## Theory of Literary Translation (A005056)

**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 2025-2026**

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| A (semester 1) | English | Gent | lecture | 0.0h |
| | | | independent work | |
| | | | seminar | |
| B (semester 1) | English | Gent | | |

**Lecturers in academic year 2025-2026**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Sepp, Arvi | VUB | lecturer-in-charge |
| Lambrecht, Bram | LW22 | co-lecturer |
| Logie, Ilse | LW07 | co-lecturer |

| **Offered in the following programmes in 2025-2026** | **crdts** | **offering** |
|---|---|---|
| Master of Science in Teaching in Languages(main subject Linguistics and Literature) | 5 | A |
| Virtual Mobility | 5 | B |
| Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Dutch) | 5 | A |
| Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Dutch - English) | 5 | A |
| Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Dutch - French) | 5 | A |
| Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Dutch - German) | 5 | A |
| Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Dutch - Greek) | 5 | A |
| Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Dutch - Italian) | 5 | A |
| Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Dutch - Latin) | 5 | A |
| Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Dutch - Scandinavian Studies) | 5 | A |
| Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Dutch - Spanish) | 5 | A |
| Master of Arts in Translation: a combination of at least two languages(main subject Dutch, English) | 5 | A |
| Master of Arts in Translation: a combination of at least two languages(main subject Dutch, English, French) | 5 | A |
| Master of Arts in Translation: a combination of at least two languages(main subject Dutch, English, German) | 5 | A |
| Master of Arts in Translation: a combination of at least two languages(main subject Dutch, English, Italian) | 5 | A |
| Master of Arts in Translation: a combination of at least two languages(main subject Dutch, English, Russian) | 5 | A |
| Master of Arts in Translation: a combination of at least two languages(main subject Dutch, English, Spanish) | 5 | A |
| Master of Arts in Translation: a combination of at least two languages(main subject Dutch, French) | 5 | A |
| Master of Arts in Translation: a combination of at least two languages(main subject Dutch, French, German) | 5 | A |
| Master of Arts in Translation: a combination of at least two languages(main subject Dutch, French, Italian) | 5 | A |
| Master of Arts in Translation: a combination of at least two languages(main subject Dutch, French, Russian) | 5 | A |
| Master of Arts in Translation: a combination of at least two languages(main subject | 5 | A |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Dutch, French, Spanish) | | A |
| Master of Arts in Translation: a combination of at least two languages(main subject Dutch, German) | 5 | A |
| Master of Arts in Translation: a combination of at least two languages(main subject Dutch, German, Italian) | 5 | A |
| Master of Arts in Translation: a combination of at least two languages(main subject Dutch, German, Russian) | 5 | A |
| Master of Arts in Translation: a combination of at least two languages(main subject Dutch, German, Spanish) | 5 | A |
| Master of Arts in Translation: a combination of at least two languages(main subject Dutch, Italian) | 5 | A |
| Master of Arts in Translation: a combination of at least two languages(main subject Dutch, Russian) | 5 | A |
| Master of Arts in Translation: a combination of at least two languages(main subject Dutch, Spanish) | 5 | A |
| Master of Arts in Translation: a combination of at least two languages(main subject Dutch, Turkish) | 5 | A |
| Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject English) | 5 | A |
| Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject English - German) | 5 | A |
| Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject English - Greek) | 5 | A |
| Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject English - Italian) | 5 | A |
| Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject English - Latin) | 5 | A |
| Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject English - Scandinavian Studies) | 5 | A |
| Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject English - Spanish) | 5 | A |
| Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject French) | 5 | A |
| Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject French - English) | 5 | A |
| Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject French - German) | 5 | A |
| Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject French - Greek) | 5 | A |
| Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject French - Italian) | 5 | A |
| Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject French - Latin) | 5 | A |
| Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject French - Scandinavian Studies) | 5 | A |
| Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject French - Spanish) | 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 |
| Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Greek) | 5 | A |
| Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Iberian-Romance Languages) | 5 | A |
| Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Latin) | 5 | A |
| Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Latin - Greek) | 5 | A |
| Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Latin - Italian) | 5 | A |
| Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Latin - Scandinavian Studies) | 5 | A |
| Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Latin - Spanish) | 5 | A |
| Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Scandinavian Studies) | 5 | A |
| Master of Arts in Historical Linguistics and Literature | 5 | A |
| Exchange Programme Applied Language Studies | 5 | A |

