

English Literature I (A005053)

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

Lambert, Shannon	LW07	staff member
Van Durme, Debora	LW07	staff member
Bricker, Andrew	LW07	lecturer-in-charge

Offered in the following programmes in 2026-2027

crdts **offering**

Teaching languages

English

Keywords

English literature, prose, novel, short story, poetry, drama, writing skills

Position of the course

This foundational course aims to introduce students to the study of (English) literature and to acquaint them with the specific generic markers of literary texts in English (with an emphasis on the novel, the short story and poetry). Its core objective is to make students sensitive to the singularity of literary texts and to introduce them to the requisite terminology for their analysis. Students improve their literary skills as well as their language skills through the oral and especially written discussion of literary texts, making use of (a limited number of) secondary sources.

Position of the course in terms of language proficiency: In the first year of the bachelor programme in English, students are expected to consolidate a CEFR B2 level of language proficiency.

No knowledge of Dutch is required for this course. Exchange students can enrol for this course, provided they possess the required language proficiency and initial competencies. Such students preferably enrol for the first-semester partial course, for 3 credits. The second-semester partial course is a possibility, also for 3 credits, if students can show that they have acquired the knowledge and skills of the first semester in another manner.

Contents

Each week students prepare material from an introductory syllabus at home. A limited number of lectures explores the key concepts and offers sociohistorical context for the longer primary texts (two novels and a play). In the near-weekly contact hours, supervised exercises enable students to come to grips with this material. Texts are analysed by means of the framework that the syllabus and lectures offer. The weekly seminars enable students to practise their oral proficiency in small groups. In addition they prepare short written assignments at home (portfolio) and work on a longer essay--tasks on which individual feedback is provided.

Initial competences

No specific prior subject knowledge required.

To master English at the initial level B2 of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR), i.e. B2.1 (First-stage "Vantage"/"Upper

intermediate"/"Independent" proficiency).

Final competences

- 1 Write short texts that demonstrate writing skills and in which a literary subject is tackled in an academically appropriate form, making use of a limited number of academic sources.
- 2 Demonstrate basic insight into the specificity of literary texts and interpret that specificity by means of the analytical and interpretive skills that have been acquired.
- 3 Possess insight into the literary texts that have been discussed in the seminars, and apply that insight to other texts, adopting a perspective that demonstrates cultural sensitivity and openness to intercultural dynamics.
- 4 Analyse literary texts that have the same level of difficulty as the ones discussed in the seminars.
- 5 Be alert to relevant details in literary texts and connect them to the rest of the text.

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, Lecture, Practical, Independent work

Extra information on the teaching methods

supervised self-study: students integrate material independently, relying on knowledge clips, questions, schematic overviews and exercises at home, provided by the teacher.

seminar (led exercises): the teacher checks student understanding and organises exercises that students perform in class

seminar: individual assignments; group discussion

practice teaching: aimed at writing skills, organised by way of tutorials

independent work: assignment (longer essay)

Study material

None

References

Course content-related study coaching

Individual guidance can be sought at the end of every class, via Ufora, or via an appointment with one of the teachers.

Assessment moments

end-of-term and continuous assessment

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

Written assessment with open-ended questions

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

Written assessment with open-ended questions

Examination methods in case of permanent 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

Periodic: written exam, 2nd semester.

Non-periodic: assignments (2 for prose/drama: 250 and 750 words, 2 for poetry: 1,000 to 1,500 words each).

The use of ChatGPT and other generative-AI applications is not permitted in the completion of assignments and exams for this course. According to the UGent Education and Examination Code: "to commit plagiarism is to present (parts of) a source as original and your own, without adding any acknowledgements". See

<https://www.ugent.be/student/en/class-exam-exchange-intern/class-exam/education-examination-code>

Calculation of the examination mark

Periodic: 45% (= one 3-hour exam in second semester)

Non-periodic continuous assessment: 55%

Non-periodic continuous assessment is calculated as follows:

- 20% Prose/Drama (first semester) [= Assignment 1: 0% + Assignment 2: 20%]

- 35% Poetry (second semester) [= Assignment 3: 10% + Assignment 4: 25%]

Facilities for Working Students

1. Class attendance is not strictly required, though highly desirable. An online learning path is available to some extent (streaming, online exercises).
2. If the scheduled examination time poses an insurmountable obstacle, an alternative time in the same session may be possible. Preference will be given to another scheduled examination time for part of the group.
3. Feedback can be given by videochat, email, telephone or in the course of an appointment during or after office hours.

More information:

Please contact debora.vandurme@ugent.be or andrew.bricker@ugent.be to discuss your time constraints and other restrictions that will affect your attendance, so we can find a way to make the course work for you.

For more information concerning flexible learning: contact the monitoring service of the faculty of Arts and philosophy