

Latin Literature: Ancient Poetics (A006682)

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

Williamson, Leila

LW07

staff member

Formisano, Marco

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 - Latin)	5	A
Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject English - Latin)	5	A
Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject French - Latin)	5	A
Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Latin)	5	A
Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Latin - Greek)	5	A
Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Latin - Italian)	5	A
Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Latin - Scandinavian Studies)	5	A
Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Latin - Spanish)	5	A
Master of Arts in Historical Linguistics and Literature	5	A
Exchange Programme Linguistics and Literature	5	A

Teaching languages

Dutch

Keywords

Latin poetics and poetry, late antiquity, Ausonius, Claudian, Rutilius Namatianus, Sidonius Apollinaris, Venantius Fortunatus, itinera en travel texts, displacement, interruption, landscape, ecopoetics.

Position of the course

This course focusses on late Latin poetics through the reading of various texts. The problem of originality of late Latin poetry will be at the center of our discussion. Is it possible to acknowledge late Latin poetry per se without using the lens provided by classical poetry? Moreover the texts shall be approached from an ecopoetic perspective.

Contents

We read and analyze the works of Ausonius, Claudianus, Rutilius Namatianus, Ennodius, Venantius Fortunatus and other late antique authors. In doing so, we will take a thematic approach. At the same time, this course will also represents a special exercise of hermeneutics, because instead of the historicizing readings typical of our discipline, we will focus on the specific aesthetics of the time and on the function of the landscape, the environment and of other non-human aspects on the basis of eco-criticism.

Three sessions will be given together with the Mastercourse of Prof. Aaron Kachuck from UCL Louvain-la-Neuve.

Initial competences

To have successfully completed the Bachelor of Linguistics and Literature, with Latin as one of the two chosen languages, or the postgraduate course in Latin

Final competences

- 1 To have some insight into the aesthetic aspects of Late Antiquity
- 2 To become familiar with ecopoetics and ecocriticism.
- 3 To have some insight into the active reuse of earlier texts
- 4 To be able to discuss stylistic and literary aspects of these texts
- 5 To be able to use these concepts to reflect on the relationship with the classical period
- 6 To be able to apply the acquired insights in an analytical discussion of stylistic and literary aspects
- 7 To be able to apply a literary-scholarly question to a specific text
- 8 To be able to draw up, present and defend a scholarly argument in front of an audience
- 9 Insight in ecocriticism and ecopoetics
- 10 Use Generative AI responsibly.

Conditions for credit contract

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

Conditions for exam contract

Access to this course unit via an exam contract is unrestricted

Teaching methods

Seminar, Lecture, Independent work

Extra information on the teaching methods

Lecture course (10%), introducing theory, the authors and literary questions relevant to Late Antiquity

Preparation and reading of certain texts, consisting of work in groups, independent study and presentations (20%)

Seminar (20%): active participation in the presentations and reading by other groups

Independent reading of Latin texts on the basis of a literary question (50%)

Study material

Type: Handbook

Name: Claudien, Le rapt de Proserpine, (ed. J.-L. Charlet) Les Belles Lettres (Euro 24,75) Rutilius Namatianus, Sur son retour (ed. E. Wolff), Les Belles Lettres (Euro 29,50)+ primaire en secondaire bronnen op Ufora

Indicative price: € 55

Optional: no

Language : Other

Author : Claudian and Rutilius Namatianus

ISBN : 978-2-25101-356-5

Number of Pages : 617

Online Available : No

Available in the Library : Yes

Available through Student Association : No

Usability and Lifetime within the Course Unit : regularly

Usability and Lifetime within the Study Programme : regularly

Usability and Lifetime after the Study Programme : occasionally

Type: Reader

Name: Claudien, Le rapt de Proserpine, (ed. J.-L. Charlet) Les Belles Lettres (Euro 24,75) Rutilius Namatianus, Sur son retour (ed. E. Wolff), Les Belles Lettres (Euro 29,50) + primary and secondary texts on Ufora

Indicative price: € 55

Optional: no

References

Claudian, Le rapt de Proserpine, (ed. J.-L. Charlet) Les Belles Lettres (Euro 24,75)

Rutilius Namatianus, Sur son retour (ed. E. Wolff), Les Belles Lettres (Euro 29,50)

Course content-related study coaching

Intensive and interactive reading of the Latin texts. Ongoing feedback and tutoring during the tasks. Students can always make an appointment with the instructor

Assessment moments

end-of-term and continuous assessment

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

Oral assessment open-book, Assignment

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

Oral assessment open-book, Assignment

Examination methods in case of permanent assessment

Skills test, Participation, 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

permanent evaluation:

- active participation to the class
- presentations
- final paper

end-of-term assessment:

- oral exam

Calculation of the examination mark

- active participation and presentation 10%
- final paper 50%
- oral exam / final workshop with UCL 40%

Students who fail the exam will be offered a second chance and must compensate with other activities between the first and the second exam period.

Facilities for Working Students

Facilities:

Possible exemption from educational activities requiring student attendance; a task is imposed in substitution after discussion with the lecturer.