

Topics in the Advanced Study of German Literature: Text Analysis and Interpretation (A001690)

Course size	<i>(nominal values; actual values may depend on programme)</i>		
Credits 5.0	Study time 150 h	Contact hrs	45.0 h

Course offerings and teaching methods in academic year 2023-2024

A (semester 2)	German	Gent	seminar independent work
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Lecturers in academic year 2023-2024

Van der Gucht, Liselotte	LW07	staff member
Martens, Gunther	LW07	lecturer-in-charge

Offered in the following programmes in 2023-2024

	crdts	offering
Master of Science in Teaching in Languages (main subject Linguistics and Literature)	5	A
Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature (main subject Dutch - German)	5	A
Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature (main subject English - German)	5	A
Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature (main subject French - German)	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
Exchange Programme Linguistics and Literature	5	A

Teaching languages

German

Keywords

textual analysis, critical reflection, problem solving, hermeneutics, philology, structuralism, post-structuralism,

Position of the course

- to obtain a profound insight into ideology critical and text-strategic processes in literary texts in German
- excellent mastery of the skills needed to perform textual analysis and interpretation of literary texts in German
- to be able to contribute to the scientific study of literary texts in German in a creative way
- excellent knowledge of German

Contents

This course discusses current methodologies in literary studies and their relation to classical literary-theoretical approaches. The topics are closely connected to the research done in the Research Unit German Literature. Older (18th century) or contemporary (postmodern) texts with a specific thematic, genealogical or historical dimension are analysed and interpreted, focusing on their ideological and text-strategic features. In this way, various topics (such as the representation of paedagogical projects in the 18th century, the concept of "Europe" in 20th

century German literature or the postmodern pseudo-historical novel, etc.) are brought into focus. The analyses are embedded in a theoretical discussion about the current position and practice of Hermeneutics and Interpretation in literary theory. The choices made with respect to theme, problem field and text, assure that a historical and chronological profile of German literature is offered.

The overarching topic of the seminar changes every year and will be definitively communicated to the students together with the reading list on Ufora at the beginning of the academic year. Previous topics include 'Selbstdarstellung in der Literatur' and 'Starke Frauen'. The expected topic for the academic year 2019-2020 will be 'Studentengeschichten', which will deal with literary texts that focus on the experience as student (e.g. Franz Werfel's *Der Abituriententag* of Robert Walser's *Fritz Kochers Aufsätze*) and will analyse their pedagogical and societal ideologies.

Initial competences

Bachelor of Arts Linguistics and Literature. German literature V. Or having acquired otherwise the competences involved in this course.

Final competences

- 1 To have a profound insight into the methods and models of (new) hermeneutics, critical theory, and text interpretation
- 2 To be able to report in German on the results of individual research orally and in writing
- 3 To have profound familiarity with the German literary tradition
- 4 Achieving an adequate level of language proficiency is one of the explicit end competencies of this course. This proficiency will be supported by means of feedback on written assignments, self study and self examination at the beginning and the end of each semester.
- 5 Independently compare, select, use responsibly, and critically evaluate digital analysis methods to perform analyses (content, network, relational, spatial, structural, or stylistic).

Conditions for credit contract

Access to this course unit via a credit contract is determined after successful competences assessment

Conditions for exam contract

Access to this course unit via an exam contract is unrestricted

Teaching methods

Seminar, self-reliant study activities

Extra information on the teaching methods

Seminar (22.5h): under the supervision of the lecturer the students work acquaint themselves with an advanced research problem pertaining to the study of German literature; they discuss and evaluate research results.

Teamwork (15h): students present in small groups their joint research findings about a text (group presentation of 60 minutes)

Independent work (7,5h): the students perform the research activities necessary for the presentation.

Learning materials and price

A reader will be put at the disposition of the students. The use of the literary historical surveys is strongly recommenden. Photocopies, reading list. Cost: ca. 50 EUR

References

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Course content-related study coaching

lecturer
collective and individual coaching

Evaluation methods

end-of-term and continuous assessment

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

Oral examination

Examination methods in case of periodic evaluation during the second examination period

Oral examination

Examination methods in case of permanent evaluation

Participation

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent evaluation

examination during the second examination period is possible in modified form

Extra information on the examination methods

Permanent evaluation (group presentations, participation of the students) and an oral exam.

Calculation of the examination mark

Group presentation: 30%

Essay: 30%

Participation: 10%

Oral exam: 30%

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