



Literary Studies

VU University Amsterdam - Faculteit der Geesteswetenschappen - M Literary Studies - 2016-2017

Programme overview

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Master Literary Studies, Specialization English Literature in a Visual Culture

Courses:

Name	Period	Credits	Code
Film Narratology	Period 2	6.0	L_ELMAENG016
Literature and Society	Period 1	6.0	L_AAMALEC001
Master Thesis English Literature	Ac. Year (September)	18.0	L_ELMAENGSCR
Seminar The Material Book	Period 1	6.0	L_NOMANED010
Semiotics	Period 4	6.0	L_ELMAENG019
The Diasporic Experience: Ethnic Cultures of America	Period 2	6.0	L_ELMAENG014
The Gothic Gaze	Period 5	6.0	L_ELMAENG010
Visual Art and the American Poet	Period 2	6.0	L_ELMAENG009

Master Literary Studies, Specialization Dutch Literature and Literary Field

Kies in het 2e semester het Traject Uitgeverij en markt (een stage van 12 studiepunten) of het Traject Onderwijs en onderzoek (de module Poetica en retorica in de Renaissance (6 ec) en een module Master Language of Tutorial (6 stp)).

Programme components:

- [Traject Autobiografie en literatuurgeschiedenis](#)
- [Traject Uitgeverij en markt](#)

Courses:

Name	Period	Credits	Code
Diaries of Doeschka Meijzing	Period 1	6.0	L_NNMALTK001
Introduction Theoretical Perspectives	Period 1	6.0	L_NAMALTK004
Literary Socialisation	Period 2+3	9.0	L_LAMALW006
Master Thesis Dutch Literature and Literary Field	Ac. Year (September)	18.0	L_AAMALTKSCR
The Author and the Literary Field	Period 2	6.0	L_AAMALTK001

Traject Autobiografie en literatuurgeschiedenis

Programme components:

- [Traject Autobiografie en literatuurgeschiedenis, Keuze](#)

Courses:

Name	Period	Credits	Code
Biography: The Life of Jacob Cats	Period 4	6.0	L_NOMALTK001
The Making of a Biography	Period 5	6.0	L_AAMALTK002

Traject Autobiografie en literatuurgeschiedenis, Keuze

Kies 6 studiepunten, bijvoorbeeld uit onderstaand aanbod.

Courses:

Name	Period	Credits	Code
Creative Writing MA	Period 2	6.0	L_NNMAALG001
Seminar The Material Book	Period 1	6.0	L_NOMANED010
The Column	Period 2	6.0	L_NAMAALG001
Tutorial Dutch Literature and Literary Field	Ac. Year (September)	6.0	L_NAMALTK003

Traject Uitgeverij en markt

Programme components:

- [Traject Uitgeverij en markt, Keuze](#)

Courses:

Name	Period	Credits	Code
Master Work Placement Dutch Literature and Literary Field	Ac. Year (September)	12.0	L_AAMALTKSTA

Traject Uitgeverij en markt, Keuze

Kies 6 studiepunten, bijvoorbeeld uit onderstaand aanbod.

Courses:

Name	Period	Credits	Code
Biography: The Life of Jacob Cats	Period 4	6.0	L_NOMALTK001
Creative Writing MA	Period 2	6.0	L_NNMAALG001
Seminar The Material Book	Period 1	6.0	L_NOMANED010
The Column	Period 2	6.0	L_NAMAALG001

The Making of a Biography	Period 5	6.0	L_AAMALTK002
Tutorial Dutch Literature and Literary Field	Ac. Year (September)	6.0	L_NAMALTK003

Biography: The Life of Jacob Cats

Course code	L_NOMALTK001 ()
Period	Period 4
Credits	6.0
Language of tuition	Dutch
Faculty	Faculteit der Geesteswetenschappen
Coordinator	prof. dr. J.M. Koppenol
Examinator	prof. dr. J.M. Koppenol
Teaching staff	prof. dr. J.M. Koppenol
Teaching method(s)	Seminar
Level	400