**Teaching languages**

English

**Keywords**

Literary Translation, Theory of Translation, History of Translation

**Position of the course**

This course aims at the acquisition of advanced, theory-based scientific insights in literary translation. This course aims at students interested in the methods and concepts of literary translation.
Exchange students with a bachelor degree may take this course. Knowledge of

Dutch is not required.

## Contents

This course - organized in co-operation with the Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB) - is conceived as a hybrid seminar series (partly online, partly on-campus) on the theory of literary translation in which major theoretical texts will be read and discussed. They reflect on both influential views on translation in different phases of European cultural history and on the more recent trends toward the ideology and ethics of literary translation. The linguistic, cognitive, sociological, and cultural aspects of literary translation will be at the center of our theoretical discussions. The lectures will be delivered by several experts in Translation Studies from Ghent University and the University of Brussels.

In focusing on the above subjects, the seminar will be subdivided into three major thematic parts: 1) Conceptual foundations of theoretical thinking on literary translation (Free/Literal Translation; Author/Authorship and Translation; Memory and Translation); 2) Translation and Society (Sociology of Translation; Censorship and Translation; Centre/Periphery and Translation); 3) Case Studies, in which students will be introduced into applying specific translatological methods and theories onto specific cases of translated texts.

Through blended learning, students will be given the opportunity to acquire competences within the field of Translation Studies and Literary Translation. One practical workshop will be dedicated to poetry translation.

## Initial competences

A bachelor's degree in Linguistics and Literature, Applied Language Studies or Languages and Cultures, or to have acquired the necessary skills by other means. Exchange students should be aware that this is a course with a master's profile which requires academic writing skills.

## Final competences

1 To be familiar with and able to critically reflect on pivotal texts of translation theory and on key concepts, issues and theories of literary translation
2 To be familiar with the history of theory on literary translation and the development of theoretical thinking in the field.
3 To be able to critically analyze source texts and reflect on the intricate relation between source text and target text
4 To gain insight into culture-specific (German, French, Anglo-American…) traditions in the theoretical conceptualization of literary translation
5 To acquire knowledge of linguistic, textual, cultural and ideological issues related to literary translation.
6 To assess theoretical models in relation to literary translation in the broadest sense.

## 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

Seminar, Lecture, Independent work

## Extra information on the teaching methods

This course is conceived as an interactive workshop. Students are expected to prepare the texts and to become actively involved in the discussion of issues arising from the texts treated.

Most lectures will take place on campus in Ghent. Lectures which take place in Brussels will be available through livestreaming.

## Study material

Type: Slides

Name: Powerpoint slides - Theory of Literary Translation
Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty
Optional: no
Language : English
Available on Ufora : Yes

Type: Reader

> Name: Reader - Theory of Literary Translation
> Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty
> Optional: no
> Language : English
> Available on Ufora : Yes

## References

The bibliography is included in the syllabus.

## Course content-related study coaching

Students are explicitly invited to ask questions during the lectures. Interactive support via Ufora. Individual tutoring: by appointment via email or Teams.

## 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

Assignment

## Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment

not applicable

## Extra information on the examination methods

Students will be evaluated by means of a 'Take Home Exam'. This means that students are given a limited number of questions/topics in advance, which can be prepared during the exam-period. The deadline for submission will be announced in advance.
A responsible use of generative artificial intelligencen (GAI) is allowed for this course. The course coordinators will explain what this means at the start of the semester.

## Calculation of the examination mark

100% 'take home exam'

## Facilities for Working Students

Facilities:
Student attendance during on-campus meetings is strongly recommended.