

Master's Dissertation (A004508)

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

Credits 15.0 **Study time** 450 h

Course offerings and teaching methods in academic year 2026-2027

A (Year)	Dutch	Gent	master's dissertation
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Lecturers in academic year 2026-2027

Janssen, Caroline	LW21	lecturer-in-charge
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Offered in the following programmes in 2026-2027

Master of Arts in Comparative Modern Literature	crdts	offering
	15	A

Teaching languages

Dutch

Keywords

Research report, research methods, research techniques

Position of the course

In this advanced subject the student is asked to demonstrate the mastery of a selection of final curricular competencies by writing a Master's dissertation of approximately 20,000 words (excluding the bibliography) and an oral defence, to complete the MA studies. Those competencies include being able to think and act in a scientific way, being able to apply research methods and techniques in an advanced setting, under the guidance of a promotor, and being able to report about one's own research to the profession.

The Master's dissertation is the final proof of the Master program and covers the learning outcomes 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4, 1.6, 1.6.2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4, 2.5, 2.6, 2.7, 2.8, 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4, 4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 4.4, 4.5, 5.1, 5.2, 5.3.

Contents

To be agreed upon with the supervisor. The Master's dissertation will have a comparative and/or literary theoretical dimension. The supervisor will hold a Ph.D. in an area connected to the study programme.

Initial competences

Having successfully completed the bachelor research paper or having acquired the necessary skills by other means.

Final competences

- 1 Advanced comprehension of and insight into the scientific knowledge related to the discipline in general and comparative methods and/or theoretical models pertaining to the main subject in particular.
- 2 Ability to analyse scientific texts from within the discipline and one or more related disciplines.
- 3 Ability to synthesize texts from within the discipline and one or more related disciplines and/or integrate insights from those texts.
- 4 Ability to apply research methods and techniques autonomously in an advanced setting.
- 5 Ability to report scientifically about one's own research to the profession and the professional field.
- 6 Act with scientific integrity (avoid plagiarism, refer correctly to scientific literature, observe ethical dimensions of scientific research, use generative AI responsibly).

Conditions for credit contract

This course unit cannot be taken via a credit contract

Conditions for exam contract

This course unit cannot be taken via an exam contract

Teaching methods

Master's dissertation

Study material

None

References**Course content-related study coaching**

Guidance by the supervisor.

Assessment moments

continuous assessment

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

Professional practice, Oral assessment, Assignment

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment

examination during the second examination period is possible in modified form

Extra information on the examination methods

It is a shared responsibility of the student, the supervisor and/or the adviser to hold at least three meetings during the dissertation process. Participation in these meetings is required to submit the written dissertation.

Calculation of the examination mark

The final mark is determined once the three compulsory assessment components (process, written dissertation, oral defence) are completed. It is not simply the sum of these components but reflects the extent to which the student has achieved the intended learning outcomes. In this regard, the oral defence is essential for determining whether the student can justify the content and genesis of the Master's dissertation and whether the dissertation meets with the criteria for academic integrity. Students who fail to fulfil any one of these three requirements cannot pass the Master's dissertation. See the faculty Master's dissertation regulations for all modalities.