Creative Writing MA

Course code	L_NNMAALG001 ()
Period	Period 2
Credits	6.0
Language of tuition	Dutch
Faculty	Faculteit der Geesteswetenschappen
Coordinator	dr. J.H.C. Bel
Examinator	dr. J.H.C. Bel
Teaching staff	dr. J.H.C. Bel
Teaching method(s)	Seminar
Level	400

Diaries of Doeschka Meijsing

Course code	L_NNMALTK001 ()
Period	Period 1
Credits	6.0
Language of tuition	Dutch
Faculty	Faculteit der Geesteswetenschappen
Coordinator	prof. dr. B.J. Peperkamp
Examinator	prof. dr. B.J. Peperkamp
Teaching staff	prof. dr. B.J. Peperkamp
Teaching method(s)	Seminar
Level	400

Film Narratology

Course code	L_ELMAENG016 ()
Period	Period 2
Credits	6.0
Language of tuition	English
Faculty	Faculteit der Geesteswetenschappen
Coordinator	dr. R.V.J. van den Oever
Examinator	dr. R.V.J. van den Oever
Teaching staff	dr. R.V.J. van den Oever
Teaching method(s)	Seminar
Level	400

Course objective

Students become acquainted with narratology as a theoretical instrument for the analysis of both written and visual texts.

Course content

The starting point of the course is the theory of narratology as developed for the novel. Subsequently, we trace how other genres have inspired adaptations of the initial theory of narratology, in particular film, television, and comics.

Form of tuition

Seminar meetings, 2 x 2 hours per week.

Type of assessment

In-class exam.

Course reading

To be announced

Entry requirements

None

Target group

This course is part of the Master's program English Literature in a Visual Culture. Students from other (research) Master's programs are welcome.

Registration procedure

There is limited seating for this course. Priority will be given to students of the Master's program English Literature in a Visual Culture. Students from other (research) Master's programs are initially placed on a waiting list.

Remarks

The level of English in this course is high.

Introduction Theoretical Perspectives

Course code	L_NAMALTK004 ()
Period	Period 1
Credits	6.0
Language of tuition	Dutch

Faculty	Faculteit der Geesteswetenschappen
Coordinator	prof. dr. J.M. Koppenol
Examinator	prof. dr. J.M. Koppenol
Teaching staff	prof. dr. J.M. Koppenol, dr. W. Schrover
Teaching method(s)	Seminar
Level	400

Literary Socialisation

Course code	L_LAMALW006 ()
Period	Period 2+3
Credits	9.0
Language of tuition	Dutch
Faculty	Faculteit der Geesteswetenschappen
Coordinator	dr. R.C.M. van Steensel
Examinator	dr. R.C.M. van Steensel
Teaching staff	dr. R.C.M. van Steensel
Teaching method(s)	Seminar
Level	400

Literature and Society

Course code	L_AAMALEC001 ()
Period	Period 1
Credits	6.0
Language of tuition	English
Faculty	Faculteit der Geesteswetenschappen
Coordinator	dr. K. Steenbergh
Examinator	dr. K. Steenbergh
Teaching staff	dr. K. Steenbergh
Teaching method(s)	Seminar, Lecture
Level	400

Course objective

After passing this course, you will:

- understand the complex ways in which literary texts and visual culture respond to social changes, but also may (help) bring about such changes;
- have a broad overview of early modern ecocritical theory;
- have an understanding of the historical changes that impacted (views of) the relation between human and non-human in the early modern period;
- be proficient in reading early modern English literary texts;
- be able to discuss the texts and images on the syllabus from an ecocritical perspective in seminar discussions;
- be able to apply ecocritical theory to literary texts in a written response to an early modern text.

