GHENT UNIVERSITY

Course Specifications

Valid as from the academic year 2026-2027

Literature and Criticism (A005366)

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

Credits 5.0 **Study time 150 h**

Course offerings in academic year 2027-2028

A (semester 1)	Dutch	Gent

Lecturers in academic year 2027-2028

Pieters, Jurgen	LW07	lecturer-in-charge
Dieleman, Luna	LW07	staff member

Offered in the following programmes in 2027-2028	**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 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 Art History, Musicology and Theatre Studies	5	A
Master of Arts in Comparative Modern Literature	5	A

Teaching languages

Dutch

Keywords

'creative criticism', literary criticism, art criticsm, the esay as literary genre, writing and editorial practices

Position of the course

'Crticism' is taken in this course in the English sense of the word: as the outcome of a writing practice in which an individual writer ('the critic'), on the basis of a personal, yet well-founded reflection on a literary text or an art object, and in a style and from a perspective that is suggestive of the personality of the critic, formulates a judgment ('krinein'). The judgment in question is not limited to the literary text or art work at hand, but is alo directed to larger issues that the critic means to discuss. In this tradition of essayistic reflection, the critical approach is often opposed to the scientific approach of the 'scholar'. While the latter approach is mainly targeted to the academic transfer of objective and factual knowledge, the critic's approach can be seen as an attempt to develop a personal point of view, developed in dialogue with the opinions of others.
In the course, students are first familiarized with the principles of this critical tradition, but then mainly invited to try and put these into practice. The course is for the most part conceived as a 'writing clinic': by means of a number of specific writing assignments, the students develop a personal essay which is seen as the course's final assignment. In the course of the series the students will receive thorough feedback, from both teachers and from their fellow students. After the completion of the course, students will be able (on a voluntary basis) to submit their work for publication in De Schrijftafel, the annual booklet that since the introduction of the courses serves as the 'home' publication of the programme Vergelijkende Moderne Letterkunde. A group of students serves as the editorial team of De Schrijftafel.

Contents

In the reading and discussion seminar a number of classical and contemporary essays (by, among others, Rachel Cusk, Susan Sontag, Maggie Nelson, Roland Barthes and Ben Lerner) are read and discussed.
In the course's 'writing clinic' the students are encouraged to develop their own writing samples into a final essay. The classes also serve as spaces where the students are editorial techniques.

Initial competences

Since this is a master's course, students are expected to have followed a number of bachelor's courses on literary and/or critical art theory.

Final competences

1 To acquire insight in the 20th century debates that have shaped our ideas of 'criticism'
2 -To be able to recognise and assess the central principles of critical discourse
3 To be able to analyse the rhetorical and argumentative structure of critical writings.
4 To be able to write a convincing critical text
5 To be able to formulate a personal evaluation on the basis of arguments.

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

This course unit cannot be taken via an exam contract

Teaching methods

Seminar, Independent work

Extra information on the teaching methods

seminar: 10u
writing clinic: 20u
autonomous work: 15u

given the workshop character of this course, no recordings are made of the sessions

Study material

Type: Reader

Name: Reader Creative Criticism
Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty
Optional: no
Available on Ufora : Yes

References

na

Course content-related study coaching

The professor and teaching assistant are available for further questions; they are in charge of the (permanent) supervision of the writing assessments.

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

Peer and/or self assessment, Assignment

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment

examination during the second examination period is possible

Extra information on the examination methods

Final essay
Writing portfolio (intermediate steps in the writing process of the final essay)

Calculation of the examination mark

Final essay 60%
Writing portfolio 40 %

Facilities for Working Students

1. Presence is required at the moment of supervision in the 'writing clinic'
2. A different exam moment within the academic year is possible
3. Possibility to get feedback by phone, e-mail, video-call