GHENT UNIVERSITY

Course Specifications

Valid as from the academic year 2026-2027

Literature in English: Creative Writing (A006664)

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) English Gent

Lecturers in academic year 2026-2027

Buelens, Gert LW07 lecturer-in-charge

Offered in the following programmes in 2026-2027	crdts	offering
Master of Science in Teaching in Languages(main subject Linguistics and Literature)	5	A
Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Dutch - English)	5	A
Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject English)	5	A
Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject English - German)	5	A
Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject English - Greek)	5	A
Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject English - Italian)	5	A
Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject English - Latin)	5	A
Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject English - Scandinavian Studies)	5	A
Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject English - Spanish)	5	A
Master 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

Teaching languages

English

Keywords

Creative writing, short story, fiction, literature in English, nineteenth century, twentieth century, twenty-first century

Position of the course

Students engage in the theoretical and practical study of short fiction, with an ultimate goal of having each student complete one short story (in English) suitable for publication.
Exchange students may take up this course unit, for which no prior knowledge of Dutch is required. However, do note that students must be highly proficient in English (see below).

Contents

This course introduces students to the writing of fiction. One dimension of the course consists in the close analysis of a wide range of short stories from the modern and contemporary period, focusing on the effect on the reader of certain techniques familiar to students from earlier coursework in English literature. Students simultaneously engage in in-class writing exercises (contributing to the portfolio part of the course) and begin to write a story of their own, which will serve as part of the final assessment. An important premise of the course is that the writing of fiction is not altogether dissimilar from academic writing: good fiction, too, tries to answer a (research) question. Reading widely is one of the forms research in the field of fiction takes. Your work builds on that of predecessors who have tackled similar questions both in terms of content (e.g. what makes people tick?) and form (how can I best dramatise the issue that fascinates me? We will also examine how AI-tools can stimulate and reinforce our

own creativity (instead of fully replacing it), as well as how Gen AI forms a surprisingly useful tool to generate feedback on (your own) work.

Initial competences

Students must be highly proficient in English (CEFR C1 level (Expert/Effective operational proficiency)).
The course builds on some final competences of introductory and intermediate (survey) courses in Anglophone literature.

Final competences

1 Students read and respond to a range of short stories and novels as technical exemplars of the craft of fiction writing.
2 Students identify and evaluate the technical and stylistic choices made by the writer of modern and contemporary fiction.
3 Students understand how these choices can be applied to their own writing.
4 Students demonstrate their capacities for close reading and editorial scrutiny.
5 Students apply close-reading and editorial skills to the reading and editing of fiction produced by their classmates and by themselves.
6 Students begin to identify their own formal, stylistic and thematic approaches.
7 Students show insight into the range of narrative, stylistic and technical choices open to the contemporary writer.
8 Students apply sophisticated writing techniques (which may include AI-generated prompts) to their own creative work.
9 Students reflect on their own creative practice and situate it in historic and contemporary contexts.

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

Seminar, Independent work

Extra information on the teaching methods

No lecture recordings are provided for this course (interactive teaching format).

Study material

Type: Handbook

Name: Writing Fiction: A Guide to the Narrative Craft
Indicative price: € 19
Optional: no
Language : English
Author : Janet Burroway
ISBN : 978-0-22661-669-8
Number of Pages : 236
Online Available : Yes
Available in the Library : Yes
Available through Student Association : Yes
Usability and Lifetime within the Course Unit : intensive
Usability and Lifetime within the Study Programme : one-time

Type: Reader

Name: Short Stories
Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty
Optional: no
Language : English
Available on Ufora : Yes

References

Course content-related study coaching

Peer feedback and teacher feedback on draft material for the short story.
Possibility of additional feedback and counselling on an individual basis.

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, Peer and/or self 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

The in-term assessment is based on:
- participation
- a portfolio of work written in-class and at home
- an assignment (short story) and the critical reflection upon it

A fail grade for the critical reflection results in the highest non-passable mark (7/20) for the course as a whole.

Calculation of the examination mark

Facilities for Working Students

1 Student attendance required
2 Possible rescheduling of the final evaluation (assignment) to a different time in the same academic year
3 Feedback can be given by email and during or outside of office hours face-to-face of via Teams