

**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**

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

**crdts**

**offering**

## Teaching languages

English

## Keywords

The oldest documented Germanic language

## Position of the course

A first introduction to Gothic

## Contents

After an introduction into the (cultural-)historical background, the course focuses on the Gothic language and the linguistic analysis thereof. The Gothic texts, among which the famous Bible translation by Ulfila, are the oldest extant texts in any Germanic language. Gothic is therefore of eminent importance for the study of other older Germanic languages.

## Initial competences

To have completed the Bachelorprogramme Linguistics & Literature (two languages), or to have acquired the respective competences by other means. Acquaintance with (basic) linguistic terminology is expected.

**Important:** Gothic is a dead language from late Antiquity, comparable to Latin or Greek. Previous knowledge of a classical language is not required, but may be helpful in case of absence of previous knowledge of (historical stages of) a Germanic language (English, Dutch, German, Scandinavian languages) or historical stages of another Indoeuropean language.

## Final competences

- 1 Overview over the synchronic and historical grammar of Gothic
- 2 To describe the history of the language and the text types of Gothic
- 3 To place the linguistic features of Gothic within the context of the other Germanic (and Indoeuropean) languages
- 4 Basic reading competency for understanding also texts not discussed during the course concerning their historical context and transmission

## 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

**Extra information on the teaching methods**

75 min of lecture weekly, in which the grammar of Gothic and the scientific discussion regarding its analysis is presented.

75 min of classroom exercises working on and discussing individually prepared Gothic texts.

**Study material**

Type: Reader

Name: Reader with articles

Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty

Optional: yes

Available on Ufora : Yes

Additional information: Scientific articles will be made available as background reading via Ufora

Type: Handouts

Name: handouts

Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty

Optional: no

Language : English

Available on Ufora : Yes

**References**

Miller, D. Gary. 2019. [The Oxford Gothic grammar](#). Oxford: Oxford University Press.

**Course content-related study coaching**

Consultation hours

**Assessment moments**

end-of-term assessment

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

Written assessment

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

Written assessment

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

not applicable

**Extra information on the examination methods**

written exam (translation of a text (Gothic>English), transcription, grammar etc.)

**Calculation of the examination mark**

100% written exam

**Facilities for Working Students**

1. Students can be excused from attending lectures.
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 (<https://www.ugent.be/student/nl/administratie/flexibel-studeren>)