

Introduction to Culture Analysis (A704152)

Course size *(nominal values; actual values may depend on programme)*

Credits 3.0 **Study time 90 h**

Course offerings in academic year 2026-2027

A (semester 1) Dutch Gent

Lecturers in academic year 2026-2027

de Groote, Brecht LW22 lecturer-in-charge

Offered in the following programmes in 2026-2027

	crdts	offering
Bachelor of Arts in Applied Language Studies: a combination of at least two languages(main subject Dutch, English, French)	3	A
Bachelor of Arts in Applied Language Studies: a combination of at least two languages(main subject Dutch, English, German)	3	A
Bachelor of Arts in Applied Language Studies: a combination of at least two languages(main subject Dutch, English, Italian)	3	A
Bachelor of Arts in Applied Language Studies: a combination of at least two languages(main subject Dutch, English, Language Technology)	3	A
Bachelor of Arts in Applied Language Studies: a combination of at least two languages(main subject Dutch, English, Russian)	3	A
Bachelor of Arts in Applied Language Studies: a combination of at least two languages(main subject Dutch, English, Spanish)	3	A
Bachelor of Arts in Applied Language Studies: a combination of at least two languages(main subject Dutch, English, Turkish)	3	A
Bachelor of Arts in Applied Language Studies: a combination of at least two languages(main subject Dutch, French, German)	3	A
Bachelor of Arts in Applied Language Studies: a combination of at least two languages(main subject Dutch, French, Italian)	3	A
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Bachelor of Arts in Applied Language Studies: a combination of at least two languages(main subject Dutch, German, Language Technology)	3	A
Bachelor of Arts in Applied Language Studies: a combination of at least two languages(main subject Dutch, German, Russian)	3	A
Bachelor of Arts in Applied Language Studies: a combination of at least two languages(main subject Dutch, German, Spanish)	3	A
Bachelor of Arts in Applied Language Studies: a combination of at least two languages(main subject Dutch, German, Turkish)	3	A

Teaching languages

Dutch

Keywords

Cultural theory, media, information, society, ideology, representation, postcolonialism, ecocriticism, (post)structuralism, gender

Position of the course

Introduction to Cultural Theory aims to provide students with a theoretical and analytical insight into culture as a phenomenon that shapes and directs individual and social behavior and cultural production in numerous ways. The course introduces students to the main movements, thinkers and concepts within culture theory and cultural studies, and pays special attention to the activation and implementation of those concepts in concrete analyses and interpretations. Students learn how to recognize and analyze structures, signs and messages in diverse, multilingual, cultural objects, and how to think critically and with nuance about, and participate in, culture, society and communication. *Introduction to Culture Analysis* introduces students to academic thinking about culture, and challenges them to think critically about culture themselves.

Within the programme, this subject prepares for subjects such as History and Culture, Culture and Society, literary subjects, and Dutch in inter- and cross-cultural perspective. Moreover, the concepts and attitudes of abstract thinking, interpretation and reading skills contribute to research-focused classes and assignments.

Contents

The course consists of two parts. A first, introductory section provides students with a crucial basic critical orientation, providing key basic concepts and terms that form the building blocks of cultural theory. Its main focus is how we can define, recognize and analyze culture and cultural objects. The more extensive second part consists of a series of lectures, each time focused on a cluster of concrete themes. Its focus is mainly on themes with particular social and current relevance, such as ideology, identity, gender, media, etc. Each of these thematic lectures provides an introduction to the most important insights and ideas about the chosen theme, introduces important thinkers, and discusses concrete cases. The cases and thinkers reflect the different language areas of the department, and appeal to a wide range of cultural objects (text, image, practice). Particular attention is paid to Barthes, Foucault, Derrida, Marx, Benjamin, Said, Butler, Adorno, etc.

Initial competences

The general education that can be assumed from secondary education; no specific starting competences required.

Final competences

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

Access to this course unit via an exam contract is unrestricted

Teaching methods

Lecture, Independent work

Extra information on the teaching methods

Lectures with room for interaction. Students are expected to do preparatory readings at home.

Guided self-study: preparing the lectures individually, based on texts and examples provided.

Recordings will be made available only to students who cannot class due to medical or work-related reasons, or students who have officially been granted a relevant accommodation ("faciliteiten").

Study material

Type: Handbook

Name: 50 Key Terms in Contemporary Cultural Theory

Indicative price: € 27

Optional: yes

Language : English

Online Available : No

Available in the Library : Yes

Additional information: Recommended reading for those seeking additional information or contexts.

Type: Slides

Name: Slides and students' notes based on lectures

Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty

Optional: no

Available on Ufora : Yes

Online Available : Yes

References

Anderson, N. & Schlunke, K. (2008). *Cultural theory in everyday practice*. Oxford University Press.

During, S. (2005). *Cultural Studies: A Critical Introduction*. Routledge.

Eagleton, T. (2016). *Culture*. Yale UP.

Edgar, A. & Sedgwick, P. (2007, 2nd edition). *Cultural theory: the key concepts*. Routledge.

Smith, P. & Riley, A. (2009, 2nd edition). *Cultural theory: an introduction*. Blackwell Publishing.

Storey, J., ed. (2018) *Cultural Theory and Popular Culture*. Routledge.

Walton, D. (2012). *Doing cultural theory*. Sage.

Course content-related study coaching

Individual and collective feedback during lecture or over e-mail. Examples of exam questions are provided on Ufora.

Assessment moments

end-of-term assessment

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

Written assessment with multiple-choice questions, Written assessment with open-ended questions

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

Written assessment with multiple-choice questions, Written assessment with open-ended questions

Examination methods in case of permanent assessment

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment

not applicable

Extra information on the examination methods

The final mark for this class is completely determined by the end-of-term exam.

Written exam with two open questions in short essay form and multiple choice questions. The open questions are based on examples that were discussed in class. Examples of open-ended questions and a list of key terms are provided with each course section. Examples of multiple-choice questions are provided via Ufora.

Calculation of the examination mark

100% written exam

Facilities for Working Students

Absence is allowed; no additional supporting material is provided. Possibility to take an exam at a different time within the regular exam period.

Possibility of feedback by e-mail or by appointment during office hours.