GHENT UNIVERSITY

Course Specifications

Valid as from the academic year 2026-2027

Introduction to Translation Technology (A703128)

Course size *(nominal values; actual values may depend on programme)*

Credits 5.0 **Study time 150 h**

Course offerings and teaching methods in academic year 2026-2027

A (semester 1)	English	Gent	seminar
			independent work
			lecture

Lecturers in academic year 2026-2027

Denturck, Kathelijne	LW22	staff member
Macken, Lieve	LW22	lecturer-in-charge
Hackenbuchner, Janica	LW22	co-lecturer

Offered in the following programmes in 2026-2027	**crdts**	**offering**
Exchange Programme Applied Language Studies	5	A
Postgraduate Certificate Dutch as a Foreign Language and Applied Communication(main subject Level of Dutch: CEFR B2)	5	A
Postgraduate Certificate Dutch as a Foreign Language and Applied Communication(main subject Level of Dutch: CEFR C1)	5	A

Teaching languages

English

Keywords

Translation technology, computer-aided translation, machine translation, terminology extraction, corpus query tools

Position of the course

Translation technology plays an important role in the translation industry. This course outlines the different steps in the translation process and discusses the different tools that are available on the market.
The goal of this introductory course is twofold. On the one hand it provides insights into the basic underlying principles that are used in translation technology (sentence and word alignment, matching, standard formats, etc.). On the other hand, it provides hands-on experience with selected tools.

Contents

The course consists of a theoretical part and a practical part.

The theoretical part introduces
- the main concepts of computer-aided translation
- the functioning of translation memories and sentence alignment
- (parallel) corpora and corpus tools
- the functioning and usefulness of term banks, terminology management and terminology extraction tools
- standard formats for the exchange of term banks and translation memories
- the functioning of machine translation systems.

In the **practical part** students get hands-on experience with
- terminology extraction tools
- sentence alignment software
- translation memories
- concordance software + advanced search queries on the Internet
- machine translation

Initial competences

- Students are proficient in English.
- Students have an insight into grammatical structures.
- Students have good computer skills.
- Students have a keen interest in learning to work with new software tools

Final competences

1 Having basic knowledge and understanding in the field of translation technology
2 Having knowledge of relevant electronic resources, using them adequately and efficiently, and critically evaluating them
3 Assessing the usefulness of computer applications in the areas of translating and using them adequately

Conditions for credit contract

This course unit cannot be taken via a credit contract

Conditions for exam contract

This course unit cannot be taken via an exam contract

Teaching methods

Seminar, Lecture, Independent work

Extra information on the teaching methods

Theoretical part: lectures
Practical part: group sessions in the computer lab; independent work as preparation for the group sessions in the computer lab; independent work for assignments.

Students have to bring their own laptop to class.
The lectures will not be recorded.

Study material

Type: Syllabus

Name: Introduction to translation technology
Indicative price: € 10
Optional: no
Language : English

Type: Slides

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

Type: Software

Name: Wordfast Pro, YouAlign, SketchEngine, TermoStat, Online MT system and generative AI-system (e.g. Mistral AI Le Chat)
Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty
Optional: no
Online Available : Yes

References

- Andrew Rothwell, Joss Moorkens & Maria Fernández-Parra (2023) Translation tools and technologies (2023). Routledge
- Stefan Baumgarten and Michael Tieber (2025) The Routledge Handbook of Translation Technology and Society

Course content-related study coaching

Interactive support via UFORA and during the lectures. Individual and collective feedback during lectures, or via UFORA.

Assessment moments

end-of-term and continuous assessment

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

Written assessment

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

Written assessment

Examination methods in case of permanent assessment

Skills test, Participation

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment

examination during the second examination period is possible

Extra information on the examination methods

First examination period
Continuous assessment: Skill tests for practical part + class attendance and participation in class
End-of-term evaluation: Written examination for theoretical part
Second examination period
Written examination for both theoretical and practical part

Calculation of the examination mark

Theoretical part: 70%
Practical part: 30%
Second session:
Partial results can be transferred to the second examination period. The part for which the students passed does not need to be re-examined. Students have however the right to use the full second examination opportunity. The last obtained grades are then used to calculate the final mark.

Facilities for Working Students

Possible rescheduling of the examination to a different time in the same examination period
Limited possibility of feedback by e-mail, restricted to answering specific questions.