

## Theory of Literature (A001045)

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

**Credits 5.0**

**Study time 150 h**

**Course offerings in academic year 2025-2026**

**Lecturers in academic year 2025-2026**

De Temmerman, Koen

LW07

lecturer-in-charge

Keunen, Bart

LW07

co-lecturer

**Offered in the following programmes in 2025-2026**

**crdts**

**offering**

**Teaching languages**

Dutch

**Keywords**

General and comparative literature

**Position of the course**

ALW builds on and deepens two Ba1-courses: *Europese Talen in Contact* partim Letterkunde en *Inleiding tot de voornaamste moderne literaturen*. The course aims to familiarise students with concepts and issues central to the literary-theoretical and comparative study of literary texts from different periods, genres and regions. This course corresponds to the aims of the different curricula, particularly those of a bachelor in literature.

**Contents**

A survey of the concepts and issues central to the comparative study of literature from different periods, genres or regions.

Part 1 is both a theoretical-conceptual and a literary-historical exploration of the concept of fiction and related concepts throughout European narrative literature.

Part 2 emphasises the comparative study of narrative genres from a historical perspective (tragedy, adventure stories, novel of emergence and idyll in their historical manifestations and in their aftereffects on contemporary popular narrative culture).

**Initial competences**

Knowledge of the terminology of literary analysis.

**Final competences**

- 1 To have a sound, scholarly understanding of the specific characteristics of literary texts.
- 2 To be able to implement various methods of analysis for the study of narratives.
- 3 To be able to explain the use of various methods of analysis in a broad historical, social, cultural, and philosophical context.
- 4 To be able to enter more advanced courses in the Master Comparative Literature and the language-specific masters.
- 5 To be able to reflect critically about the connections between texts from various periods, genres, 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**

Lecture, Independent work

**Extra information on the teaching methods**

Lectures, in which students are supposed to take notes. Personal reading of and critical reflection about the literary works on the reading list.

**Study material**

Type: Slides

Name: Powerpoint slides ALW I  
Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty  
Optional: no  
Language : Dutch  
Number of Slides : 500  
Available on Ufora : Yes  
Online Available : No  
Available in the Library : No

Type: Reader

Name: Secondary literature  
Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty  
Optional: no  
Language : English  
Number of Pages : 100  
Available on Ufora : Yes  
Online Available : No  
Available in the Library : Yes  
Available through Student Association : No  
Additional information: Most articles are in English; one or two are in French.

Type: Reader

Name: Primary texts  
Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty  
Optional: no  
Language : Dutch  
Number of Pages : 500  
Available on Ufora : No  
Online Available : No  
Available in the Library : Yes  
Available through Student Association : No  
Additional information: Students can either purchase the books (price approximately 100 EUR) or borrow them from the/a library. For each book an edition is suggested during the first class.

**References**

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**Course content-related study coaching**

Specific questions can be asked during the lecturer's office hours.

**Assessment moments**

end-of-term assessment

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

Written assessment with multiple-choice questions

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

Written assessment with multiple-choice questions

**Examination methods in case of permanent assessment****Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment**

not applicable

**Extra information on the examination methods**

#### *Assessment form*

Final written exam in the examination period. This exam tests the knowledge of the student about the content of the course through multiple-choice questions about both the lectures and the application of the theoretical concepts.

#### **Calculation of the examination mark**

Periodical (100%): 40% Partim I, 40% Partim II, 20% Reading Primary texts. An insufficient score on one of the two Partims automatically results in an insufficient score for the whole course.

#### **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