Course content

Ecocriticism: Early Modern Literature and Visual Culture

In this course, we will explore the changing relation between humans and their natural environment in the early modern period (1550-1700). Even if we associate topics like climate change, overpopulation, air pollution and the exploitation of natural resources more readily with our current time frame, many of these environmental issues first emerged in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. We will be reading early modern literature and analyzing visual sources from the perspective of ecocriticism, exploring together how early modern texts and images responded to social factors that impacted the relation between humans and their environment. Developments that we will be focusing on include the explosive growth of the city of London in the period, the beginnings of colonialism, the enclosure of the commons, the Reformation, the rise of empirical science, and changing ideas of the self and subjectivity. We will not only consider the ways in which literature and visual culture respond to these changes, but view text and images as part of the process of change.

Form of tuition

This course consists of a series of seminars which require your active participation. Attendance is therefore compulsory (see the course syllabus for more information).

Type of assessment

The learning aims of this course will be assessed by means of class participation (20%); a paper proposal with annotated bibliography (30%) and a final paper (50%). You need to score a pass grade (5.5 or higher) for your final paper in order to pass the course. RMA students will be expected to read more broadly in ecocritical theory and bring their reading to the class discussion, as well as write a longer final paper.

Course reading

To be announced in the course syllabus, which will be posted on Blackboard well in advance of the start of the course.

Entry requirements

This course assumes a basic knowledge of early modern English literature (the literary canon, cultural history, and the ability to read early modern English). If you took (a) BA course(s) in early modern/Renaissance English literature, you should be able to keep up with this course. The level of written and spoken English in this course is high.

Target group

All MA students of the MA track English Literature in a Visual Culture and RMA students in the Literature Track.

Master Thesis Dutch Literature and Literary Field

Course code	L_AAMALTKSCR ()
Period	Ac. Year (September)
Credits	18.0
Language of tuition	Dutch
Faculty	Faculteit der Geesteswetenschappen
Coordinator	prof. dr. J.M. Koppenol
Level	400

Master Thesis English Literature

Course code	L_ELMAENGSCR (510651)
Period	Ac. Year (September)
Credits	18.0
Language of tuition	English
Faculty	Faculteit der Geesteswetenschappen
Coordinator	prof. dr. D.M. Oostdijk
Level	400

Course objective

Students will acquire theoretical, methodological, and practical knowledge about conducting research within the field of Literatures in English. Together with your supervisor, you will set up your own research proposal. You will select both primary and secondary sources and learn how to use these to construct your own argument in your thesis.

Course content

Students will write a thesis of roughly 25,000 to 30,000 words on a topic that is related to Literatures in English Visualized. In December 2016 students will be asked to submit a rough plan for the final thesis. In January you will be assigned a supervisor and he or she will help streamline your plan and help you write the thesis in periods 4 and 5. The deadline for submission of the completed thesis is July 1, 2017.

Form of tuition

Individual sessions with supervisor in periods 4 and 5.

Type of assessment

Students will be assessed on their writing style, cogency of their arguments, and ability to relate their findings to scholarship at large; on their finished project, but also on their independence in deciding on a suitable topic, on gathering information, and the writing process itself. Students will present their findings during a final meeting with supervisors and fellow MA thesis students (end of period 6).

Course reading

This will be decided on an individual basis.

Entry requirements

You need to have thirty ECTS credits to start the thesis. Please consult the study advisor if you think you do not fulfill this requirement, but still want to start on your thesis.

Target group

Students of the MA Literature Visualized Programme

Master Work Placement Dutch Literature and Literary Field

Course code	L_AAMALTKSTA ()
Period	Ac. Year (September)
Credits	12.0

Language of tuition	Dutch
Faculty	Faculteit der Geesteswetenschappen
Coordinator	prof. dr. D.H. Schram
Level	400

Seminar The Material Book

Course code	L_NOMANED010 ()
Period	Period 1
Credits	6.0
Language of tuition	English
Faculty	Faculteit der Geesteswetenschappen
Coordinator	dr. P.H. Moser
Examinator	dr. P.H. Moser
Teaching staff	dr. P.H. Moser
Teaching method(s)	Seminar
Level	400

Course objective

This course seeks to introduce students to an approach that is currently of great importance in textual studies: the text as a material object.

