

Culture and Society of the French-speaking World (A005827)

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

Credits 4.0 **Study time 120 h**

Course offerings in academic year 2026-2027

A (semester 2) French Gent

Lecturers in academic year 2026-2027

Theeten, Griet LW22 lecturer-in-charge

Offered in the following programmes in 2026-2027

	crdts	offering
Bachelor of Arts in Applied Language Studies: a combination of at least two languages(main subject Dutch, English, French)	4	A
Bachelor of Arts in Applied Language Studies: a combination of at least two languages(main subject Dutch, French, German)	4	A
Bachelor of Arts in Applied Language Studies: a combination of at least two languages(main subject Dutch, French, Italian)	4	A
Bachelor of Arts in Applied Language Studies: a combination of at least two languages(main subject Dutch, French, Language Technology)	4	A
Bachelor of Arts in Applied Language Studies: a combination of at least two languages(main subject Dutch, French, Russian)	4	A
Bachelor of Arts in Applied Language Studies: a combination of at least two languages(main subject Dutch, French, Spanish)	4	A
Bachelor of Arts in Applied Language Studies: a combination of at least two languages(main subject Dutch, French, Turkish)	4	A
Exchange Programme Applied Language Studies	4	A
Linking Course Master of Arts in Multilingual Communication: a combination of at least two languages	4	A
Linking Course Master of Arts in Translation: a combination of at least two languages	4	A
Preparatory Course Master of Arts in Interpreting: a combination of at least two languages	4	A
Preparatory Course Master of Arts in Multilingual Communication: a combination of at least two languages	4	A
Preparatory Course Master of Arts in Translation: a combination of at least two languages	4	A

Teaching languages

French

Keywords

French, culture

Position of the course

This course provides students with a broad background knowledge and understanding of the main modern manifestations of social life (political, social, economic, cultural) of the French-speaking world. This will enable them to better situate and critically interpret recent developments. By studying the course material, students also expand their terminological knowledge of concepts, cultural references and social phenomena.

No knowledge of Dutch is required for this course unit. Exchange students may take this course unit, provided they possess the required language skills and initial competences.

Contents

Based on various themes, the course highlights current social life in the French-speaking world. Examples of themes:

- The French language
- The image of France in the world
- Political structure and institutions
- Social geography
- Social and cultural practices

All themes are discussed using a selection of relevant publications and excerpts from various (audio-visual) media. Students are asked to critically review the didactic material prior to some lectures, and study relevant vocabulary.

Initial competences

An adequate knowledge of French, both passive and active (minimum level B1 of the ECC).

Final competences

- 1 Formulate insights about contemporary francophone society in correct French, using appropriate terminology.
- 2 Have a thorough knowledge of the cultural and institutional backgrounds of the French-speaking world and be able to use that knowledge to reflect critically on social developments and intercultural transfers.
- 3 To actively monitor new developments within the general context of the French language, society and culture, to reflect critically on them and to place them in a broad social and intercultural framework.
- 4 Judging and acting with appropriate self-reflection in cultural contexts.
- 5 Demonstrate intercultural awareness: linguistic and cultural sensitivity and respect for diversity.

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

The thematically focused lectures are supported by PowerPoint presentations. Some lectures are organized as discussion lectures. Students are asked to critically review the didactic material prior to some lectures, and study relevant vocabulary. Occasionally, activities outside of the regular contact hours complement the program, responding to current events. Personal reading complements the class. Some lecture-based sessions (not the guest lectures) are recorded and made available to specific target groups (upon request).

Study material

Type: Slides

Name: Slides
 Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty
 Optional: no
 Language : Other
 Available on Ufora : Yes

Type: Reader

Name: Reader
 Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty
 Optional: no
 Language : Other
 Available on Ufora : Yes

Type: Other

Name: Book for personal reading
 Indicative price: € 10
 Optional: yes
 Additional information: A book for personal reading to complete the lectures. You do not need to buy this; it can also be borrowed from a library. The titles will be announced via Ufora at the start of the lectures.

References

Course content-related study coaching

By appointment.

Assessment moments

end-of-term assessment

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

Written assessment

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

Written assessment

Examination methods in case of permanent assessment

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment

not applicable

Extra information on the examination methods

100% end-of-term assessment - written exam

Calculation of the examination mark

Written assessment 100%

Facilities for Working Students

Absence is allowed. Some lecture-based sessions are recorded and made available (upon request).

It is possible to take the exam at a different time within the regular exam period.

Possibility to receive feedback at another time: by appointment.