

## German Literature III (A001315)

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

**Credits 5.0** **Study time 150 h**

**Course offerings in academic year 2026-2027**

**Lecturers in academic year 2026-2027**

Benzing, Carolin Juliane	LW07	staff member
Biebuyck, Benjamin	LW07	lecturer-in-charge

**Offered in the following programmes in 2026-2027**

**crdts** **offering**

**Teaching languages**

German

**Keywords**

German, literary studies, setting a problem within literary studies; advanced prose-analysis; digital tools

**Position of the course**

The students have absolved the first courses of German Literature and Literary Theory; now they are ready to apply their skills as literary scholar on a more advanced level. It is time for a strong focus on an approach in which students autonomously search for, articulate and solve literary questions the relevance of which the students can demonstrate themselves, and hereby engage in a dialogue with the available secondary literature.

This course can be taken up by exchange students; the assignments can be adapted to the requirements of their home university.

**Contents**

The aim of this seminar is to sharpen the analytical skills of the participants in the field of (narrative) prose - as will be the case in the third bachelor year with respect to poetry and drama. Practical case-studies from German literature are investigated (from 18C until now, with a strong focus on the past century). General outlook is the analysis of short prose (short stories, novellas, short novels, etc.). Central questions are: how to detect and to define a literary problem? how to demonstrate its relevance? how to elaborate upon it systematically and to find a plausible solution? how to integrate relevant sources in the argumentation? how to determine the research method in interaction with the literary text? After four initial seminar sessions, students are expected to deliver an individual oral presentation (30 minutes), to write a paper (4000 words) and to participate actively in the group discussions, led by the instructor. Preparations of the presentation can be discussed with the instructor; a test version of the paper can be handed in and discussed; participation in the discussion is followed up by means of "Zuhörerpapieren". Thus, students have many opportunities to enhance their analytical skills as well as their language proficiency.

Part of this seminar is a series of tutorials, in which students can exercise their analytical skills under supervision of a lecturer; in this context, we also explore more complex digital skills. Participation in these tutorials is highly recommended. Students also have to do a (digital) self-assessment at the beginning and at the end of the semester. Finally, they hand in a short statement with a historical narrative focus at the end of the semester. When assessed positively, this leads to

a BONUS-point; students who do not take part in these activities, get a negative score of 0.5.

The reading list of this course will be announced well before the start of the semester via the UGent electronic learning platform.

### Initial competences

To have successfully completed the course German literature I or to have acquired the necessary skills by other means.

### Final competences

- 1 To be able to apply an advanced knowledge of German (reading: in-depth reading, with detection of complex textual processes; speaking: advanced proficiency, both prepared and in spontaneous settings; listening: on mother tongue level; writing: advanced proficiency, in particular in prepared settings).
- 2 To be able to apply an advanced knowledge of German literary traditions while analysing literary texts and situating them in a historical and stylistic context.
- 3 To be able to put the tools of analysis on an advanced level into practice.
- 4 To be able to study a case systematically and argumentatively and to write a structured report.
- 5 To be able to approach a literary text (narrative prose) from a problem setting perspective and to follow up on this in a project-designed manner (incl. planning).
- 6 To engage in a case-driven dialogue with secondary literature.
- 7 To make use of digital tools for text analysis in a self-reflexive manner.

### 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, Practical, Independent work

### Extra information on the teaching methods

Seminar (30h)  
geleide zelfstudie (7.5h)  
Practicum (Tutorium; 7.5h)

### Study material

Type: Handbook

Name: Einführung in die Erzähltextanalyse (Metzler) ISBN: 978-3-476-02226-4 XI, 311 S. – 19,95 Eur or a more recent version  
Indicative price: € 20  
Optional: no  
Language : Other  
Author : Silke Lahn and Jan Christoph Meister  
ISBN : 978-3-47602-226-4  
Number of Pages : 323  
Oldest Usable Edition : 2016  
Online Available : No  
Available in the Library : Yes  
Available through Student Association : Yes  
Usability and Lifetime within the Course Unit : regularly  
Usability and Lifetime within the Study Programme : regularly  
Usability and Lifetime after the Study Programme : occasionally  
Additional information: We use this handbook in the German Literature programma from the second year onward.

Type: Handbook

Name: Deutsche Literaturgeschichte. Von den Anfängen bis zur Gegenwart (Metzler, J B)  
Indicative price: € 30  
Optional: no  
Language : Other  
Author : Beutin, Wolfgang  
ISBN : 978-3-47602-247-9

Number of Pages : 761  
Oldest Usable Edition : 7 (2008)  
Online Available : No  
Available in the Library : Yes  
Available through Student Association : Yes  
Usability and Lifetime within the Course Unit : regularly  
Usability and Lifetime within the Study Programme : regularly  
Usability and Lifetime after the Study Programme : occasionally  
Additional information: We use this literary history as reference in the German Literature programme from the second year onward.

## References

Lahn, Silke & Meister, Jan Christoph: *Einführung in die Erzähltextanalyse* (Metzler)  
ISBN: 978-3-476-02226-4 XI, 311 S. – 19,95 Eur of een recentere versie  
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 of een recentere versie

## Course content-related study coaching

individual and group tutoring; participants get advice while preparing their presentation and can hand in a test version of their paper. There are also individual feedbacksessions about the presentations, papers and participation.  
In the tutorials we deal a.o. with debating skills and digital text analyse tools.

## Assessment moments

end-of-term and continuous assessment

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

Oral assessment

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

Oral assessment

## 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

## Extra information on the examination methods

### *Assessment form*

Writing, speaking and listening exercise for the non-periodical evaluation.

Oral exam with one question on the paper and one question about the theoretical background of the seminar.

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

Post-sessional assessment: oral exam (20%) and paper (40%)

In-sessional assessment: continuous assessment (20% presentation and 20% participation/Zuhörerpapieren)

(If a student does not pass the post-sessional evaluation, a second chance is offered by means of a compensatory activity between the first and second exam period.)

Participation in the tutorials, doing the self-assessment tests and handing in a historical-narratological statement is rewarded with a bonus point; those who do not do this, will have a 0.5 minuspoint added to their intermediate mark.

## Facilities for Working Students

Engelse versie: Facilities for working students:

1 Although attendance is highly desirable, working students may be exempted from attendance. 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 additional information, please contact the responsible instructor or one of the co-instructors.

Extra information:

Student attendance of all classes containing referaten and discussions is required.

Students who fail to attend, will be expected to hand in an alternative assignment on the basis of the video recordings or alternative secondary literature.

For more information contact the monitoring service of the faculty of Arts and philosophy: [https://www.ugent.](https://www.ugent.be/lw/nl/student/studiestudentenbegeleiding/trajectbegeleiding.htm)

[be/lw/nl/student/studiestudentenbegeleiding/trajectbegeleiding.htm](https://www.ugent.be/lw/nl/student/studiestudentenbegeleiding/trajectbegeleiding.htm)