

Italian Literature: Historical Literature (A006677)

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) Italian Gent

Lecturers in academic year 2026-2027

Bellizzi, Aretina 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 - Italian)	5	A
Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject English - Italian)	5	A
Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject French - Italian)	5	A
Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject German - Italian)	5	A
Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Latin - Italian)	5	A
Master of Arts in Historical Linguistics and Literature	5	A
Exchange Programme Linguistics and Literature	5	A

Teaching languages

Italian

Keywords

Italian literature, History of the book, Early modern literature, Paratexts, Editorial history, Literary theory.

Position of the course

This specialized course is a continuation of the Bachelor's Program in Italian and offers an in-depth study of a specific topic of Italian literary and cultural history.

Contents

The text and its thresholds: features and functions of the paratext in early modern Italian literature

This course examines major literary works from the Italian early modern rhetorical tradition. It aims to assess the revival and original interpretations of Platonism and Aristotelianism within the Italian literary context. The course analyzes the interplay between Italian literature and philosophical debate in vernacular works from the 15th to the 17th century. Students will be guided in exploring various themes and theories through early modern literature, its sources, and its reception.

Initial competences

Students have completed the Bachelor's program in Italian or acquired the necessary competencies in another way.

Final competences

- 1 To have a nuanced understanding of paratexts and the complex interplay between text and paratext.
- 2 To have insight on the communication strategies deployed at a paratextual level in the promotion and circulation of literary texts.
- 3 To substantiate how paratexts can be used to mediate between the text and the reader.
- 4 To critically approach literary works as material, commercial and intellectual products.

5 To apply methods of literary theory and book history in the analysis of literary texts.

6 To present research results orally and in writing in an academically correct form.

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

It is a 10 weeks course, each week in-classroom lesson, and each lesson is the usual 2 h and 30 minutes circa.

Study material

Type: Handbook

Name: Roberto Carnero, Giuseppe Iannaccone, Il magnifico viaggio. 6 vols, 2022 OR Id., Al cuore della letteratura, 6 vols, 2019

Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty

Optional: no

Language : Other

Online Available : No

Available in the Library : Yes

Additional information: Indicative price: € 150-180 ca. Students have bought the text during the BA and for the MA course "Italian Literature: Specific Problems I". It is not compulsory to purchase the manual. The text is available for consultation in the faculty library.

Type: Slides

Name: Powerpoint presentations

Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty

Optional: no

Language : Other

Available on Ufora : Yes

Online Available : Yes

Available in the Library : No

Available through Student Association : No

Type: Reader

Name: Reader primary sources

Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty

Optional: no

Language : Other

Available on Ufora : Yes

Online Available : Yes

Available in the Library : No

Available through Student Association : No

Type: Handouts

Name: handout primary sources

Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty

Optional: no

Language : Other

Available on Ufora : Yes

References

See the bibliography distributed during the lectures.

Course content-related study coaching

Ruben Celani (ruben.celani@ugent.be) by appointment.

Ad hoc tutoring by native speaker interns from the Italian section to prepare the assignments/evaluations.

Assessment moments

end-of-term and continuous assessment

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

Oral assessment

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

Oral assessment

Examination methods in case of permanent assessment

Oral assessment, Written assessment

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment

examination during the second examination period is possible

Extra information on the examination methods

Continuous assessment: oral and written

- 1 oral presentation
- 1 in-class writing assignment

End-of-term assessment: oral

- 1 oral exam

Calculation of the examination mark

Continuous assessment: oral and written = 10 points

- 1 oral presentation: 5 points
- 1 in-class writing assignment: 5 points

End-of-term assessment: oral = 10 points

Score calculation language skills and scientific terminology: 25% of each assessment.

Students who fail to participate in the evaluation of one or more components of the course will no longer be able to pass the entire course. If the average final score would still be ten out of twenty or higher, it will be rounded down to the nearest non-successful digit, which is 9. During the second examination period, students only need to retake the portion(s) of the exam that they did not pass in the first examination period (partial exemption).

Facilities for Working Students

Facilities:

1. Possible exemption from class attendance. An alternative program will be defined in accordance with the lecturer-in-charge.
2. Online facilities: No online/digital facilities (lectures take place on campus, without recordings)
3. Possible rescheduling of the examination to a different time in the same academic year
4. Feedback: online or by appointment