While literary students are used to focusing on the linguistic code of a text (the content, or narrative), this course focuses on the bibliographic code (such as typography, layout, binding, owner's marks and illustrations). The aim of the course is to explore how meaning is conveyed by these material features as well as by the words of the text. Students will learn how to apply this approach on a given text, to discuss their research with fellow students and to share and evaluate their findings both orally and on paper.

Course content

We will focus on the output of one publishing house, Cassell & Co (also known as Cassell, Pether & Galpin). It was founded in the nineteenth century by John Cassell (1817-1865), a self-taught man who was a strong advocate for the Temperance Movement and who worked as a tea and coffee merchant as well as a publisher. They published a huge variety of books and journals destined for a very wide audience of common readers, from fictional work (by authors such as Shakespeare, Bunyan, Milton, and Harriet Beecher Stowe) to nonfictional work (all sorts of educational books and reference works, such as Cassell's Book of Knowledge, Cassell's Popular Science, The Story of the Heavens and Celebrities of the Century). Most of the books are lavishly illustrated with prints and photos, and some have decorative bindings designed by Walter Crane. The VU University Library owns a large amount of books that were published by Cassell from the 19th to the 21st century.

You will conduct your own (individual) research project, studying the material features of one publication by Cassell & Co. in more depth or comparing one material feature in several publications (e.g. bindings, illustrations, advertising). This will result in a written research paper and an oral presentation of your findings. Throughout the course, you will read and discuss theoretical literature on material textuality.

Form of tuition

Seminar. There are two classes each week, one in the Library Lab (at the Special Collections Department of the VU Library, on the first floor of the main building) and one in a regular classroom. The classes in the Library Lab are very much 'hands-on', whereas the other classes offer a more theoretical take on the subject. In preparation for each class, you will read book chapters and articles and do your own research.

Type of assessment

The assessment consists of three elements: peer review (20%); presentation (20%); written essay (60%). Grades will be given on a scale from 1 to 10. The presentation and the essay both need to be graded 'sufficient' (i.e. 5.5) or higher in order to complete the course. If you do not meet the deadline for your essay at the first attempt, you will be given a reduced mark. If you submit your re-sit work after the deadline you will have failed the assessment. Students in the Research Master programme will receive an extra challenging essay assignment which includes writing a 500 word abstract for a real-life conference, special issue, or funding bid.

Course reading

We will at least be reading (parts of) the following core texts:

George Bornstein, *Material Modernism. The Politics of the Page*.

Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2001;

Laurel Brake, *Print in transition, 1850-1910 : studies in media and book history*. New York: Palgrave, 2001;

Stephen Colclough, *Consuming texts : readers and reading communities, 1695-1870*. Basingstoke (etc.): Palgrave Macmillan 2007;

Bonnie Mak, *How the Page Matters*. Toronto (etc.): University of Toronto Press, 2011;

D.F. McKenzie, *Bibliography and the Sociology of Texts*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1999;

Aileen Fyfe, *Science and salvation : evangelical popular science publishing in Victorian Britain*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2004;

Leah Price, *How to do things with books in Victorian Britain*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2012;

Alexis Weedon, *Victorian publishing : the economics of book production for a mass market, 1836-1916*. Aldershot: Ashgate, 2003.

All books are available through UBvU. Additional texts will be announced on Blackboard.

Entry requirements

Bachelor degree.

Recommended background knowledge

Students should have a good command of English.

Target group

Students of the MA English Literature in a Visual Culture; Students of the MA Nederlandse letterkunde en het literaire veld; Students of the Research Master Literary Studies. This course is also open to students of the MA Kunst- en cultuurwetenschappen and the MA Geschiedenis.

Remarks

You are allowed to miss two classes in total, provided you notify the instructor beforehand and you do prepare the assignments due for that day.

