

Literature and Society (A000895)

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 2025-2026

A (semester 1)	Dutch	Gent	independent work lecture
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Lecturers in academic year 2025-2026

Keunen, Bart

Offered in the following programmes in 2025-2026

Master of Science in Teaching in Languages(main subject Linguistics and Literature)	5	A
Master of Science in Teaching in Social Sciences(main subject Sociology)	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 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 Linguistics and Literature(main subject Scandinavian Studies)	5	A
Master of Arts in Art History, Musicology and Theatre Studies	5	A
Master of Arts in Comparative Modern Literature	5	A
Master of Science in Sociology	5	A

Teaching languages

Dutch

Keywords

literary sociology, comparative literature, sociology of literature, cultural theory

Position of the course

This course situates literary phenomena in their social context and investigates their interaction in the course of the past two centuries. The culture sociological condition of modernity will be accentuated.

Contents

Four related issues are at stake:

- Introduction to the cultural condition of modernity, illustrated by means of literary phenomena
- (critique of) phantasmagoria and literature
- (critique of) ideology and literature
- (critique of) ideology and literature

Initial competences

The student is conversant with the fundamental issues in literary theory and comparative literature, as well as with the concrete analysis of literary texts and the historical function of literary traditions, based on his or her knowledge of one or two national literatures.

Final competences

- 1 The student acquires advanced expertise in comparative literature, particularly in sociology of literature, literary sociology, and literary and cultural history
- 2 The student is able to deal more critically with publications in the mentioned fields
- 3 The student is able to analyse independently the relation between literary works and social phenomena
- 4 The student is better acquainted with the cultural specificity of literature and is able to relate literature and its study to other academic disciplines such as sociology, history and philosophy.
- 5 The student gains a better understanding of the cultural historical and culture sociological role of modern literature, which ideally leads to a richer reading of literary texts.
- 6 The student betters her/his ability to communicate complex literary theoretical and culture theoretical issues.

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

Study material

None

References

Bart Keunen, "Ik en de stad: fantasmagorie-, ideologie- en utopiekritiek in literatuur en cultuur (1800-2010)", Gent: Academia Press, 2016.

Course content-related study coaching

Lectures and interactive moments with room for questions and discussions.

Assessment moments

end-of-term assessment

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

Oral assessment, Assignment

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

Calculation of the examination mark

100% end-of-term evaluation

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. Feedback can be given by email, telephone or during an appointment during office hours

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