GHENT UNIVERSITY

Course Specifications

Valid as from the academic year 2026-2027

Non-literary Ancient Greek Texts (A006745)

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)	Dutch, English	Gent

Lecturers in academic year 2026-2027

Pratali Maffei, Dalia	LW06	staff member
Bentein, Klaas	LW06	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 - Greek)	5	A
Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject English - Greek)	5	A
Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject French - Greek)	5	A
Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject German - Greek)	5	A
Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Greek)	5	A
Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Latin - Greek)	5	A
Master of Arts in Historical Linguistics and Literature	5	A
Exchange Programme Classics	5	A
Exchange Programme Linguistics and Literature	5	A

Teaching languages

English, Dutch

Keywords

non-literary texts, genre, papyrology, epigraphy, Classical Greek, Post-classical Greek, communication

Position of the course

During their program, students of Ancient Greek primarily come in contact with literary texts. The main purpose of this course is to broaden the perspective of the students by introducing them to the study of non-literary texts such as papyri and inscriptions, and to discuss their relevance for communicative practices in antiquity.

Contents

In this course, students get an overview of the main non-literary genres and their typical characteristics (linguistic and material/typographical). The sessions are thematically based, focusing on themes such as magic, family and friendship, the individual and the state, etc. The texts that are read stem from both the Classical and the Post-classical period; particular attention is paid to the socio-historical context of writing. By way of introduction, students are given a concise overview of the particularities of 'papyrology' and 'epigraphy' as disciplines, special attention being paid to their development, and their main tools (dictionaries, grammars, online tools, etc.).

Initial competences

The students have successfully followed Ancient Greek Linguistics I and II or acquired the relevant competences otherwise. A thorough command of Attic Greek (morphology and syntax) is presupposed.

Final competences

1 To be able to read, identify and analyse non-literary texts
2 To be able to situate non-literary texts in their socio-historical context
3 To be able to explain the importance of non-literary texts with respect to themes such as magic, family and friendship, the individual and the state, etc.
4 To have insight in the main non-literary genres, and their linguistic, material and visual characteristics
5 To be able to use the main tools of this research field in a creative and reasoned way
6 To have insight in the particularities of papyrology and epigraphy, and their development as disciplines

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

Seminar: reading non-literary texts
Lecture: background information about the socio-historical context; 'papyrology' and 'epigraphy' (the students independently process two sessions on the basis of recordings; other recordings are not available)
Independent work: preparing texts, reading a number of scientific articles, writing a short blog

Study material

Type: Slides

Name: powerpoint-presentations
Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty
Optional: no
Language : Dutch
Available on Ufora : Yes

Type: Handouts

Name: Handouts
Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty
Optional: no
Language : Dutch
Available on Ufora : Yes

References

Bagnall, Roger S. *The Oxford Handbook of Papyrology*. Oxford; New York: Oxford University Press, 2009.
Guarducci, Margherita. *L'epigrafia greca dalle origini al tardo impero*. Roma: Libreria dello Stato, 1987.
Jördens, Andrea. 'Communicating with Tablets and Papyri'. In *The Oxford Handbook of Social Relations in the Roman World*, 227–47. Oxford ; New York: Oxford University Press, 2011.
Meyer, Elizabeth A. 'Epigraphy and Communication'. In *The Oxford Handbook of Social Relations in the Roman World*, 191–226. Oxford; New York: Oxford University Press, 2011.

Course content-related study coaching

After each session and during the weekly contact hour, students can ask questions

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, Assignment

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

* Paper: students are asked to write a short blog about an aspect of non-literary texts in antiquity.
* Participation: preparation of primary/secondary literature and active participation during class.

Calculation of the examination mark

Written exam: 70%
Writing a short blog (permanent evaluation): 20%
Participation (permanent evaluation): 10%

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. Feedback can be given during an appointment during office hours