GHENT UNIVERSITY

Course Specifications

Valid as from the academic year 2026-2027

Dutch Literature: Early Modern Dilemmas and Contemporary Debate (A006690)

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 2) Dutch Gent

Lecturers in academic year 2027-2028

van der Haven, Kornee	LW07	lecturer-in-charge

Offered in the following programmes in 2027-2028	**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)	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 Historical Linguistics and Literature	5	A
Exchange Programme Linguistics and Literature	5	A

Teaching languages

Dutch

Keywords

Literature, Dutch, Early Modern Period; landscape history, ecocriticism, topical debates

Position of the course

The course aims at gaining a more in-depth knowledge of early modern Dutch literature that students have aquired in the general overview in the bachelor-course Dutch Literature: Early Modern Period.

Contents

This course introduces students to a subfield of Dutch literary history, which will be discussed in relation to concepts from literary theory and philosophy and topical social questions. In a series of introductory lectures, students will be acquainted with a selection of literary texts from the 17th and 18th centuries. These include themes such as city and literature, colonial literature from a postcolonial perspective and ecocritical approaches to early modern nature poetry. The theme for 2026-2027 is: Man, Nature and Landscape in Early Modern Dutch Literature (1600–1800).
During the introductory lectures, we will take a look at the relevent historical context, followed by an examination of the characteristics of various genres featured in the course, such as drama, poetry, and the novel. Through the works of influential authors in the field of (post)colonial or ecocritical literary and cultural studies, different analytical frameworks will be introduced, which are crucial for studying the representation of the city, nature, or the colony in early modern Dutch literature. Students will be challenged to examine these works from various perspectives and engage in discussions with each other. Each student will present

one of these works to the group based on a hypothesis formulated from a literary-theoretical or (cultural) philosophical perspective and engage in debate with a fellow student.
This course also hones academic discussion skills through debates on the studied texts in light of current social and theoretical issues. The oral exam is not a mere test but a discussion with the teacher that aligns with the debate in class with fellow students.

Initial competences

On the basis of the preceding bachelor education, the student is familiar with the history of the different periods of Dutch literature and with the principles of literary theory. More concretely, this course builds on the final competences of the course 'Nederlandse Letterkunde III'.

Final competences

1 He/she should be able to investigate independently and critically a proposed subject on the basis of scholarly literature.
2 He/she should be able to discuss a historical text in relation to modern theoretical or philosophical concepts and topical social questions.
3 He/she should be able to explore alternative perspectives on a literary text based on alternative readings, setting up a proposition to investigate and also to provoke further discussion.
4 He/she should be able to report orally on the results of his/her personal investigation and to discuss these results with other students.

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, Lecture, Independent work

Extra information on the teaching methods

Recordings: The first parts of the lectures are recorded (not the seminars). Thse recordings are only made available upon request to working students and students with a special status.

Study material

None

References

The list with primary and theoretical texts will be announced at the start of the semester.

Course content-related study coaching

The teacher supports the students in the preparation and the execution of their tasks.

Assessment moments

end-of-term and continuous assessment

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

Oral assessment open-book

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

Examination methods in case of permanent assessment

Presentation

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment

examination during the second examination period is possible in modified form

Extra information on the examination methods

Presentation in class (50%) prepares students for the oral examination (50%)

Calculation of the examination mark

Periodical (50%): oral examination; and non-periodical (50%): presentation

Facilities for Working Students

1. Student attendance is required for the classes during which students are expected to give an oral presentations. For the other casses, exemptions are possible via digital teaching (recordings)
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