are provided for this course (interactive teaching format).

**Study material**

Type: Slides

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

**References**

Fortson, Benjamin, W. IV (2010)[2] *Indo-European Language and Culture: An Introduction.* Malden: Wiley-Blackwell.
Mallory, J.P. (2025) *The Indo-European Rediscovered: How a Scientific Revolution is Rewriting Their Story.* London - New York: Thames & Hudson.
West, Martin, L (2007) *Proto-Indo-European Poetry and Myth.* Oxford: Oxford University Press.

**Course content-related study coaching**

Electronically (e-mail).

**Assessment moments**

end-of-term assessment

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

Oral assessment

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

Oral assessment

**Examination methods in case of permanent assessment**

**Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment**

not applicable

**Extra information on the examination methods**

Oral exam. Questions about facts and their interpretation, and discussion of problems of methodology.

**Calculation of the examination mark**

100% periodical evaluation

**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

For more information concerning flexible learning: contact the monitoring service of the faculty of Arts and philosophy