GHENT UNIVERSITY

Course Specifications

Valid in the academic year 2024-2025

Introduction to Greek and Latin Epigraphy: Inscriptions as a Historical Source (A004004)

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 2024-2025

A (semester 2)	Dutch	Gent	seminar
			independent work
			group work
			lecture

Lecturers in academic year 2024-2025

Oppeneer, Thierry	LW03	lecturer-in-charge

Offered in the following programmes in 2024-2025	**crdts**	**offering**
Bachelor of Arts in History	5	A
Linking Course Master of Arts in History	5	A
Preparatory Course Master of Arts in History	5	A
Elective Set The Classical Tradition	5	A

Teaching languages

Dutch

Keywords

Greek and Latin inscriptions, history of Classical Antiquity, epigraphy, source-criticism, heuristics

Position of the course

This is an introductory course that, through a series of source-based seminars, emphasises the importance and usability of epigraphy as a historical source.
The emphasis lies on the one hand on the various functions of inscriptions in Greek and Roman society and culture, and on the other hand on the possibilites that epigraphic texts offer for historical research, as well as the methodological challenges facing the researchers who want to use inscriptions as a historical source.
The course is aimed in the first place at History students wishing to specialize in Greek and Roman history, but is also open to (for instance) students in Archaeology or Classics (Greek and/or Latin) who would like an introduction into Greek and Latin epigraphy.
NB. A separate, individual English-language trajectory with substitute assignments is possible for a small number of incoming Erasmus-students (max. 3).

Contents

This course unit consists of a series of seminars, a self-study handbook, and an assignment.

Seminars

Several introductory lectures, followed by a series of classes in which a variety of epigraphic dossiers (each read by the students before class) deriving from various periods and places in Antiquity will be discussed. The inscriptions discussed in class will be presented with an accompanying modern translation. The preparatory assignments (written answers to questions concerning the inscriptions discussed in class that week) are part of the evaluation and are submitted weekly.

Handbook (self study)

John Bodel (ed.) *Epigraphic Evidence: Ancient History from Inscriptions.*

Approaching the Ancient World. London & New York: Routledge 2001.

Personal assignment

Every student will complete an assignement in which he/she discusses one or more inscriptions exhaustively.

Initial competences

Basic knowledge of Greek and Roman history and society.
Basic competence in ancient Greek or Latin is an advantage, but is not required.

Final competences

1 B.1.6. To have insight into the methodology of history.
2 B.1.7. To have a basic knowledge of the diversity of sources and academic literature (also in another language than Dutch) used in historical research and the specialist skills required to read and interpret sources (also in another language than Dutch).
3 B.2.4. To have the ability to critically apply quantitative and qualitative research methods and techniques.
4 B.2.5. To have the ability to indicate the most appropriate types of sources relative to a specific historical research question.
5 B.2.6. To have the ability to use scientific criteria to justify heuristic methods and bibliographical research in the field of history.
6 B.6.1. To have insight into the way in which historical scientific research functions and is organized.
7 B.3.4. To have an inquisitive attitude with a sense of historical criticism and creativity, and an attitude of lifelong learning.
8 B.3.5. To approach a problem from multiple perspectives.
9 B.4.2. To participate actively to group discussions and to communicate orally about the results of historical research in a clearly structured way, employing an academically correct language.
10 To apply digital methods, tools and strategies in a research process

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

Group work, Seminar, Lecture, Independent work

Study material

Type: Handbook

Name: John Bodel (ed.) Epigraphic Evidence: Ancient History from Inscriptions. Approaching the Ancient World. London & New York: Routledge 2001.
Indicative price: € 40
Optional: no
Language : English
Author : John Bodel
ISBN : 978-0-41511-624-4
Number of Pages : 272
Alternative : No alternative available
Oldest Usable Edition : John Bodel (ed.) Epigraphic Evidence: Ancient History from Inscriptions. Approaching the Ancient World. London & New York: Routledge 2001.
Online Available : No
Available in the Library : Yes
Available through Student Association : No
Usability and Lifetime within the Course Unit : intensive
Usability and Lifetime within the Study Programme : regularly
Usability and Lifetime after the Study Programme : occasionally

References

Course content-related study coaching

Questions can be asked during and immediately after class, via email, or during an appointment made via email with one of the instructors.

Assessment moments

end-of-term and continuous assessment

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

Written assessment with open-ended questions

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

Written assessment with open-ended questions

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

- Daily work consists of the weekly preparatory assignments as well as active participation in the discussion during seminars.
- The personal assignment consists of the exhaustive discussion of one or more inscriptions.
- The written examen consists of questions concerning the content of the handbook.

Calculation of the examination mark

- periodical assessment: written exam on the content of the handbook: 30% of the final grade
- non-periodical assessment: 70%, divided as follows: participation during seminars and weekly preparatory assignments (= daily work): 10% of the final grade; personal assignment: 60 % of the final grade.

Facilities for Working Students

Absence during the seminars is allowed, on the condition that preparatory assignments of the epigraphic dossiers are submitted to the lecturer on a weekly basis. Moreover, working students have to make sure that they copy the notes taken by fellow students during the seminars.