

English Literature: Overview 1800 to Present (A005756)

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)	English	Gent	seminar	0.0h
			independent work	0.0h
			lecture	0.0h

Lecturers in academic year 2026-2027

Van Durme, Debora	LW07	staff member
Caracciolo, 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 - 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 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

Teaching languages

English

Keywords

English literature, literary history, survey, post-1800

Position of the course

The aim of this advanced course is to introduce students to the development of English literature (1800 - 21th century).

Exchange students are welcome to attend this course. Knowledge of the Dutch language is not required.

Contents

The course offers a historical survey of the major periods in the development of post-1800 English literature, including a discussion of several of the key figures and their works. More specifically, the lectures will zoom in on Romantic and Victorian literature, modernism and post-modernism, and some of the main trends

in contemporary literature. The course also aims to further develop the students' academic language skills.

Initial competences

This course builds on the knowledge and competencies acquired in the courses "English Literature: Introduction" (prose and poetry analysis) and "English Literature: Overview Before 1800."

Students may also have acquired the necessary skills by other means.

Final competences

- 1 To be familiar with crucial aspects of the oeuvre of some significant authors
- 2 To grasp how certain writers and their literature relate to one another, synchronically and diachronically
- 3 To know what makes a few important works stand out in English literary history
- 4 To have developed an insight into the character of different literary periods
- 5 To understand the interactions between literary texts and their social/political/intellectual contexts
- 6 To be able to analyze, in idiomatic English, literary texts and identify their salient qualities in light of their author's oeuvre and context
- 7 To make use of digital search environments and search strategies in order to identify appropriate research objects

Conditions for credit contract

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

Conditions for exam contract

Access to this course unit via an exam contract is unrestricted

Teaching methods

Seminar, Lecture, Independent work

Extra information on the teaching methods

- Lectures, 75 minutes/week.
- Seminars (literary analysis, critical discussion), in small groups, 75 minutes/week.
- Independent work: reading list; literary analysis paper

Study material

Type: Handbook

Name: English Literature in Context

Indicative price: € 35

Optional: yes

Language : English

Author : Paul Poplawski

Available in the Library : Yes

Usability and Lifetime within the Study Programme : regularly

Type: Other

Name: Hard Times

Indicative price: € 15

Optional: no

Language : English

Author : Charles Dickens

Online Available : Yes

Type: Other

Name: The Animals in That Country

Indicative price: € 15

Optional: no

Language : English

Author : Laura Jean McKay

Available in the Library : Yes

Type: Other

Name: Frankenstein

Indicative price: € 15

Optional: no

Language : English
Author : Mary Shelley
Online Available : Yes

Type: Other

Name: Things Fall Apart
Indicative price: € 15
Optional: no
Language : English
Author : Chinua Achebe
Available in the Library : Yes

References

- Recommended textbook: Paul Poplawski (ed.). *English Literature in Context*. 2nd ed. Cambridge UP, 2017.

Course content-related study coaching

- Possibility of feedback and counselling on an individual basis
- Students will be able to benefit from the Ufora learning environment.

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

Extra information on the examination methods

Lecture-based sessions are recorded and made available to all students. Seminar discussions will not be recorded.

The evaluation takes into account the students' academic language skills (written language). It is based on two components:

- An abstract and a literary analysis paper, to be delivered during the final examination period (the exact deadlines will be announced at the beginning of the course)
- A written exam, which will consist in a number of open questions, including questions about the texts discussed in class

Calculation of the examination mark

- The paper will count towards 50% of the final grade
- The written exam will count towards 50% of the final grade
- To pass the course, students need a grade of at least 10/20 on **both** paper and written exam.
- In case of resit, students will have to retake **only the component they failed** (only applies within the same academic year)

Facilities for Working Students

Attendance is not mandatory; there are no extra reading materials for students who can't come to class.

It is possible to schedule an alternative exam during the regular exam period.

It is possible to obtain feedback at an alternative time (by appointment).