

Narratology and Discourse Analysis (A004001)

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

Credits 5.0

Study time 150 h

Course offerings and teaching methods in academic year 2026-2027

A (semester 1)

Dutch

Gent

seminar

independent work

lecture

Lecturers in academic year 2026-2027

Belaen, Johan

LW03

staff member

Bevernage, Berber

LW03

lecturer-in-charge

De Gussem, Jeroen

LW03

co-lecturer

Deploige, Jeroen

LW03

co-lecturer

Offered in the following programmes in 2026-2027

[Bachelor of Arts in History](#)

crdts 5

offering A

[Elective Set Literature](#)

5

A

Teaching languages

Dutch

Keywords

narratology, discourse analysis, narrativism, linguistic turn, textual analysis, historical methods

Position of the course

Introduction to the application of methods derived from narratology and discourse analysis in the interpretation of historical sources.

Contents

This course consists of two subsequent modules.

In the module "narratology" we will focus on a number of different methods to analyse narrative sources (both non-fictional sources such as chronicles, diaries, media reports, witnesses of asylum seekers... and fictional stories such as fairy tales, exempla, urban legends...). We will look at the possibilities that theories by specialists such as Auerbach, Bakhtin, Ricoeur, Bremond, Bal, Blommaert... can offer to historical research by confronting them with specific examples of historical narratives (dating from Antiquity till today).

The module "discourse analysis" will offer a closer look at working with language and text in historical research. We will not approach the effects of the linguistic turn from a theoretical perspective, but analyse methodological possibilities offered to historians. Insights from semiotics and discourse analysis will help us to study political language in a number of specific texts.

Initial competences

Students have a good understanding of historical criticism.

Students are capable of reading and understanding texts in different languages (Dutch, English, French).

Final competences

1 To have basic knowledge of models from the social and historical sciences including sociology, philosophy, literary sciences, law, political sciences, communication sciences and economics

- 2 Understanding historical methods
- 3 Being able to write out a simple historical research strategy in the form of a step-by-step plan
- 4 Being able to critically apply quantitative and qualitative methods and techniques
- 5 Being able to justify a heuristic method and historical bibliographic research according to scientific criteria
- 6 Possess an inquisitive attitude with a sense for historical criticism and creativity, as well as an attitude of lifelong learning
- 7 Approach a problem from multiple perspectives
- 8 Evaluate social problems and contemporary attitudes critically and in their historical contexts
- 9 To demonstrate cultural sensitivity, respect for diversity and the ability to reflect on continuity and change in a long-term perspective.
- 10 Understanding of the functioning of related human and social sciences
- 11 To be able to use digital methods for project collaboration in one or more phases of a research process
- 12 Understanding the ways in which the digital turn affects the nature, origin, distribution, (re)use, manipulation and findability of digitised or born-digital sources
- 13 Using digital methods to collect and manage analogue and digital research objects in a structured way

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

Seminar, Lecture, Independent work

Extra information on the teaching methods

Lecture: in which students are expected to take additional notes on provided study material.

Guided self-study: students must independently process a number of texts (the reading list).

Tutorial whereby we collectively analyse texts with the opportunity for discussion.

No lesson recordings available.

Study material

Type: Reader

Name: Reader Narratology and Discourse analysis (pdf)

Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty

Optional: no

Available on Ufora : Yes

Online Available : Yes

Type: Software

Name: MAXQDA

Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty

Optional: no

Available on Athena : Yes

Online Available : Yes

References

Course content-related study coaching

A tutor will provide support for the individual assignments.

Additional support and feedback can also be obtained via email or MS Teams.

Assessment moments

end-of-term and continuous assessment

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

Oral assessment, Written assessment

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

Oral assessment, Written assessment

Examination methods in case of permanent assessment

Participation, Assignment

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment

examination during the second examination period is possible

Extra information on the examination methods

Participation in the lessons is obligatory due to the nature of the seminars.

For both partims, an individual short paper has to be made, whereby oral clarification can be asked.

Calculation of the examination mark

25% assignment Narratologie

25% exam Narratologie

25% assignemt Discoursanalyse

25% exam Discoursanalyse

For each of the two partims (Narratology and Discourse Analysis) at least a passing grade needs to be obtained to be globally successful.

Otherwise, a maximum of 8/20 can be obtained for this course unit, regardless of the mathematical result.