

## Theory of Literature I: Topics in European Literary History (A005798)

**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 1)

Dutch

Gent

**Lecturers in academic year 2026-2027**

Maes, Yanick

LW07

staff member

De Temmerman, Koen

LW07

lecturer-in-charge

Keunen, Bart

LW07

co-lecturer

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

	<b>crdts</b>	<b>offering</b>
Bachelor of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures(main subject Arabic and Islamic Studies)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Dutch - English)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Dutch - French)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Dutch - German)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Dutch - Greek)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Dutch - Italian)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Dutch - Latin)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Dutch - Spanish)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Dutch - Swedish)	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
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject French - German)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject French - Greek)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject French - Italian)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject French - Latin)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject French - Spanish)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject French - Swedish)	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
Bachelor of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures(main subject India)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures(main subject Japan)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Latin - Greek)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Latin - Italian)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Latin - Spanish)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Latin - Swedish)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in African Languages and Cultures	5	A
Linking Course Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Dutch)	5	A

Linking Course Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject English)	5	A
Linking Course Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject French)	5	A
Linking Course Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject German)	5	A
Linking Course Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Latin)	5	A
Linking Course Master of Arts in Gender and Diversity	5	A
Preparatory Course Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Dutch)	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 Dutch - French)	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 Dutch - Italian)	5	A
Preparatory Course Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Dutch - Spanish)	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)	5	A
Preparatory Course Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject French - English)	5	A
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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
Preparatory Course Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Greek)	5	A
Preparatory Course Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Iberian-Romance Languages)	5	A
Preparatory Course Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Latin)	5	A
Preparatory Course Master of Arts in Comparative Modern Literature	5	A
Preparatory Course Master of Arts in Historical Linguistics and Literature	5	A
Elective Set Literature	5	A
Elective Set Southeast-European Language	5	A

### Teaching languages

Dutch

### Keywords

General and comparative literature

### Position of the course

ALW builds on and deepens two Ba1-courses: *Europese Talen in Contact* partim Letterkunde en *Inleiding tot de voornaamste moderne literaturen*. The course aims to familiarise students with concepts and issues central to the literary-theoretical and comparative study of literary texts from different periods, genres and regions. This course corresponds to the aims of the different curricula, particularly those of a bachelor in literature.

### Contents

A survey of the concepts and issues central to the comparative study of literature from different periods, genres or regions.

Part 1 is both a theoretical-conceptual and a literary-historical exploration of the concept of fiction and related concepts throughout European narrative literature. Part 2 emphasises the comparative study of narrative genres from a historical perspective (tragedy, adventure stories, novel of emergence and idyll in their historical manifestations and in their aftereffects on contemporary popular narrative culture).

### **Initial competences**

Knowledge of the terminology of literary analysis.

### **Final competences**

- 1 To have a sound, scholarly understanding of the specific characteristics of literary texts.
- 2 To be able to implement various methods of analysis for the study of narratives.
- 3 To be able to explain the use of various methods of analysis in a broad historical, social, cultural, and philosophical context.
- 4 To be able to enter more advanced courses in the Master Comparative Literature and the language-specific masters.
- 5 To be able to reflect critically about the connections between texts from various periods, genres, and areas

### **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**

Access to this course unit via an exam contract is unrestricted

### **Teaching methods**

Lecture, Independent work

### **Extra information on the teaching methods**

Lectures, in which students are supposed to take notes. Personal reading of and critical reflection about the literary works on the reading list.

### **Study material**

Type: Slides

Name: Powerpoint slides ALW I  
Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty  
Optional: no  
Language : Dutch  
Number of Slides : 500  
Available on Ufora : Yes  
Online Available : No  
Available in the Library : No  
Available through Student Association : No

Type: Reader

Name: Secondary literature  
Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty  
Optional: no  
Language : English  
Number of Pages : 100  
Available on Ufora : Yes  
Online Available : No  
Available in the Library : No  
Available through Student Association : No  
Additional information: Most articles are in English; one or two are in French.

Type: Reader

Name: Primary texts  
Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty  
Optional: no  
Language : Dutch  
Number of Pages : 200  
Available on Ufora : No

Online Available : No

Available in the Library : Yes

Available through Student Association : No

Additional information: Primary texts to be read: Sophocles' Oedipus Rex, Cervantes' Don Quijote, Shakespeare's Othello, and Flaubert's Madame Bovary. Students can either purchase the four books themselves (ca. 100 EUR) or borrow them from the/a library. For all books, editions are recommended during the first class.

## References

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## Course content-related study coaching

Specific questions can be asked during the lecturer's office hours.

## Assessment moments

end-of-term assessment

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

Written assessment with multiple-choice questions

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

Written assessment with multiple-choice questions

## Examination methods in case of permanent assessment

## Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment

not applicable

## Extra information on the examination methods

### *Assessment form*

Final written exam in the examination period. This exam tests the knowledge of the student about the content of the course through multiple-choice questions about both the lectures and the application of the theoretical concepts.

## Calculation of the examination mark

Periodical (100%): 40% Partim I, 40% Partim II, 20% Reading of primary texts.

## Facilities for Working Students

1. Possible exemption from educational activities requiring student attendance
  2. Possible rescheduling of the examination to a different time in the same academic year
  3. Alternative time for feedback is possible
- For more information concerning flexible learning: contact the monitoring service of the faculty of Arts and philosophy