

Numismatics and Monetary History of the Ancient World (A002540)

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

Credits 5.0

Study time 150 h

Course offerings and teaching methods in academic year 2025-2026

A (semester 1)

English

Gent

peer teaching

independent work

lecture

Lecturers in academic year 2025-2026

Verboven, Koenraad

LW03

lecturer-in-charge

Offered in the following programmes in 2025-2026

Master of Science in Teaching in Arts and Humanities (main subject Archaeology)

crdts

5

offering

A

Master of Science in Teaching in Arts and Humanities (main subject History)

5

A

Master of Arts in Archaeology

5

A

Master of Arts in History

5

A

Exchange Programme Classics

5

A

Exchange Programme History

5

A

Teaching languages

English

Keywords

History, Ancient World, Greece, Rome, Numismatics

Position of the course

This is an advanced specialisation course taught in English.

Its target audience are students in History, Archaeology, Latin/Greek and/or Classics.

Students who take this course will acquire a basic knowledge of the monetary history of the ancient world and of the research methodologies connected with it.

They will also acquire basic skills in the methods used in ancient numismatics.

Contents

- Survey of the history of coinage and money in the Ancient World (political, economic, and iconographic) from the origin of coinage (ca. 650/600 BCE) to late antiquity (6th c CE). The emphasis is on the development of Greek and Roman coinage and monetary systems but much attention is also given to money and coinage of other ancient cultures and empires (Celts, Celt-Iberians, Persians, Parthians etc.)
- Various research themes relating to specific topics from the history of money and currency in Antiquity are discussed in depth, covering both the sources (textual and material) and the modern theories and arguments. Various techniques and methods used in numismatics are discussed in detail.
- Existing resources, tools and skills needed to identify and describe coins.

Initial competences

Students who take this course are expected to have previously acquired a basic familiarity with the history and the chronology of Greco-Roman antiquity.

They are further expected to have acquired English at least at the level B2 of the Common European Framework of Reference (<https://www.efset.org/cefr/b2/>) (NOTE: this is the level generally required of Erasmusstudents at Ghent University)

Final competences

- 1 Use advanced insights into the conceptual frameworks used of monetary history and numismatics (also in another language than Dutch) to analyse and evaluate new and complex ideas.
- 2 Use insights into the monetary history of Europe and the world critically to analyse complex problems and to formulate possible research questions.
- 3 Take a critical approach to the monetary history of the ancient world.
- 4 Make original use of and deepen, in research and/or professional activities, the basic knowledge of social sciences and archaeology regarding the role of money in societies.
- 5 Employ historical scientific methodology regarding monetary history in research or professional activities.
- 6 To have general insight into the field's literature (also in another language than Dutch), and to use sources (also in another language than Dutch) in an original and creative way.
- 7 Critically analyse and make original use of current national and international scientific debates in the field of monetary history of the ancient world (also in another language than Dutch).
- 8 Independently select, correctly use and critically evaluate methods for qualitative and quantitative research concerning the monetary history of the ancient world.
- 9 Creatively design and implement one's own historical research regarding the monetary history of the ancient world, in particular the identification of find coins and coins in collections.
- 10 To present the results of one's own historical research in a clearly structured oral presentation.
- 11 To undertake independent historical research regarding the monetary history of the ancient world and numismatics, and to fit into a group conducting such historical scientific research, for instance in musea or coin cabinets.
- 12 To function, with the required scholarly background in heritage institutions that preserve ancient coins and make these available for research.
- 13 To use tailored media for the communication of historical information regarding the monetary history and numismatics of the ancient world to a specific audience.
- 14 To use existing databases and digital tools to identify and classify coins from the ancient world.
- 15 To have insight into how the "digital turn" influences how coin types and specimens may be found and identified, and how information contained in them may be aggregated and enhanced.

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, Peer teaching

Extra information on the teaching methods

Lecture: the outlines of the history of money and coins in the ancient world are presented in class. Students have the opportunity to ask questions about the contents of the syllabus.

independent work: students have to identify and determine coins based on pictures, they have to look up the meaning of the images, and establish the system in which the coins functioned.

peer teaching: they have to present the results of their assignment in class and will receive feedback from the lecturer in the presence of the class group.

Study material

Type: Syllabus

Name: Numismatiek en Geldgeschiedenis in de Oudheid

Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty

Optional: no

Language : Dutch
Number of Pages : 500
Oldest Usable Edition : 2024-2025
Available on Ufora : Yes
Additional information: This is the syllabus for Dutch-speaking students. It is equivalent to the English reader.
Students can choose which to use.

Type: Slides

Name: Slides used in class
Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty
Optional: no
Language : English
Oldest Usable Edition : 2024-2025
Available on Ufora : Yes

Type: Reader

Name: Reader: a collection of papers regarding Numismatics and Monetary History of the Ancient World
Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty
Optional: no
Language : English
Number of Pages : 500
Oldest Usable Edition : 2024-2025
Available on Ufora : Yes
Additional information: This is the English equivalent of the Dutch syllabus. Student may choose which to use.

Type: Audiovisual Material

Name: Photographs of coins to identify
Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty
Optional: no
Language : English
Available on Ufora : Yes
Usability and Lifetime within the Course Unit : one-time
Usability and Lifetime within the Study Programme : one-time
Usability and Lifetime after the Study Programme : not

Type: Other

Name: List of possible exam questions
Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty
Optional: no
Language : English
Oldest Usable Edition : 2024-2025
Available on Ufora : Yes
Additional information: A list of approximately 30 open (essay) exam questions, covering the entire course.

References

Course content-related study coaching

See office hours lecturer

Assessment moments

end-of-term and continuous 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

Skills test, Participation, Assignment

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment

examination during the second examination period is possible

Extra information on the examination methods

The oral examination consists of two parts:

1 One general question from a list of possible questions. Students are given this

list at the start of the academic year. They can thus prepare themselves using the syllabus/reader and lessons with powerpoints throughout the year. These preparations constitute the study material for the exam. However, the exam itself is oral. They are not allowed to take these preparations with them.

2 The student is presented with 2 coins She/he/they must:

- demonstrate to recognise enough features to allow precise identification using reference works or databases
- answer additional questions on the monetary and numismatic context of the pieces

Further detailed information with examples will be given in the final lesson.

The non-periodic evaluation consists of:

- the identification of coins using photographs and their presentation in class
- the description of coins in an existing collection according to the rules taught in class using a template in Excell.

Calculation of the examination mark

80% periodic

20% non-periodic

Facilities for Working Students

Facilities:

- 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 by email or personally on appointment.