Semiotics

Course code	L_ELMAENG019 ()
Period	Period 4
Credits	6.0
Language of tuition	English
Faculty	Faculteit der Geesteswetenschappen
Coordinator	dr. R.V.J. van den Oever
Examinator	dr. R.V.J. van den Oever
Teaching staff	dr. R.V.J. van den Oever
Teaching method(s)	Seminar
Level	400

Course objective

Students are acquainted with various semiotic theories (Saussure, Barthes, Derrida), with a focus on the word/image-binary.

Course content

The course starts with an exploration of the various theoretical understandings of words and images as semiotic signs. Subsequently, we retrace and position ourselves in the academic debate on the supposed superiority of words over images and vice versa.

Form of tuition

There are two two-hour seminars each week.

Type of assessment

Exam.

Course reading

TBA

Entry requirements

None, but some historical and theoretical interest in visual and verbal communication is recommended.

Target group

This course is part of the Master's program English Literature in a Visual Culture. Students from other (research) Master's programs are welcome.

The Author and the Literary Field

Course code	L_AAMALTK001 ()
Period	Period 2
Credits	6.0
Language of tuition	Dutch
Faculty	Faculteit der Geesteswetenschappen
Coordinator	dr. J.H.C. Bel
Examinator	dr. J.H.C. Bel
Teaching staff	dr. J.H.C. Bel

Teaching method(s)	Seminar
Level	400

The Column

Course code	L_NAMAALG001 ()
Period	Period 2
Credits	6.0
Language of tuition	Dutch
Faculty	Faculteit der Geesteswetenschappen
Coordinator	dr. P.H. Moser
Examinator	dr. P.H. Moser
Teaching staff	dr. M.L.M.J. Vliegen, dr. P.H. Moser
Teaching method(s)	Seminar
Level	400

The Diasporic Experience: Ethnic Cultures of America

Course code	L_ELMAENG014 ()
Period	Period 2
Credits	6.0
Language of tuition	English
Faculty	Faculteit der Geesteswetenschappen
Coordinator	dr. B. Boter
Examinator	dr. B. Boter
Teaching staff	dr. B. Boter
Teaching method(s)	Seminar
Level	400

Course objective

After completing this course, students are able to:

- draw on theories that are relevant for an understanding of the processes of migration and transculturation as mediated in literary and visual texts
- apply theoretical concepts such as nationality, ethnicity and hybridity to representations of diaspora in North American (literary and visual) texts
- comparatively analyze diaspora texts coming from different cultural contexts
- formulate a research question, locate and interpret sources, assess the significance of their own research within the framework of current debates
- explain how diaspora writing is implicated in the processes of identity formation (both collective and individual) and intercultural exchange
- freely express their ideas in both written work and oral presentations

Course content

This course examines literary and visual texts that originate in a wide variety of North American diasporic cultures, and that have triggered new ways of thinking about life after migration. In their narratives and imagery of diaspora life, do authors and artists relate similar (chronological) outlines of displacement, uprootedness, intercultural encounters, transculturation and cultural hybridization? Or have they come up with new and innovative (non)plots and imageries? How do gender, race, ethnicity and nationality intersect in their projects?

Form of tuition

Seminar sessions; film viewing; possibly excursion.

Type of assessment

Class participation; group presentations; Blackboard posts; final essay.

Course reading

Novels, memoirs, graphic novels, academic articles.

Target group

MA and RMA students.

Remarks

Two sessions per week of two hours each; one extra film viewing session to be scheduled in the first week of the course.

The Gothic Gaze

Course code	L_ELMAENG010 ()
Period	Period 5
Credits	6.0
Language of tuition	English
Faculty	Faculteit der Geesteswetenschappen
Coordinator	dr. A.S. Raghunath
Examinator	dr. A.S. Raghunath
Teaching staff	dr. A.S. Raghunath
Teaching method(s)	Seminar
Level	400

Course objective

The aim of this course is to offer an opportunity for students to develop their understanding of the social and historical context of Gothic literature from the nineteenth century to the present.

