

Comparative Linguistics: Indo-European Languages (A006749)

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

Willems, Klaas

LW06

lecturer-in-charge

Kulikov, Leonid

LW06

co-lecturer

Offered in the following programmes in 2026-2027

	crdts	offering
Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Dutch)	5	A
Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Dutch - English)	5	A
Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Dutch - French)	5	A
Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Dutch - German)	5	A
Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Dutch - Greek)	5	A
Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Dutch - Italian)	5	A
Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Dutch - Latin)	5	A
Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Dutch - Scandinavian Studies)	5	A
Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Dutch - Spanish)	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)	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 Linguistics and Literature(main subject German)	5	A
Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject German - Greek)	5	A
Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject German - Italian)	5	A
Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject German - Scandinavian Studies)	5	A
Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject German - Spanish)	5	A
Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Greek)	5	A
Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Historical Perspectives)	5	A
Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Iberian-Romance Languages)	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

Teaching languages

Dutch

Keywords

Cognate languages, sound laws, analogy, culture and home country of the speakers of Proto-Indo-European.

Position of the course

This course aims at making the students be aware of the network of relations between the Indo-European languages, and understand the methodology of comparative linguistics.

Contents

History of the problems treated and the answers proposed by Historical and Comparative Indo-European linguistics. Its genesis is explained within the general historical context. The network of correspondences, in the several domains of language, between the Indo-European linguistic groups (branches), is studied, with special emphasis on the classical languages, Old Indic, Germanic, Romance and Slavic. An overview of the external history of Proto-Indo-European based on linguistic and archaeological evidence. An overview of the Indo-European mythologies; reconstruction of the Proto-Indo-European mythology and cosmogony. The mythological pantheon and the main gods, Dumézil and his theory of the three functions.

Initial competences

Basic knowledge of linguistics and linguistic concepts.

Final competences

The students understand the methodology of comparative linguistics, and know the fundamental facts about the network of relations between the Indo-European languages and mythologies.

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

Lecture

Extra information on the teaching methods

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

Study material

Type: Handbook

Name: Beekes, *Comparative Indo-European linguistics: an introduction*. 2nd ed. (Amsterdam, 2011)

Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty

Optional: no

Language : English

Author : Beekes R.S.P.

Online Available : Yes

Type: Slides

Name: slides

Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty

Optional: no

Language : Other

Available on Ufora : Yes

References

R.S.P. Beekes, *Comparative Indo-European Linguistics. An Introduction*. Amsterdam: John Benjamins, 1995. (2nd ed., revised and corrected by M. de Vaan, 2011)

Further reading: *Handbook of comparative and historical Indo-European linguistics: an international handbook*. 3 vols. Ed. by J. Klein, B. Joseph et al. Berlin: de Gruyter, 2017-2018. (Handbücher zur Sprach- und kommunikationswissenschaft = Handbooks of linguistics and communication science; Band 41.1-3)
Trask's historical linguistics. Ed. by R.M. Millar. London, 2007 (2nd ed.), 2015 (3rd ed.).

Course content-related study coaching

Electronically (e-mail).

Assessment moments

end-of-term 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

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment

not applicable

Extra information on the examination methods

Oral exam. Questions about facts and their interpretation, and discussion of problems of methodology.

Calculation of the examination mark

100% periodical evaluation

Facilities for Working Students

1. Possible exemption from educational activities requiring student attendance.
2. Possible rescheduling of the examination to a different time in the same academic year
3. Alternative time for feedback

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