

## Topics in the Advanced Study of German Literature: Narratology and Rhetorics (A000686)

**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 2023-2024

A (semester 1)

German

Gent

seminar

independent work

### Lecturers in academic year 2023-2024

Benzing, Carolin Juliane

LW07

staff member

Gilson, Elke

LW07

lecturer-in-charge

### Offered in the following programmes in 2023-2024

	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 - German)	5	A
Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject English - German)	5	A
Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject French - German)	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
Exchange Programme Linguistics and Literature	5	A

### Teaching languages

German

### Keywords

German literature, Narratology, Rhetoric, Figural Speech, Literary Canon, Interdisciplinarity, societal questions

### Position of the course

At the start of the MA-programme, students use literary analytical methods and tools in an independent manner. Now, time has come to earn the skill not only to execute research, but also to supervise and assess it. This is the main objective of this course.

This course can be taking up by (advanced) exchange students.

### Contents

This course particularly deals with the advanced analysis of narrative and rhetorical processes (and the interaction between both) in literary texts from the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries in German. The emphasis lies on unconventional narration, i.e. a type of narrating that does not rely on the sovereignty of the narrator (indirect, involuntary narration, narration under the surface, invisible narration). Starting from a specific thematic or genological connection between texts from different contexts of literary history, to which a relevant or historically important societal question is linked (e.g. poverty and inequality, animals and animal rights, normativity and deviance; the life cycle, gender relations; modernity and alienation; labour and Bildung; illness and death; refugees and migration). By means of reading and dialogue with specialists from relevant fields of expertise, we engage in a multidisciplinary approach. If possible, we discuss a canonical work (such as Manns *Zauberberg*, Musils *Mann ohne Eigenschaften*, or Grass' *Die Blechtrommel*). The advanced aim of the course is to evaluate current

narratological and rhetorical models on the basis of the concrete results of research, both from a micrological and a macrological perspective. Goal of the course is to enable students not only to perform their analysis, but to evaluate (metareflexively) their own analytic practice as well. A second goal is to train transferable skills (community service learning): to deliver a (formal) speech, to lead a discussion, to establish a consensus, to report on the results of a discussion, to motivate an assessment, to display literary sensitivity in a non-literary setting. A compulsory part of the course is the BONUS-program, in which students use their literary skills outside the curriculum and to report on that. When assessed positively, this is rewarded with a BONUS-point; those who do not go through this program (satisfactorily), will lose a point of their intermediate mark. The reading list of this course will be announced well before the start of the semester via the UGent electronic learning platform.

### Initial competences

Learning results achieved in the Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature:  
German

### Final competences

- 1 to have a profound insight into the methods and models of narratology and rhetorics
- 2 to be able to report on the results of individual research orally and in writing
- 3 to have profound familiarity with the German literary tradition
- 4 to have profound a insight into the specifics of literary communication.
- 5 to be able to organise and guide consultation within a small team by making use of analytical tools from literary studies ("entrepreneurial humanities")
- 6 To be able to go into scholarly findings of adjacent scholarly fields of expertise with respect to a central societal question and to be able to go into a dialogue with specialists in those fields.
- 7 To be able to establish links between the texts discussed in the seminar and literary practices in other languages, media and areas.

### 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

Seminar, Practical, Independent work, Peer teaching

### Extra information on the teaching methods

Seminar (22.5h): under the supervision of the lecturer the students work up the details of rhetorical and narratological analysis; they discuss and evaluate research results.

Peer teaching (7.5h): students individually present their research findings about a text and hereby make use of the format of a formal speech.

Independent work (15h): the students perform the research activities necessary for writing a paper. The students go through a glossary of specialized rhetorical and narratological concepts (with case studies).

Practicum: The students gain field work experience and document it in a creative way.

### Learning materials and price

literary historical surveys and fotocopies, reading list cost: € 50.00

The exact reading list will be made public via Ufora. The titles depend on the central topic of the seminar.

A copy of the primary texts and secondary literature can be consulted in the Faculty Library.

### References

Lahn, Silke & Meister, Jan Christoph: *Einführung in die Erzähltextanalyse* (Metzler)  
ISBN: 978-3-476-02226-4 XI, 311 S. – 19,95 Eur  
Beutin, Wolfgang: *Deutsche Literaturgeschichte. Von den Anfängen bis zur Gegenwart* (Metzler, J B) ISBN: 978-3-476-02247-9 XIII, 761 S. – 29,95 Eur

**Course content-related study coaching**

collective and individual tutoring

**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**

Oral assessment, Participation, Peer and/or self assessment, Assignment

**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**

Students prepare and deliver a speech, which clearly shows that their insights have been reflected upon thoroughly. If two students wish to do so, they can deliver a speech together

They lead and supervise a debat about one of the speeches: participation of all students, balanced input, to obtain a progress within the debate and to find a consensus, to go into discussion points more deeply.

They take part in the discussion by means of questions and critical remarks.

They write an essay, in which they express a metareflexive point of view.

They defend their essay against critical remarks or elaborate upon their views.

They discuss one item out of their glossary.

Reaching the desired level of language proficiency is part of the learning competences of this course. This proficiency is supported by feedback on writing and speaking tasks by self-study, and by self-testing at the start and at the end of the semester.

**Calculation of the examination mark**

Speech: 30%

Leading the discussion: 10%

Participation: 10%

Essay: 25%

Oral exam: 25%

Students who finish the bonusprogram with a positive evaluation, get one extra point; in case students do not finish the bonusprogram with a positive evaluation, they can lose up to one point for the final mark.

**Facilities for Working Students**

Facilities:

1 Although attendance is highly desirable, working students may be exempted from attendance. Students can make use of extra learning materials on Ufora or of recordings of classes to reach the course goals. For those classes where active participation is evaluated (e.g., tutorials), you will need to complete a substitute task that demonstrates your attainment of the intended competencies. The substitute task will be communicated to you by the instructors.

2 The exam can be scheduled at a different time within the academic year.

3 You can receive feedback at times other than those designated, preferably through conversations (on campus or online), both during and after office hours, or via email.

For all information, please contact the responsible instructor or one of the co-instructors.

Extra information: During the semester there are 6 sessions for scientific dialogue.

Participation to 2 is indispensable. For the remaining 4, a taks in substitution can be imposed (2 respons papers and 2 scientific articles).

For general information on flexible paths contact the monitoring service of the faculty of Arts and Philosophy: <https://www.ugent.be/lw/nl/student/studiestudentenbegeleiding/trajectbegeleiding.htm>

