

Latin Literature: the Poetic Tradition (A005719)

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 2)	Dutch	Gent	independent work	0.0h
			seminar	0.0h
			lecture	0.0h
			group work	0.0h

Lecturers in academic year 2026-2027

Maes, Yanick	LW07	staff member
Formisano, Marco	LW07	lecturer-in-charge

Offered in the following programmes in 2026-2027

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

Teaching languages

Dutch

Keywords

Latin, literature, methodology, literary history, cultural studies, intertextuality, literary analysis, textual transmission, metrics, stylistics, Vergil

Position of the course

In this course we will read and analyse Vergil's Aeneid, using a relevant theoretical framework and in dialogue with modern insights.

Contents

This course familiarizes students with some of the various problems associated with reading Virgil's Aeneid as historical literature. The lectures are devoted to the intensive reading of the Aeneid, one or two books at a time. We start from a number of questions we can ask about the text and we look at which methods and theories allow us to answer such questions systematically. The approach is eclectic, always self-reflexive and grounded in recent insights and methodology. We go beyond formalistic and historicising reading methods, and also use narratological analyses, intertextuality, cultural studies and anthropological approaches, metapoetical analyses, gender studies (...).

In preparation, the students read one/two books of the Aeneid (about one-third in Latin and the rest in translation). In addition students weekly write short assessments, on topics related to a certain literary, theoretical or historical approach. Six workshops are organised on the basics of textual transmission, metrics and stylistics. The students practice under supervision in the use of basic elements of the codicology, metrics and stylistics. Through the lectures, workshops

and online assignments, we gain a better insight into the status of theory and methodology, as well as the multiformity of Virgil's masterpiece.

Initial competences

Students have successfully completed Ancient Literature and Latin Literature 1 or obtained a demonstrable knowledge of the envisaged competencies.

Final competences

- 1 To understand Latin poetic texts.
- 2 Being able to translate the selected texts
- 3 Being able to discuss the selected texts in terms of literary analysis
- 4 To discuss the selected texts in terms of a cultural analysis.
- 5 To acquire scholarly knowledge of Virgil's work and its historical function.
- 6 To critically approach literary historical constructions.
- 7 To consider analytically historical, cultural and literary problems.
- 8 To adapt the concept of intertextuality in a creative way.
- 9 To acquire a knowledge of the possibilities and limitations of the most important research methodologies in Latin literary studies.
- 10 To be able to use theoretical approaches in an independent way.
- 11 To recognize the function of meters in Latin poetry.
- 12 To be able to analyze a passage in terms of style and meter.
- 13 To acquire knowledge of the most important writing hands.
- 14 Basic knowledge of some aspects of codicology
- 15 To be able to communicate scientific insights to a more general public.

Conditions for credit contract

Access to this course unit via a credit contract is determined after successful competences assessment

Conditions for exam contract

This course unit cannot be taken via an exam contract

Teaching methods

Group work, Seminar, Lecture, Independent work

Extra information on the teaching methods

PDE tutorial, seminar, self-reliant study activities, lecture: response lecture, online lecture: response lecture, online seminar
•Lecture course on the analysis of the Aeneid.
•Seminar for the method of metrical analysis, and introductory lessons on paleography & codicology consisting of supervised reading and training.
•online work: weekly assessments in preparation of the lessons
•Independent cursory reading and writing, comprising supervised self-teaching and selfactivation.

Study material

Type: Handbook

Name: P. Vergili Maronis: Opera

Indicative price: € 22

Optional: no

Language : English

Author : R. A. B. Mynors

ISBN : 978-0-19814-653-7

Oldest Usable Edition : 1969

Available in the Library : Yes

Usability and Lifetime within the Course Unit : intensive

Usability and Lifetime within the Study Programme : regularly

Usability and Lifetime after the Study Programme : intensive

Type: Syllabus

Name: Handouts, slides and book

Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty

Optional: no

Available on Ufora : Yes

References

M. D'Hane-Scheltema, Vergilius: Het verhaal van Aeneas, Amsterdam 2000.

M. Heath, Interpreting Classical Texts, Bristol 2007
N. Horsfall, A companion to the study of Virgil, Leiden 2000
M. Bettini & W.M. Short, The World through Roman Eyes: Anthropological Approaches to Ancient Culture, Cambridge 2018

Course content-related study coaching

Reading in groups with intensive support and individual preparation. Cursory reading with feedback and support.

Assessment moments

end-of-term and continuous assessment

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

Oral assessment open-book, Written assessment

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

Oral assessment open-book, Written assessment

Examination methods in case of permanent assessment

Oral assessment, Assignment

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment

examination during the second examination period is possible

Extra information on the examination methods

Oral examination: open book exam (including written preparation) with 3 questions (situating, paraphrasing, literary analysis)

Written examination: five application questions about the Latin text; a question about metrics & stylistics; a question about paleography

Permanent evaluation of the individual contributions on Ufora and of the presentation of the smallgroup case.

If student fail the non-periodical evaluation, a second chance is offered through a compensatory activity between the first and second examination period.

The examination is in line with the envisaged competencies of the course.

Calculation of the examination mark

Periodical: written 30%, oral 40%

Non-periodical (contributions Ufora; smallgroup presentation): 30 %.

If students score less than 10/20 for one of the course units, they cannot pass the course. In this case, the mark will be reduced to the highest unsuccessful grade, should the final score be ten or more out of twenty. If students demonstrate insufficient command of the Latin text during the written examination, they will also fail the course. They may take a reexamination in which only the knowledge of the Latin text is tested.

Facilities for Working Students

Facilities:

Alternative learning trajectory possible - some class moments are obligatory.

Possible rescheduling of the examination to a different time in the same academic year.

Feedback can be given during an appointment during office hours