Course content

The material is wide- ranging: plays, film, poetry, music and novels and the course will encourage students to develop their own understanding of why Gothic remains a popular and meaningful cultural phenomenon.

Form of tuition

Seminar (2 x 2 hours a week)

Type of assessment

Essay of 4,000 words

Course reading

- * Jane Austen, Northanger Abbey
- * Anne Rice, Queen of the Damned
- * Edgar Allen Poe, Complete Short Stories
- * Angela Carter, The Bloody Chamber
- * H.G. Wells, The Door in the Wall and Other Stories
- * Matthew Lewis, The Monk
- * Horace Walpole, The Castle of Otranto

Entry requirements

Bachelor degree

Target group

MA-students of English, Literature and Culture students, VAMA-students, RMA-students

The Making of a Biography

Course code	L_AAMALTK002 ()
Period	Period 5
Credits	6.0
Language of tuition	Dutch
Faculty	Faculteit der Geesteswetenschappen
Coordinator	dr. J.H.C. Bel
Examinator	dr. J.H.C. Bel
Teaching staff	dr. J.H.C. Bel
Teaching method(s)	Seminar
Level	400

Tutorial Dutch Literature and Literary Field

Course code	L_NAMALTK003 ()
Period	Ac. Year (September)
Credits	6.0
Language of tuition	Dutch
Faculty	Faculteit der Geesteswetenschappen
Coordinator	dr. J.H.C. Bel
Level	400

Visual Art and the American Poet

Course code	L_ELMAENG009 ()
Period	Period 2
Credits	6.0
Language of tuition	English
Faculty	Faculteit der Geesteswetenschappen
Coordinator	prof. dr. D.M. Oostdijk
Examinator	prof. dr. D.M. Oostdijk

Teaching staff	prof. dr. D.M. Oostdijk
Teaching method(s)	Seminar
Level	400

Course objective

The student will gain both a theoretical and historical perspective on the difference in which poetry and other art forms convey meaning. As an ancient art form that is still practiced today, poetry has much in common with visual art, music, theater, and dance in terms of its use of symbols and tropes and in terms of the subject matters it can address. Yet as a mostly verbal art form, it has a different mode of expression than more visual art forms, and it also has a different appeal in terms of how we understand and experience these different art forms: cognitively, intellectually, emotionally, and as an embodied experience. The course challenges these expectations, but also asks students to probe the differences and similarities between these art forms as well as the different expectations we have of what these art forms are able to communicate. Moreover students will learn how poetry and expressive arts are used outside the classroom, in society at large.

Course content

This year the Visual Art and the American Poet focuses on grief. Using Kevin Young's anthology *The Art of Losing* as a textbook, we will each week in the first seminar zoom in on poems that reflect how poetry has the capacity to guide the speaker (and reader) through a process of reckoning, regret, remembrance, ritual, recovery, and redemption. Meanwhile, in the second seminar of the week, we will also explore how other art forms -- theater and performance, dance and movement, visual arts, multimodal approaches, and music -- can convey these same stages of mourning through different artistic practices. In this way, the student will come to an understanding how grief can be processed through the expressive arts, and how grief can be a profoundly humanizing experience.

Form of tuition

Seminars

Type of assessment

Participation/Attendance (10%); Presentation (30%); Essay (60%)

Course reading

Kevin Young (ed)., *The Art of Losing: Poems of Grief and Healing*. New York: Bloomsbury, 2013. ISBN: 978-1608-194667.

Barbara E. Thompson and Robert A. Neimeyer (eds.), *Grief and the Expressive Arts: Practices for Creating Meaning*. New York: Routledge, 2014. ISBN: 978-0415-57192.

Entry requirements

Students should have a good command of English and have an interest in poetry and expressive arts.

Target group

MA-students of Literatures in English, VAMA-students, RMA-students