GHENT UNIVERSITY

Course Specifications

Valid as from the academic year 2026-2027

Ancient Greek Linguistics: Discourse Analysis (A005785)

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

Bentein, Klaas	LW06	lecturer-in-charge
la Roi, Ezra	LW06	co-lecturer
Monaco, Chiara	LW06	co-lecturer

Offered in the following programmes in 2026-2027	crdts	offering
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Dutch - Greek)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject English - Greek)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject French - Greek)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject German - Greek)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Latin - Greek)	5	A
Exchange Programme Linguistics and Literature	5	A
Preparatory Course Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Greek)	5	A

Teaching languages

Dutch

Keywords

Ancient Greek, discourse analysis, historiography, speeches, war narratives, digressions, language system, language change

Position of the course

This course familiarizes students with a discourse-analytical approach to Ancient Greek through the contrastive reading of historiographical texts from Classical and Post-Classical Greek.

Contents

In this course, students learn to critically compare historiographical texts from Classical and Post-Classical Greek using insights from discourse analysis. Particular attention is paid to the relationship between language use, genre conventions, and socio-cultural context.
Three core components of historiography are central: war narratives, speeches, and digressions. These are studied in connection with relevant linguistic systems, such as transitivity, coherence, and evaluation. The reading includes representative passages from authors such as Herodotus, Thucydides, Polybius, and Diodorus Siculus.
Students further develop the grammatical knowledge acquired in the courses *Language Proficiency I*, *Language Proficiency II*, and *Ancient Greek Linguistics: Diachrony* by reflecting on language as a system, on choices within that system, and on language change over time.

Initial competences

Students have already attended previous language acquisition courses and the course Ancient Greek Linguistics I (or have acquired the necessary skills by other means). Good command of Attic Greek (morphology, vocabulary, and syntax) is thus assumed.

Final competences

1 To be able to critically compare historiographical texts, with attention to genre conventions, authorial strategies, and socio-cultural context.
2 To be able to independently read, explain, and interpret historiographical texts from Classical and Post-Classical Greek using scholarly tools.
3 To demonstrate insight into the development of Greek historiography and into major developments from Classical to Post-Classical Greek.
4 To be able to identify and analyze relevant linguistic systems, such as transitivity, coherence, and evaluation, in Greek texts.
5 To deepen grammatical knowledge of Ancient Greek and demonstrate insight into language as a system, the choices within that system, and language change.

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, Independent work

Extra information on the teaching methods

* Lecture: background to discourse analysis and its application to Ancient Greek (no recordings are made available).
* Seminar: reading historiographical texts, making discours-analytical exercises.
* Independent work: preparing texts to be read in class, reviewing of grammar through targeted exercises..

Study material

Type: Slides

Name: powerpoint-presentations
Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty
Optional: no
Language : Dutch
Available on Ufora : Yes
Online Available : No
Available in the Library : No
Available through Student Association : No

References

* Martin, J. R., & D. Rose. *Working with Discourse: Meaning beyond the Clause*. 2nd ed. London; New York, 2007.
* van Emde Boas, E. et al. *Cambridge Grammar of Classical Greek*. Cambridge, 2019.

Course content-related study coaching

Help with and feedback on independent study and self-study, guided exercises, feedback during class and on appointment.

Assessment moments

end-of-term and continuous assessment

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

Written assessment

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

Written assessment

Examination methods in case of permanent assessment

Participation

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

- Participation (non-periodical): preparation of primary literature & exercises, active participation during class.

- Written exam (period-specific): analysis of text fragments that have been. analysed in class or read cursorily, including translation, morpho-syntactic analysis, and socio-cultural contextualization.

Calculation of the examination mark

- Non-periodical (15%): participation.
- Periodical (85%): written exam.

Facilities for Working Students

1. Possible exemption from specific educational activities requiring student attendance.
2. Possible rescheduling of the exam to a different time in the same academic year.
3. Feedback is possible on appointment during office hours.