GHENT UNIVERSITY

Course Specifications

Valid as from the academic year 2025-2026

Latin Literature: Medieval Poetics (A006683)

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) English Gent

Lecturers in academic year 2026-2027

Verbaal, Wim	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 Classics	5	A
Exchange Programme Linguistics and Literature	5	A
Exchange Programme Medieval Studies and Auxiliary Sciences	5	A

Teaching languages

English

Keywords

Latin, medieval literature, history of literature

Position of the course

Designed as a research seminar, this specialist course in Latin literature aims to provide students with an introduction to the Latin poetics of the Middle Ages (c. 500-1500). From the reading of a varied selection of (excerpts from) Latin poetry and prose from different periods and regions, students will gain a sharpened understanding of the literary history of Latin after antiquity and, more broadly, question the position and importance of the Latin Middle Ages in European literary history. Students are expected to participate in classes well prepared (cf. evaluation forms infra).

Contents

The course includes the following components:
A. A theoretical introduction to the Latin poetics of the Middle Ages that starts from an interpretation and problematization of the concepts of "medieval," "Latin," and "literature.
B. A chronological literary-historical survey of Latin literature after the extinction of Latin as a mother tongue with special attention to Latin in contact with other European literary cultures.
C. An initial exploration of a specific corpus of texts related to the instructor's ongoing research.
D. The study in a group or individual context of a given research question within

the programme on the basis of one or more self-chosen texts and in connection with their own research in the framework of their thesis. Great activity and responsibility is required of the student in view of the excerpts to be read and discussed. If desired, part of the corpus can be given up as independent reading. E. Students will be closely involved in the research activities of the instructors during the course.

Initial competences

To have taken the BA curriculum in Linguistics and Literature with Latin as one of the two obliged languages OR the postgraduate degree in Latin.

Final competences

1 to have insight in important developments in the history of medieval Latin literature, including knowledge of specific authors, genres and texts
2 to be able to discuss and situate seen and unseen texts within broader historical, cultural and literary contexts
3 to be able to compare and make connections between seen and unseen texts
4 to be able to apply a literary-theoretical or literary-historical research question to a given text corpus
5 to be able to approach and visualise one's own research from a specific theme in order to present and defend it in a scientific argument but for a wider audience.

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, Practical, Independent work

Extra information on the teaching methods

- On campus lecture: esp. introductory and contextualising sections
- On campus response college and practicum: interactive discussions with teacher (s) and students
- Preparation for class: preparatory reading of assigned primary texts
- - Research project - practicum: students conduct individual research, learn to draft a scientific argument that interacts with the lesson content, and present and defend the results before a broad audience.

Study material

None

References

Other materials will be made available by the teacher on Ufora.

Course content-related study coaching

Joint situational awareness and discussion of texts during the course. Feedback and guidance in conducting the individual research and scientific presentation thereof.

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

Skills test, Participation, Oral assessment open-book, Peer and/or self assessment

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

Evaluation is done on an ongoing basis:
- The degree of participation in the course (attendance and input).
- An individual work file (portfolio) containing the processing of the course material and the preparation for the presentation (including bibliography).

- The presentation in a broad or limited forum.
- The written evaluation of (or individual reflection on) one's presentation.

Calculation of the examination mark

Non-period-specific:
- work ethic (10%)
- group presentation with defense (45%)
- portfolio (45%)

If one has less than 10/20 for the group presentation or portfolio, one cannot pass the entirety of the course unit. If the final score would still be a grade of ten or more out of twenty, it will be reduced to the highest non-passing grade.
(If the student did not pass the non-period evaluation, a second chance will be offered through a compensatory activity between the first and second examination periods.)

Facilities for Working Students

Facilities:
1 Student attendance during educational activities is strongly recommended.
2 Possible rescheduling of the examination to a different moment in the same academic year
3 Feedback can be requested during office hours

Extra information:
For more information concerning flexible learning: contact the monitoring service of the faculty of Arts and philosophy