

German Literature: Anatomy of Prose Works (A005743)

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) German Gent

Lecturers in academic year 2026-2027

Benzing, Carolin Juliane	LW22	staff member
Biebuyck, Benjamin	LW07	lecturer-in-charge

Offered in the following programmes in 2026-2027

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

Teaching languages

German

Keywords

German, literary studies, setting a problem within literary studies; advanced prose-analysis; digital tools

Position of the course

You have absolved the first courses of German Literature and Literary Theory; now you are ready to apply your skills as literary scholar on a more advanced level. You also brought your proficiency in German to a higher level of complexity. It is now time for a stronger focus on an approach in which you autonomously search for, articulate and solve literary questions the relevance of which you can demonstrate yourself, and hereby engage in a dialogue with the available secondary literature. This course can be taken up by exchange students; the assignments can be adapted to the requirements of their home university.

Contents

The aim of this seminar is to sharpen the analytical skills of the participants in the field of (narrative) prose. Practical case-studies from German literature are

investigated (in principle from 18C until now, with a strong focus on the past century). General outlook is the analysis of short prose (short stories, novellas, short novels, etc.). Central questions are: how to detect and to define a literary problem? how to demonstrate its relevance? how to elaborate upon it systematically and to find a plausible solution? how to integrate relevant sources in the argumentation? how to determine the research method in interaction with the literary text? After a couple of initial seminar sessions, students are expected to deliver an individual oral presentation (30 minutes), to write a paper (4000 words) and to participate actively in the group discussions, led by the lecturer.

Preparations of the presentation can be discussed with the lecturer; a test version of the paper can be handed in and discussed; participation in the group discussions is followed up by means of "Zuhörerpapiere". Thus, students have many opportunities to enhance their analytical skills as well as their language proficiency progressively.

Part of this seminar is a series of tutorials, in which students can exercise their analytical skills under supervision of a lecturer; in this context, we explore more complex digital skills and the responsible use of generative AI for literary studies purposes. Participation in these tutorials is highly recommended. Students also have to do a (digital) self-assessment at the beginning and at the end of the semester. Finally, they hand in a short statement on the evolution of narrative imagination in the prose texts we have read, in view of a final discussion at the end of the semester.

The reading list of this course will be announced well before the start of the semester via the UGent electronic learning platform.

Initial competences

To have successfully completed the course German literature I or to have acquired the necessary skills by other means.

Final competences

- 1 To be able to apply an advanced knowledge of German (reading: in-depth reading, with detection of complex textual processes; speaking: advanced proficiency, both prepared and in spontaneous settings; listening: on mother tongue level; writing: advanced proficiency, in particular in prepared settings).
- 2 To be able to apply an advanced knowledge of German literary traditions while analysing literary texts and situating them in a historical and stylistic context.
- 3 To be able to put the tools of analysis on an advanced level into practice.
- 4 To be able to study a case systematically and argumentatively and to write a structured report.
- 5 To be able to approach a literary text (narrative prose) from a problem setting perspective and to follow up on this in a project-designed manner (incl. planning).
- 6 To engage in a case-driven dialogue with secondary literature.
- 7 To make use of digital tools for text analysis in a self-reflexive and responsible manner.
- 8 To be able to use necessary (digital) tools, such as generative AI, with a good understanding of the ethical and deontological implications of this.

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

Seminar (30h)
geleide zelfstudie (7.5h)
Practicum (Tutorium; 7.5h)

Study material

Type: Handbook

Name: Einführung in die Erzähltextanalyse

Indicative price: € 20

Optional: yes

Language : Other

Author : Lahn, Silke (Autor / Autorin) / Meister, Jan Christoph (Autor / Autorin)

ISBN : 978-3-47602-598-2

Number of Pages : 337

Oldest Usable Edition : 3rd (2016)

Online Available : No

Available in the Library : Yes

Available through Student Association : Yes

Usability and Lifetime within the Course Unit : regularly

Usability and Lifetime within the Study Programme : regularly

Usability and Lifetime after the Study Programme : occasionally

Additional information: You have already had to purchase this book for "German Literature: Genius Rebels." We expect that you will also use it autonomously in subsequent German Literature courses. For this course you will also need the works on the reading list; these are eight short stories, novellas or short novels. The total cost of these is about 65 euros.

