

## Italian Linguistics: Sociolinguistics and Language Variation (A005737)

**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)	Italian	Gent	seminar	0.0h
			lecture	0.0h
			independent work	0.0h
			group work	0.0h

**Lecturers in academic year 2026-2027**

Palmieri, Maria Giuseppina	LW06	staff member
Serra, Eleonora	LW06	lecturer-in-charge

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

	crdts	offering
<a href="#">Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Dutch - Italian)</a>	5	A
<a href="#">Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject English - Italian)</a>	5	A
<a href="#">Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject French - Italian)</a>	5	A
<a href="#">Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject German - Italian)</a>	5	A
<a href="#">Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Latin - Italian)</a>	5	A
<a href="#">Exchange Programme Linguistics and Literature</a>	5	A
<a href="#">Preparatory Course Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Dutch - Italian)</a>	5	A
<a href="#">Preparatory Course Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject English - Italian)</a>	5	A
<a href="#">Preparatory Course Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject French - Italian)</a>	5	A
<a href="#">Preparatory Course Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject German - Italian)</a>	5	A

**Teaching languages**

Italian

**Keywords**

Sociolinguistics, historical sociolinguistics, contemporary Italian, Renaissance Italian, language variation, dialect/standard contact, standardization, regional Italian, register, CMC, written and oral Italian

**Position of the course**

This advanced course deepens students' understanding in variation in Italian. The course focuses on:

- a) the Italian repertoire
- b) the (re)standardization of Italian
- c) spoken Italian

Exchange students may take up this course unit, for which no prior knowledge of Dutch is required. Knowledge of Italian is required.

**Contents**

The course wants to familiarize the student with the sociolinguistic situation of Italian. The following themes are covered:

--> The varieties of Italian: standard language, neo-standard language, regional varieties, the "Italian popolare"; spoken Italian; pronunciation of contemporary

Italian; sociolinguistic variation in the past; language histories from below; reconstructing speech from historical sources; Italian of the Computer Mediated Communication; the re-standardization of Italian.

--> During this course, students will also further develop their language skills.

- Reading skills: reading the syllabus, presentations and authentic written texts
- Listening skills: listening to the lessons and to the authentic audio fragments
- Writing skills: transcription of audio fragments
- Speaking skills: oral discussion

### Initial competences

To have successfully completed the courses Italian Linguistics I and II and Italian language proficiency I, II and III or to have acquired the necessary skills by other means. Expected language proficiency level: B2

### Final competences

1 Language proficiency: the student reaches the B2+ level.

The student can understand long and complex texts, including technical discussions of linguistics. He / she can respond spontaneously in a normal exchange with native speakers. He / she can produce clear, structured and detailed (oral and written) texts on a wide range of topics and in particular on a linguistic topic. Can compare various points of view and options in an argumentation.

- Reading skills: independent reading of the handbook, scientific articles/chapters and other scientific sources (self-study; seminars)
- Listening skills: listening to audio and video clips; understanding the questions during the seminars / permanent evaluation moments (seminars; self-study)
- Writing skills: paper (seminars; microteaching)
- Speaking skills: oral discussion of a linguistic topic (seminars, microteaching)

2 The student correctly uses the linguistic terminology

3 Insight into the theory: The student understands the most important points from the content of the lessons and the scientific texts

4 Insight into the theory: The student can recognize the linguistic varieties that are discussed in the course

5 Application of the theory: The student can independently analyze a linguistic text (language variety) and can explain the most important linguistic properties of the fragment

6 Research skills: the student carries out an academic assignment on a specific theme for which he/she can independently find and consult sources, collect data, and present the results critically in an oral presentation and in a paper.

### 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

Group work, Seminar, Lecture, Independent work

### Extra information on the teaching methods

No lecture recordings are provided for this course (interactive teaching format).

### Study material

Type: Slides

Name: Slides of the course

Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty

Optional: no

Language : Other

Available on Ufora : Yes

Type: Reader

Name: Chapters from handbooks, scientific articles in Italian and English, other scientific sources

Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty

Optional: no

## References

- Tullio De Mauro, 1963, Storia linguistica dell'Italia unita, Bari: Laterza.
- Francesco Bruni, 1997, L'italiano nelle regioni. Lingua nazionale e identità regionali, Torino: UTET.
- Gaetano Berruto, 2012, Sociolinguistica dell'italiano contemporaneo, Roma: Carocci.
- Gaetano Berruto, Massimo Cerruti, 2014, Manuale di sociolinguistica Torino: UTET.
- Manlio Cortelazzo et al. (eds.).2002. I dialetti italiani. Storia, struttura e uso. Torino: UTET.
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## Course content-related study coaching

- Specific questions can be asked during the lecturer's office hours (by appointment)

## 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

**Combination of continuous assessment and end-of-term assessment:**

**Continuous assessment: participation, assignment, presentation, exercises (40%)**

**End of term assessment: oral exam (60%)**

**Second examination period:**

In the second examination period, students take only the part of the evaluation for which they did not pass in the first examination period (transfer of passed partial marks).

In the second examination period, the "continuous assessment: assignment, presentation, exercises (40%)" is replaced by additional questions during the oral exam.

## Calculation of the examination mark

40% permanent evaluation

60% oral exam

*Students who eschew one or more parts of the assessment can no longer obtain a pass mark for the course unit. Should the final mark be higher than 7/20, it will be reduced to the highest non-passable mark (i.e. 7/20).*

Students who are legitimately absent on certain days of the practical need to catch up the exercises they missed out on at a different time.

## Facilities for Working Students

- Class attendance is recommended to successfully complete the course.
- Class attendance needs to be discussed with the teacher.
- No online/digital facilities (lectures take place on campus, without recordings).
- It is possible to take the exam at a different time within the regular exam period.
- Possibility to make an appointment for feedback.

