GHENT UNIVERSITY

Course Specifications

Valid as from the academic year 2026-2027

Theory of Literature II: Reading Theories (A005799)

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

Offered in the following programmes in 2027-2028	**crdts**	**offering**
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Dutch - English)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Dutch - French)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Dutch - German)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Dutch - Greek)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Dutch - Italian)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Dutch - Latin)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Dutch - Spanish)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Dutch - Swedish)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject English - German)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject English - Greek)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject English - Italian)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject English - Latin)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject English - Spanish)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject English - Swedish)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject French - English)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject French - German)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject French - Greek)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject French - Italian)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject French - Latin)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject French - Spanish)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject French - Swedish)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject German - Greek)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject German - Italian)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject German - Spanish)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject German - Swedish)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Latin - Greek)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Latin - Italian)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Latin - Spanish)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Latin - Swedish)	5	A
Linking Course Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Dutch)	5	A
Linking Course Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject English)	5	A
Linking Course Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject French)	5	A
Linking Course Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject German)	5	A
Linking Course Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Latin)	5	A
Preparatory Course Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Dutch)	5	A
Preparatory Course Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject English)	5	A
Preparatory Course Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject French)	5	A

Preparatory Course Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject German)	5	A
Preparatory Course Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Greek)	5	A
Preparatory Course Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Iberian-Romance Languages)	5	A
Preparatory Course Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Latin)	5	A
Preparatory Course Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Scandinavian Studies)	5	A
Preparatory Course Master of Arts in Comparative Modern Literature	5	A
Preparatory Course Master of Arts in Historical Linguistics and Literature	5	A
Elective Set Literature	5	A

Teaching languages

Dutch

Keywords

Theory of literature, general introduction

Position of the course

The course is structured as a survey of schools and methods of modern literary theory (1900-today). The students are given an introduction to the most important critics and conceptual developments that have shaped the field. Specific attention is paid to the impact of these development on the practice of reading. The course is directed to students who are writing their bachelor paper in literary studies. It is meant to foster methodological self-reflection and to encourage students to think through their choice for a methodological framework, by making them aware of the possibilities and limitations inherent in each of them.

Contents

The schools and methods that are dealt with, centrally, are: history of ideas, Russian formalism, New Criticism, Nouvelle critique/structuralism, deconstruction, reader response criticism, new historicism, postcolonial criticism. Contemporary methods as gender studies, digital humanities and cognitive approaches are also dealt with.

Initial competences

The students have taken the courses Introduction to the study of language and literature and Literary Theory I.

Final competences

1
2
3
4
5

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

Access to this course unit via an exam contract is unrestricted

Teaching methods

Lecture, Independent work

Extra information on the teaching methods

Lecture in which the student is expected to take notes complementary to the basic outline of the syllabus. Personal reading and processing of scholarly texts and essays, which are discussed in class.
The classes are recorded, the recording are open to all students enrolled in the course.

Study material

Type: Reader

Name: Reader Literary Theory 2
Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty
Optional: no
Available on Ufora : Yes

References

Course content-related study coaching

Specific questions can be asked during the lecturer's office hours.

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, based on a personal reading dossier that the students submit in writing beforehand

Calculation of the examination mark

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 is possible

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