

English Literature III: Older Period (A005342)

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

Credits 5.0

Study time 150 h

Course offerings in academic year 2023-2024

A (semester 2)

English

Gent

Lecturers in academic year 2023-2024

Schniedermann, Wibke

LW07

lecturer-in-charge

Offered in the following programmes in 2023-2024

	crdts	offering
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Dutch - English)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject English - German)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject English - Greek)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject English - Italian)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject English - Latin)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject English - Spanish)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject English - Swedish)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject French - English)	5	A
Exchange Programme Linguistics and Literature	5	A
Preparatory Course Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject English)	5	A

Teaching languages

English

Keywords

American Literature and Culture; Eighteenth-Century America; Enlightenment; American Revolution

Position of the course

This course is an elective, third-year course. It expands on the overviews given in the first two years of the bachelor. It focuses on American literature and its historical context.

Contents

An introduction to American literature and culture of the long eighteenth century (c1670-1840), with emphasis on the American Revolution, literary engagements with slavery and Enlightenment philosophy.

Initial competences

English Literature I or acquisition of the skills for literary analysis by other means. Some knowledge of Enlightenment philosophy and the history of slavery and the trans-Atlantic slave trade will be helpful, but is not required to enroll in the course.

Final competences

- 1 To read texts in a wide variety of genres (novel, poetry, drama, prose essay), paying close and critical attention to the production of meaning at the level of literary language and form
- 2 To understand major developments in American literature during the long eighteenth century, and to recognize the legacies of slavery and Enlightenment on modern literary culture
- 3 To write about texts analytically, using both close-reading skills and contextual scholarship to offer original critical commentary

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

Extra information on the teaching methods

Individual sessions will combine lecture and seminar methods, with opportunities for students to participate in class discussions. Each session will situate the assigned texts in their relevant literary and cultural contexts.

Learning materials and price

Texts and specific editions will be finalized closer to the beginning of the semester. A list of texts to be purchased will include:

- Benjamin Franklin, *Autobiography* (Norton)
- Phillis Wheatley, *The Poems of Phillis Wheatley* (Oxford)
- Olaudah Equiano, *The Interesting Narrative* (Norton)
- James Williams, *Narrative of James Williams, An American Slave* (NSU)
- Edgar Allan Poe, *The Narrative of Arthur Gordon Pym of Nantucket* (Penguin)

Additional study materials will be made available on Ufora.

References

Course content-related study coaching

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

Participation, Written assessment, Assignment

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment

examination during the second examination period is possible in modified form

Calculation of the examination mark

- + Short position paper (~1000–1500 words): 40%
- + In-class presentation (~10 minutes) of short paper: 10%
- + Final essay-response exam *or* creative project (of your own design): 50%

NB: *Extensive and thoughtful participation* in class discussions can count for *up to 10% of the final course grade*, in partial replacement of the position paper or final written assignment. For example, students who attend all class sessions and contribute meaningfully to discussions may—with the instructor's approval—opt to have their participation count for up to 10% of the final course grade; accordingly, the proportion of the lowest-graded component will be reduced (i.e., the final assignment may count for no lower than 40% *or* the position paper may count for no lower than 30%).

Facilities for Working Students

1. Working students will be eligible to receive alternative assignments if they cannot attend classes regularly.
2. Working students can make an appointment for feedback on their assignments.