Lusophonic Language, History and Culture (A005429)

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 2026-2027

A (semester 1)	Dutch, Portuguese	Gent	seminar
			practical
			independent work

Lecturers in academic year 2026-2027

| Enghels, Renata | LW06 | lecturer-in-charge |
| Freire Santos de Sena Lino, Pedro António | LW06 | co-lecturer |

Offered in the following programmes in 2026-2027	crdts	offering
Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Iberian-Romance Languages)	5	A
Master of Arts in Historical Linguistics and Literature	5	A
Exchange Programme Linguistics and Literature	5	A

Teaching languages

Portuguese, Dutch

Keywords

Lusophone world, Portuguese language history, Lusophone history, tropicalism, colonialism

Position of the course

Employing a diachronic approach, the course focusses on specific focal points in Lusophone culture, analysing them through the lens of literature, linguistics and history.
Exchange students may take this course. It does not require knowledge of Dutch.

Contents

The course will allow each student to cement their knowledge of European and Iberian history, but also of the specificities of Brazilian, Angolan and Cape Verdean culture in particular.

1.   From Latin to Portuguese
History: the Lusitanians, the Romans, the Moors, the formation of national identity; national Portuguese symbols. Myths: Viriathus and Portuguese national identity.
Linguistics: characterising Galician-Portuguese and its distinctive features in comparison with other Romance languages; the influence of Arabic.
Literature: Medieval songs.
Historiography: Portuguese national identity.

2.   Substrates and submersions
History: Arab presence in Portugal, the Mozarabs. Myths: The Reconquista.
Linguistics: Mozarabic influence; substrate, superstrate and adstrate.
Literature: the kharjas, poetry of Al-Mutamid'; the myth of the enchanted Moorish women.
Historiography: the Reconquista

3.   Discoveries: Colonialism and Slavery

History: the maritime discoveries, and the Portuguese empire between 1415 and 1975.
Linguistics: pidgins and creoles; differences between various varieties of European Portuguese. History of the Portuguese language in Portugal and Brazil until 1990.
Literature: voyage narratives, Os Lusíadas (excerpts); poetry from the Portuguese-speaking African countries.
Historiography: Superiority and Inferiority Complex (Eduardo Lourenço).

4.   Tropicalism and miscegenation
History: the concepts of miscegenation and tropicalism (Afonso de Albuquerque and Gilberto Freyre),
Colonialisation and suppression/preservation of indigenous cultures.
Linguistics: the general language (língua geral) of Brazil and the Marquis of Pombal; European Portuguese vs Brazilian Portuguese.
Literature: Os Lusíadas (excerpts), texts by Freyre and José Gil;
Historiography: miscegenation. The Orient: Macau and Goa, and the vision of the West by the East and vice-versa. A trip through indo-portuguese art, faith and inquisition and culinary art.

5.   Other topics: Myths of Portuguese culture (Sebastianism, Tropicalism, national identity, Pedro and Inês); general problems with the Lusophone economy (a política de transporte); music; painting. Focus on the 18th century: trade, colonial economy, religion vs Enlightenment, the 1755 Earthquake and its consequences, D. João V and the Marquis de Pombal and their reforms.

Initial competences

Students have acquired a A2 level off Portuguese profiency.

Final competences

1 To have a correct pronunciation of Portuguese, even as an advanced grammatical and lexical knowledge of Portuguese.
2 To have and advanced knowledge of the specific cultural aspects of Portuguese speaking countries
3 To dispose of analytical skills to understand historical, literary and linguistic events in the Lusophone world.
4 To have a better understanding of the international, European and Iberian history, and in particular of Brasil, Angola and Cape Verde.
5 Make use of digital research environments and search strategies to identify research objects.
6 To publish research data or results taking into account a specific target audience, possibly with resposible use of GenAI where necessary or relevant.
7 To be familiar with the basic concepts, and inter- and transdisciplinary possibilities of Digital humanities, possibly with resposible use of GenAI where necessary or relevant.

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, Practical, Independent work

Extra information on the teaching methods

This in an interactive course in which theory is combine with prepared exercices. Lecture-based sessions can be recorded and made available to specific target groups (upon request).

Study material

Type: Slides

Name: Lusofone taal, geschiedenis en cultuur - slides
Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty
Optional: no
Language : Other

Number of Slides : 600
Oldest Usable Edition : 2026
Available on Ufora : Yes
Online Available : No
Available in the Library : No
Available through Student Association : No

References

Portuguese language and culture
• http://www.portaldalinguaportuguesa.org/•
http://www.instituto-camoes.pt/
Dictionaries:
• http://www.priberam.pt/dlpo/• Van Dale Pt-Nl en Nl-Pt (via Athena)• Vertalend
woordenboek Portugees-Nederlands Nederlands-Portugees, Prisma, Het• Spectrum
Manuals
Real, Miguel, *Introdução à Cultura Portuguesa*, Planeta, 2011
Mattoso, José, *A Identidade Nacional*, Gradiva, 2006

Course content-related study coaching

By teachers before and during classes.
Students are strongly encouraged to engage in interaction, to ask questions during
the classes, and to take additional notes.

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

Oral assessment, Participation, Written assessment

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

The student prepares two oral presentations and also a paper on a topic that
relates to the course.
Presentation 1: Introduction of the topic. GenAI can be used to find sources,
screen, and build arguments. The student will interact with fellow students and the
teacher.
Paper: Integration of information from Presentation 1, feedback from fellow
students and the teacher, and two additional theoretical texts. GenAI can be used
in a responsible manner.
Presentation 2: Summary and conclusion of Presentation 1 and the paper, using
new materials and personal critical reflection.
There is an oral examination of the contents of the course at the end of the
semester (catch-up week).

Calculation of the examination mark

Oral evaluation (50%); Presentation 1 (20%), Presentation 2 (20%), paper (10%).

Facilities for Working Students

1 Possible exemption from certain educational activities requiring student
   attendance, with alternative tasks.
2 Student attendance during permanent evaluation moments is indispensable.
3 Possible rescheduling of the deadlines for the tasks.
4 Feedback can be given online.