GHENT UNIVERSITY

# Course Specifications

Valid as from the academic year 2026-2027

## Dutch Linguistics: Multilingualism and Language Policy (A006695)

**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**

Ghyselen, Anne-Sophie LW06 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 |
| Exchange Programme Linguistics and Literature | 5 | A |

**Teaching languages**

Dutch

**Keywords**

Status of Dutch in Belgium/Flanders; Multilingualism; Globalization; Language & Identity; Language & Emancipation

**Position of the course**

The goal of this course is to provide students with insight into the changing status of the Dutch language in relation to other languages, within the context of globalization and the increasing share of 'non-native' speakers in the Flemish/Belgian population.

**IMPORTANT NOTE REGARDING PROGRAM REFORM:**

Students who have included the course *Dutch Linguistics III: Language Use* in their curriculum before the 2025-2026 academic year are not permitted to take the course *Dutch Linguistics: Multilingualism and Language Policy* (due to overlapping content).

**Contents**

With Belgian/Flemish language legislation, attempts have been made to prevent tensions between Dutch and French speakers from escalating. As a result, this legislation focuses almost exclusively on the relationship between Dutch and French. Meanwhile, in Belgium/Flanders, hundreds of thousands of people speak many other languages, either as their first or second language: the more prestigious English alongside Moroccan Arabic, Turkish, Polish, etc. What does this mean for the position of Dutch in Flanders and Brussels? Should Dutch be further protected against these "foreign" languages? Or should the legislation create more room for the use of these "new" languages in education, administration, etc.? Possible subthemes: Belgian language legislation / Flemish language decrees; domain loss; ELF - English as a Lingua Franca; English as a third administrative

language; European language/language policy; French in Flanders; multilingualism; Dutch as part of an integration process; Dutch / Dutch-language education in Brussels; language and emancipation; language and identity; language censuses; territoriality principle vs personality principle.

**Initial competences**

basic knowledge of the Dutch language system and use (cf. Bachelor)

**Final competences**

1 Students can explain the Belgian/Flemish language legislation.
2 Students can demonstrate how the Belgian/Flemish language legislation is the result of specific time- and context-bound tensions between the Dutch-speaking and French-speaking communities.
3 Students can define and identify different forms of societal and individual multilingualism.
4 Students can acquire knowledge about the status of other languages in Belgium/Flanders (number of speakers, domains of use, etc.) based on a critical analysis of sources.
5 Students can explain the factors that have led to significant changes in the linguistic landscape of Belgium/Flanders in recent decades.
6 Students can outline the challenges posed by the new linguistic landscape and reflect on the role that language policy plays in this context.
7 Students are able to distinguish the principles that guide people's views in the debate on how to manage multilingualism: language as a 'marker of identity', language as a 'signal of the intention to integrate', the 'territoriality principle' versus 'individual language freedom', etc.
8 Students are able to compare the Belgian/Flemish linguistic situation with that of other countries/regions in order to highlight both the unique and the general aspects of the Belgian language situation.

**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**

- Students read articles in advance that will be further explored during the seminars;
- Students compile their own portfolio of media articles on the various topics covered in the course.
- The classes are recorded, but are only made available to students with a valid reason for not attending the lectures.

**Study material**

Type: Slides

Name: Power point presentations
Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty
Optional: no
Language : Dutch
Available on Ufora : Yes

Type: Reader

Name: Multilingualism and language policy in Flanders
Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty
Optional: no
Language : Dutch
Available on Ufora : Yes
Online Available : Yes
Available in the Library : No
Available through Student Association : No

**References**

**Course content-related study coaching**

Via Ufora, or personally via email.

**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**

The oral exam covers the material from the seminars, and students provide an explanation of their portfolio.

**Calculation of the examination mark**

Oral exam: 100%
In all courses, Dutch students are expected to further develop their competencies in reading, listening, writing, and speaking skills through lesson preparation, during lessons, when giving presentations, writing papers, or taking oral or written exams.
Therefore, in this course, the evaluation also expects a level of language proficiency that corresponds to the position of the course in the curriculum.

**Facilities for Working Students**

1 Attendance in the seminars is strongly recommended, but not mandatory. For working students, class recordings may be provided.
2 Possibility to take the exam at a different time within the academic year.
3 Possibility for feedback by appointment.
For more information on flexible studying: http://www.flw.ugent.be/flexibelstuderen