

English Literature: Introduction (A005752)

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 (Year) | English | Gent | lecture seminar |
|----------|---------|------|--------------------|

Lecturers in academic year 2026-2027

| | | |
|-------------------|------|--------------------|
| Goerlandt, Iannis | LW07 | staff member |
| Van Durme, Debora | LW07 | staff member |
| Buelens, Gert | LW07 | lecturer-in-charge |

Offered in the following programmes in 2026-2027

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

Teaching languages

English

Keywords

English literature, prose, novel, short story, poetry, drama, writing skills

Position of the course

This foundational course aims to introduce students to the study of (English) literature and to acquaint them with the specific generic markers of literary texts in English (with an emphasis on the novel, the short story and poetry). Its core objective is to make students sensitive to the singularity of literary texts and to introduce them to the requisite terminology for their analysis. Students improve their literary skills as well as their language skills through the oral and especially written discussion of literary texts, making use of (a limited number of) secondary

sources.

Position of the course in terms of language proficiency: In the first year of the bachelor programme in English, students are expected to consolidate a CEFR B2 level of language proficiency.

No knowledge of Dutch is required for this course. Exchange students can enrol for this course, provided they possess the required language proficiency and initial competencies. Such students preferably enrol for the first-semester partial course, for 3 credits. The second-semester partial course is a possibility, also for 3 credits, if students can show that they have acquired the knowledge and skills of the first semester in another manner.

Contents

Using a limited number of lectures, knowledge clips, an introductory syllabus and a reader with short stories and poems, students are introduced to core concepts within literary analysis. In almost weekly seminars, students then learn to apply these concepts themselves when analyzing literary texts (short stories, a novel, a play and a number of poems).

In addition, students also acquire basic skills in writing short literary-analytical texts, using academic sources and academically responsible use of AI through a number of writing assignments. They are prepared for this in the lectures and seminars, and receive individual feedback on their work.

Initial competences

No specific prior subject knowledge required.

To master English at the initial level B2 of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR), i.e. B2.1 (First-stage "Vantage"/"Upper intermediate"/"Independent" proficiency).

Final competences

- 1 Write short texts that demonstrate writing skills and in which a literary subject is tackled in an academically appropriate form, making use of a limited number of academic sources.
- 2 Demonstrate basic insight into the specificity of literary texts and interpret that specificity by means of the analytical and interpretive skills that have been acquired.
- 3 Possess insight into the literary texts that have been discussed in the seminars, and apply that insight to other texts, adopting a perspective that demonstrates cultural sensitivity and openness to intercultural dynamics.
- 4 Analyse literary texts that have the same level of difficulty as the ones discussed in the seminars.
- 5 Be alert to relevant details in literary texts and connect them to the rest of the text.
- 6 To be able to use generative AI responsibly, i.e. ethically, transparently, and in line with academic integrity.
- 7 To be able to use academic databases in research and to find and effectively use secondary sources (e.g., academic articles, etc.).

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, Independent work

Extra information on the teaching methods

Lecture-based sessions are recorded and made available to specific target groups (upon request).

Seminars are not recorded (interactive teaching format).

Independent work (and guided self-study):

- Students read several short texts or one longer text each week (short stories, novella, novel and play in the first semester; poems in the second semester)
- Students independently study the theory in the syllabus (which is explained by means of lectures, knowledge clips and a number of take-away exercises)

- Writing tasks

Seminars (guided exercises): During the seminars, the teacher checks what the students have understood, organises exercises and group discussions

Study material

Type: Handbook

Name: Orbital

Indicative price: € 15

Optional: no

Language : English

Author : Samantha Harvey

ISBN : 978-1-52992-293-6

Number of Pages : 144

Online Available : No

Available in the Library : Yes

Available through Student Association : Yes

Usability and Lifetime within the Course Unit : one-time

Usability and Lifetime within the Study Programme : one-time

Usability and Lifetime after the Study Programme : occasionally

Additional information: Novel for self-study

Type: Handbook

Name: Lorraine Hansberry. A Raisin in the Sun. Bloomsbury, 2011. ISBN: 9781408140901

Indicative price: € 20

Optional: no

Author : Lorraine Hansberry

ISBN : 978-1-40814-090-1

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: n/a

Type: Syllabus

Name: English Literature: Introduction: "Syllabus"

Indicative price: € 4

Optional: no

Language : English

Oldest Usable Edition : n/a

Available on Ufora : Yes

Online Available : Yes

Available in the Library : No

Available through Student Association : No

Additional information: Students can either print the "Syllabus" at home (download via Ufora coursesite) , or order a printout from the Docunet website (<https://www.docunet.be/>) for home delivery (no pickup; €10 delivery cost).

References

Course content-related study coaching

Individual guidance can be sought at the end of every class, via Ufora, or via an appointment with one of the teachers.

Assessment moments

end-of-term and continuous assessment

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

Written assessment with open-ended questions

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

Written assessment with open-ended questions

Examination methods in case of permanent assessment

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

Periodic: written exam, 2nd semester.

Non-periodic: assignments (two for prose/drama, two for poetry).

Calculation of the examination mark

Periodic: 50% (= an exam during the second semester exam period)

Non-periodic: 50%. This is calculated as follows:

- 25% Prose/Drama (first semester) [= assignment 1: 0% + assignment 2: 25%]
- 25% Poetry (second semester) [= assignment 3: 10% + assignment 4: 15%]

Facilities for Working Students

1. Class attendance is not strictly required, though highly desirable. An online learning path is available to some extent (streaming, online exercises).
2. If the scheduled examination time poses an insurmountable obstacle, an alternative time in the same session may be possible. Preference will be given to another scheduled examination time for part of the group.
3. Feedback can be given by videochat, email, telephone or in the course of an appointment during or after office hours.

More information:

Please contact debora.vandurme@ugent.be or gert.buelens@ugent.be to discuss your time constraints and other restrictions that will affect your attendance, so we can find a way to make the course work for you.

For more information concerning flexible learning: contact the monitoring service of the faculty of Arts and philosophy