

English Literature: Historical Period (A005761)

Course size *(nominal values; actual values may depend on programme)*

Credits 5.0 **Study time 150 h**

Course offerings in academic year 2024-2025

A (semester 2) English Gent

Lecturers in academic year 2024-2025

Lambert, Shannon	LW07	lecturer-in-charge
Benson James, Louise	LW07	co-lecturer

Offered in the following programmes in 2024-2025

	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
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

Module Shannon Lambert: Medicine, science, bodies, fiction, biology, twentieth century, twenty-first century, nonhuman animals, laboratory literature.

Module David Alvarez: British Literature and Culture; Restoration and 18th-Century British Literature; Enlightenment; Religion; Toleration; Imperialism

Position of the course

This course is an elective, third-year course. It expands on the overviews given in the first two years of the bachelor. It focuses on (1) late nineteenth to contemporary American and British fiction and biomedical science, with a particular interest in the depiction of bodies both human and nonhuman animal ; or (2) on Restoration drama, imperialism, and religion.

Contents

Students choose one of the modules below.

Module Shannon Lambert & Louise Benson James: American and British fiction and biomedical science

This interdisciplinary course will examine how scientific issues related to the body were

registered and interrogated across a range of literary genres (essays; novels; short stories; poems) from the 1880s to the present. Areas of interest that will shape our discussions include, for example: evolution and degeneration; theories of race, gender, sexuality and class; interactions of the mind and body; new understandings of illness and disease; animal experimentation; zoonosis and transgenesis; and medical ethics.

The contents of the course is guided by questions such as:

- How is scientific knowledge addressed and transformed in literary writing?
- How do various literary forms influence the communication and reception of scientific theories and concepts?
- How transferable are reading practices and strategies across literary and scientific texts?
- Do fictional engagements transform how we understand knowledge and who, and what, counts in its production?
- Does literature have a role to play in ethical questions related to medical and scientific knowledge and, even, practice?

Nb. The learning and reading materials listed below belong to this module only.

Module David Alvarez: Staging World Religions and Imagining the Secular in Restoration Drama

In the context of imperial conquest and early globalization, English drama in the seventeenth century often stages distant locales on the local London stage. Especially after the restoration of the English monarchy and established church in 1660, these spectacular productions imagine Mexico and Morocco, Ottomans and Mughals, in exotic fashion to think about cross-cultural encounters and engage with global politics. Restoration theater plays an important but largely unacknowledged role in imagining world religions, and this course examines how and why the modern concept of religion is developed and deployed globally in Restoration drama. We will pay special attention to how different representations of religion are linked to the development of forms of toleration and secularism in these plays, as well as to imperial projects.

Nb. All learning and reading materials will be made available through Ufora.

Initial competences

English literature 1 or acquisition of skills for literary analysis by other means. Some knowledge of 19th century to contemporary literature, and literary theory will be helpful, but is not necessary for enrolment.

Final competences

- 1 To read texts in a wide variety of genres (novel, poetry, drama, short story, prose essay), paying close and critical attention to the production of meaning at the level of literary language and form.
- 2 An understanding of the relationship between literature and science and how it has evolved from the late nineteenth century to the present.
- 3 To write about texts analytically, using both close-reading skills and contextual scholarship to offer original critical commentary
- 4 An understanding of how the biological study of bodies developed in the medical sciences, and how writers of fiction engaged with these sciences.
- 5 Understanding the purpose and benefits of researching 'beyond the canon' and practical skills in researching using online archives.

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

Extra information on the teaching methods

Individual sessions will combine lecture and seminar methods, with opportunities for students to participate in class discussions, and practical workshop elements including researching online archives for historical, literary, and medical texts. Each session will situate the assigned texts in their relevant literary and cultural contexts.

Study material

Type: Handouts

Name: Excerpts from Frank Herbert's Dune (1965)
Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty
Optional: no
Language : English
Available on Ufora : Yes
Online Available : No
Available in the Library : No
Available through Student Association : No
Usability and Lifetime within the Course Unit : not applicable
Additional information: We will order a copy for the library.

Type: Audiovisual Material

Name: Dune (2021), Denis Villeneuve
Indicative price: € 5
Optional: no
Language : English
Available on Ufora : No
Online Available : Yes
Available in the Library : No
Available through Student Association : No
Usability and Lifetime within the Course Unit : one-time
Usability and Lifetime after the Study Programme : not
Additional information: If possible, we may run a screening so that students can watch it for free.

Type: Other

Name: Quicksand (1928)
Indicative price: € 8
Optional: no
Author : Nella Larsen
Available on Ufora : Yes
Online Available : Yes
Available in the Library : Yes

Type: Other

Name: The People in the Trees (2013)
Indicative price: € 15
Optional: no
Language : English
Author : Hanya Yanagihara
ISBN : 978-1-03503-852-7
Number of Pages : 384
Available on Ufora : No
Online Available : No
Available in the Library : No
Available through Student Association : No
Usability and Lifetime within the Course Unit : regularly
Usability and Lifetime after the Study Programme : not
Additional information: Being ordered for the library. Available at Standaard Boekhandel:
<https://www.standaardboekhandel.be/p/the-people-in-the-trees-9781035038527>

Type: Other

Name: "Little Vultures" (2018) from the collection Intruders
Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty
Optional: no
Language : English
Author : Mohale Mashigo
ISBN : 978-1-77010-614-7
Number of Pages : 10
Available on Ufora : Yes
Online Available : Yes
Available in the Library : No
Available through Student Association : No
Additional information: Will be ordered for the library.

Type: Other

Name: Nightwood (1936)
Indicative price: € 10
Optional: no
Author : Djuna Barnes
ISBN : 978-0-57123-528-5
Available on Ufora : Yes
Online Available : Yes
Available in the Library : Yes

Type: Other

Name: The Tiger Flu (2018)
Indicative price: € 27
Optional: no
Language : English
Author : Larissa Lai
ISBN : 978-1-55152-731-4
Number of Pages : 296
Available on Ufora : No
Online Available : Yes
Available in the Library : Yes
Available through Student Association : No
Usability and Lifetime within the Course Unit : not applicable
Usability and Lifetime within the Study Programme : one-time
Usability and Lifetime after the Study Programme : not

Type: Other

Name: Selection of infection/contagion short stories
Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty
Optional: no
Language : English
Author : Misc.
Available on Ufora : Yes
Online Available : No
Available in the Library : No
Available through Student Association : No
Additional information: Available through Ufora

Type: Other

Name: Toxin (1895)
Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty
Optional: no
Author : Ouida
Available on Ufora : Yes
Online Available : Yes
Available in the Library : No

Type: Other

Name: Dracula (1897)
Indicative price: € 7
Optional: no
Author : Bram Stoker
ISBN : 978-0-14143-984-6
Available on Ufora : Yes
Online Available : Yes
Available in the Library : Yes

Type: Other

Name: Flowers for Algernon (1959)
Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty
Optional: no
Language : English
Author : Daniel Keyes
Number of Pages : 23
Available on Ufora : Yes

Online Available : Yes
Available in the Library : No
Available through Student Association : No
Usability and Lifetime within the Course Unit : regularly

References

Course content-related study coaching

Assessment moments

continuous assessment

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

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

Examination methods in case of permanent assessment

Participation, Written 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

Written Assignment and/or Oral Presentation (40%)

Final Written Assignment (60%)

More details about the assignments will be given at the beginning of the lessons.

Calculation of the examination mark

Facilities for Working Students

1. Working students will be eligible to receive alternative assignments if they cannot attend classes regularly.
2. Working students can make an appointment for feedback on their assignments.