References

You have bought in the context of the course "German Literature: Genius Rebels" the following two manuals:

Lahn, Silke & Meister, Jan Christoph: *Einführung in die Erzähltextanalyse* (Metzler 2016) ISBN: 978-3-476-02598-2, 337 S. – 19,95 Eur or a more recent edition

Beutin, Wolfgang et al: *Deutsche Literaturgeschichte. Von den Anfängen bis zur Gegenwart* (Metzler, J B 2019) ISBN: 978-3-476-04952-0 799 p. – 34.99 Eur or a more recent edition

You are expected to use these two reference works autonomously in the following courses (BA3 and MA) of German Literature as well.

Course content-related study coaching

individual and group tutoring; participants get advice while preparing their presentation and can hand in a test version of their paper. There are also individual feedbacksessions about the presentations, papers and participation.

In the tutorials we deal a.o. with debating skills and digital text analyse tools.

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

Oral assessment, Participation, Peer and/or self assessment, Assignment

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment

examination during the second examination period is possible

Extra information on the examination methods

Assessment form

Writing, speaking and listening exercise for the non-periodical evaluation.

In the paper, students develop a research problem into their proper scholarly hypothesis. In the oral examn they show that they are able to defend the results of their paper in a convincing manner and to apply the scholarly jargon to the texts on the reading list. Both parts belong together and are rewarded with one single score.

Reaching the desired level of language proficiency is part of the learning competences of this course. This proficiency is supported by feedback on writing and speaking tasks, by self-study, and by self-testing at the start and at the end of the semester.

In a seminar, the learning process takes place primarily in the classroom, together with the lecturer and fellow students. Upon motivated request, recordings will be

made so that students who are unable to attend a particular class can complete a substitute assignment.

Calculation of the examination mark

Post-sessional assessment: paper/Hausarbeit and oral exam, which count for 60% of the calculated score.

In-sessional assessment: permanent (20% for presentation, Referat; 20% for participation, Zuhörerpapiere, participation in discussion) of the calculated score.

Those who have less than 10/20 for the in-sessional assessment can no longer pass the entire course unit. If the calculated score would be a grade of 10 or more out of 20, it will be reduced to the highest unsuccessful grade (9/20). Those who do not participate in the evaluation of one or more units cannot pass the entire course unit and the final grade, if higher than 7/20, will be reduced to the highest non-deliberable grade (7/20).

Participation in the Tutorium, taking the self-tests and submitting a historical-narratological thesis will be rewarded with a bonus point if evaluated favorably, provided that the student achieves at least 10/20 as a calculated score; those who do not achieve this will not be eligible for the bonus point. Those who do not participate in the Tutorium, in the self-tests and do not submit a thesis will receive a 0.5 minus point to the calculated score. Those who complete two of these three tasks will receive 0.5 bonus points if evaluated favorably. Whoever completes one of the three and is evaluated favorably, retains the calculated score.

If the student did not pass the non-period specific evaluation, a second examination opportunity is offered through a compensatory activity between the first and second examination periods.

In the second examination opportunity, the student retakes only those components (paper and oral exam, participation, presentation) for which he or she did not pass. The student only receives a score for the parts he or she has to retake, which will be rescaled, if necessary, for the final score according to the proportions mentioned above.

Facilities for Working Students

Engelse versie: Facilities for working students:

- 1 Although attendance is highly desirable, working students may be exempted from attendance. For those classes where active participation is evaluated (e.g., tutorials), you will need to complete a substitute task that demonstrates your attainment of the intended competencies. The substitute task will be communicated to you by the instructors.
- 2 The exam can be scheduled at a different time within the academic year.
- 3 You can receive feedback at times other than those designated, preferably through conversations (on campus or online), both during and after office hours, or via email.

For additional information, please contact the responsible instructor or one of the co-instructors.

Extra information:

Student attendance of all classes containing referaten and discussions is required. Students who fail to attend, will be expected to hand in an alternative assignment on the basis of the video recordings or alternative secondary literature.

For more information contact the monitoring service of the faculty of Arts and philosophy: <https://www.ugent.be/lw/nl/student/studiestudentenbegeleiding/trajectbegeleiding.htm>