

## Belgian Literature (A005624)

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

**Credits 5.0**

**Study time 150 h**

**Course offerings in academic year 2026-2027**

A (semester 2)

Dutch

Gent

**Lecturers in academic year 2026-2027**

T'Sjoen, Yves

LW07

lecturer-in-charge

**Offered in the following programmes in 2026-2027**

[Master of Arts in Comparative Modern Literature](#)

**crdts**

5

**offering**

A

**Teaching languages**

Dutch

**Keywords**

literary study, "belgitude", intranational literature of Belgium, Dutch and French  
Belgian literature, bilingualism

**Position of the course**

This course introduces students to the concept of "belgitude", as well as intra- and intercultural literary traditions in the French and Dutch areas of Belgium. Attention is paid to social and political history, literary traditions, recent developments of literary cultures, and the translinguistic context. Engagement with linguistic and cultural convergences and divergences within Belgian literature.

**Contents**

1. Meaning of the term "belgitude", with attention to the terminological history of the concept
2. Social and political aspects of Belgian language cultures, with particular attention to contact between Dutch and French
3. Overview of developments in the literary culture of Belgium (nineteenth, twentieth and twenty-first centuries)
4. Current intercultural connections: neerlandophone and francophone collaborations and Belgian cultural traditions
5. Discussion of authors and literary texts in Belgian literature, with particular attention to cross-fertilization between Dutch and French-language literature. Afro-Belgian literature is also discussed.
6. From a comparative perspective: literary-institutional collaborations, intertextuality, reception and imagology, cross-linguistic cultural production

**Initial competences**

Basic knowledge of literary and cultural-historical concepts within Dutch-language and French-language literature. Literary competences acquired during bachelor study. Interest in comparative literature and intranational (Belgian) multilingual literary discourses.  
Sufficient knowledge of Dutch and French.

**Final competences**

- 1 Insight into interactions between the Dutch-language and French-language literatures of Belgium.
- 2 Insight into the socio-historical context within which Belgian literature developed and continues to function.
- 3 Insight into the complex linguistic context and the cultural and social intricacies

of Belgium, as well as the way in which these complexities are reflected in literature.

- 4 Insight into the literary infrastructure and culture of the Dutch and French linguistic groupings, as well as connections or correspondences between these.
- 5 Insight into premises that inform literary historiography in a nation-state with both a Dutch-language and a French-language literature (i.e. with linguistically diverse literary systems).

#### **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

#### **Extra information on the teaching methods**

Lectures: 15h

Seminars: guided exercises (15h)

Students prepare a portfolio (oral presentation, participation in an interview with a literary agent (writer, translator, critic), participation in the seminar and lecture discussions).

The student can adequately use GAI when analyzing and formulating a research question.

#### **Study material**

Type: Handouts

Name: Belgian literature

Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty

Optional: no

Language : Dutch

Number of Pages : 20

Available on Ufora : Yes

Online Available : Yes

Additional information: PowerPoint-presentations available

#### **References**

Articles and bibliographies are made available on UFORA about 'belgitude', Belgian literary historiography, and transnational literature.

#### **Course content-related study coaching**

Collective and individual guidance.

#### **Assessment moments**

end-of-term and continuous assessment

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

Oral assessment

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

Oral assessment

#### **Examination methods in case of permanent assessment**

Participation, Presentation, 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**

permanent assessment: participation in lectures and presentation of a portfolio /10;  
written research report taking into account feedback and/or reading suggestions  
/10

#### **Calculation of the examination mark**

Continuous assessment (portfolio): 50%

End-of-term assessment: oral exam: 50%

**Facilities for Working Students**

1. Possible exemption from educational activities requiring student attendance.
  2. Possible rescheduling of the examination to a different time in the same academic year
  3. Feedback can be given by email, telephone or during an appointment during or after office hours
- For more information concerning flexible learning: contact the monitoring service of the faculty of Arts and philosophy