

## French Literature: Ideas in Context (A006674)

**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 2)                      French                      Gent

**Lecturers in academic year 2026-2027**

Roose, Alexander                      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 - French)	5	A
Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject French)	5	A
Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject French - English)	5	A
Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject French - German)	5	A
Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject French - Greek)	5	A
Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject French - Italian)	5	A
Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject French - Latin)	5	A
Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject French - Scandinavian Studies)	5	A
Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject French - Spanish)	5	A
Master of Arts in Historical Linguistics and Literature	5	A
Exchange Programme Cultures and Languages in Context	5	A
Exchange Programme Linguistics and Literature	5	A

### Teaching languages

French

### Keywords

French literature, 17-19th century, text analysis, poetics, history of literature, history of ideas

### Position of the course

In-depth study of French literature  
Close reading and contextual analysis of a selection of literary works that are representative of the period under study.

### Contents

In the lectures, French literature of classicism and enlightenment is studied and discussed from one central theme such as the 'invention of freedom' or 'la cause des femmes', on the position and rights of women.

Depending on the theme studied, 4 to 5 texts will be studied (spread over the three periods):

For the theme 'the invention of freedom', for example, we read: Etienne de La Boétie (*Discours sur la servitude volontaire*), La Fontaine (*Fables*) or Fénelon (*Les Aventures de Télémaque; Lettre à Louis XVI*), Montesquieu (*Les Lettres persanes*), Françoise de Graffigny (*Lettres d'une Péruvienne*), Rousseau (*Du Contrat Social*) Olympe de Gouges (*Zamore et Mirza*), Constant, (*La liberté des anciens et des modernes*).

For the theme 'la cause des femmes', for example, we could read: Marie de Gournay (*Egalité entre hommes et femmes*), Madame de Lafayette, *La Princesse de Clèves*, Madame de Montpensier; Madame D'Aulnoy (*Le Nain Jaune, La Bonne*

*petite souris*) ; Françoise de Graffigny, Olympe de Gouges, (*la Déclaration des droits de la femme et de la citoyenne*) en Madame de Duras (*Ourika*).

### **Initial competences**

An excellent command of the French language. The course links up with the methodological issues and literary history presented in Ba3.

### **Final competences**

- 1 Gain profound insight into the individuality of French literature (16-18th century), its developments and contextual influences.
- 2 Master the terminology and basic concepts of text analysis.
- 3 Be able to evaluate the use of various methodologies with regard to text types.
- 4 Demonstrate this knowledge in a personal scientific analysis.
- 5 Be able to accurately present an analysis of a literary text both orally and in writing.

### **Conditions for credit contract**

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

### **Conditions for exam contract**

This course unit cannot be taken via an exam contract

### **Teaching methods**

Seminar, Lecture

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

Er worden geen lesopnames voorzien voor dit vak.

### **Study material**

None

### **References**

A precise reference list will be posted on Ufora at the beginning of each academic year.

### **Course content-related study coaching**

Library of French Literature; collective and individual supervision of student papers.

### **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**

Assignment

### **Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment**

examination during the second examination period is possible

### **Extra information on the examination methods**

The four or five set texts are presented and questioned in chronological order during lectures. Students will then work with notes and the reading suggestions (e.g. Quentin Skinner, De Dijn, Ph. Petit) and write one longer, well informed essay and, in addition, 2 short essays on several (set) texts.

### **Calculation of the examination mark**

100% continuous assessment

### **Facilities for Working Students**

1. Possible exemption from educational activities requiring student attendance, a task is imposed in substitution
2. Possible rescheduling of the examination to a different time in the same academic year
3. Feedback can be given by email, telephone or during an appointment during or after office hours

For more information concerning flexible learning: contact the monitoring service

