

Theory and Praxis of Discourse Analysis (A000935)

Course size *(nominal values; actual values may depend on programme)*

Credits 6.0 **Study time 180 h**

Course offerings and teaching methods in academic year 2026-2027

A (semester 2)	English	Gent	lecture
			independent work

Lecturers in academic year 2026-2027

Slembrouck, Stef	LW06	lecturer-in-charge
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Offered in the following programmes in 2026-2027	crdts	offering
Master of Arts in Advanced Studies in Linguistics (main subject Linguistics in a Comparative Perspective)	6	A
Master of Arts in Advanced Studies in Linguistics (main subject Natural Language Processing: Theory and Practice)	6	A

Teaching languages

English

Keywords

Discourse analysis, language in society, interdisciplinary approach.

Position of the course

This course offers insight into the field of the discourse analytical practice as an area of tension between linguistic research and problem-oriented social research in which linguistic matters are central.

Contents

Following questions are dealt with in the course:

What is "discourse" and what is "discourse analysis"? Which aspects do the various traditions emphasize (advantages and disadvantages, interdisciplinary origin and connections, prevalent research practice) and how do they deal with following themes:

- the "social character of language use" and the "linguistic character of the social"
- the tension between the "micro" and the "macro" as a problem of description, interpretation and explanation
- the problem of "structuring" (social structure and individual agency)
- what is "context" and what is its relation to the "text"?
- the connections between situated discourse forms, technologies of power exercise and ideology
- the problem of "the (scientific) truth".

Initial competences

To have successfully completed the Master in Language and Literature or comparable master programmes with a linguistic-scientific basis.

Final competences

- 1 To be able to interpret and apply discourse analytical concepts.
- 2 To develop a critical understanding of scientific publications and developments in the field.
- 3 To be able to draw up a discourse analysis on the basis of self-collected and transcribed linguistic data.
- 4 To have an insight in the connections between micro analytical observations and historical-methodological concerns.

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

Lecture, Independent work

Extra information on the teaching methods

- Lecture: exploration of theoretical concepts and literature.
- Project: individual project activities with personalised coaching from the lecturer + feedback from fellow students during or after the teaching sessions or via Minerva.
- Fieldwork: observation and registration of social interaction in situated contexts on the basis of analytical methods discussed in class.
- Self-reliant study activities: analysis of self-collected data materials and preparation of oral presentation and paper + reading (ahead of time) of articles and chapters discussed in class.

Study material

None

References

To be provided in class and made available on-line.

Course content-related study coaching

- Individual coaching in class.
- Exchange of ideas on the internet forum.
- Office hours.

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, Assignment

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment

examination during the second examination period is possible

Extra information on the examination methods

- Oral exam: students present their 'work in progress' (paper presentation in class).
- Essay: students develop their oral presentation (and feedback from lecturer and fellow students) into a written essay.

Calculation of the examination mark

- Oral presentation: 30%
- Written assessment: 70%

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