

## 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

**Lecturers in academic year 2026-2027**

Janssen, Caroline

LW21

lecturer-in-charge

**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.