

Research Seminar: Ancient History (A004041)

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 2026-2027

A (semester 1)

Dutch, English

Gent

independent work
seminar

Lecturers in academic year 2026-2027

Zuiderhoek, Andries Johan

LW03

lecturer-in-charge

Offered in the following programmes in 2026-2027

[Master of Science in Teaching in Arts and Humanities \(main subject History\)](#)

crdts

offering

5

A

[Master of Arts in History](#)

5

A

[Exchange Programme Classics](#)

5

A

[Exchange Programme History](#)

5

A

Teaching languages

English, Dutch

Keywords

Greek and Roman antiquity; historical research

Position of the course

This is an advanced specialisation course within the curriculum leading to the degree of Master in History. The purpose is to teach the student the principles and methods of active historical research in the field of the history of Greek and Roman antiquity.

Contents

- introductory lecture
- seminars on concrete research problems. Every student or duo/group of students (depending on the number of course participants) prepares a seminar on a subject related to the common theme for which relevant literature and primary sources are collected and analyzed. All participants have reading assignments to prepare them for the workshops.
- guest lecture(s) if possible

THEME

Polis: the Greek city in Classical Antiquity

Initial competences

The student has acquired the final competences as formulated in the bachelor curriculum in History of Ghent University, or (in the case of Erasmus students) the bachelor curriculum in History at their home university.

Final competences

- 1 Use advanced insights into historical conceptual frameworks (also in another language than Dutch) to analyse and evaluate new and complex ideas.
- 2 Critically use insights into the history of the ancient world to analyse complex problems and to formulate possible research questions.
- 3 Take a critical approach to the history of the ancient world.
- 4 Make original use of and deepen basic knowledge of neighbouring sciences in research and/or professional activities.
- 5 Employ historical scientific methodology in research or professional activities.

- 6 Have the ability to use sources (also in another language than Dutch) in an original and creative way.
- 7 Set up historical research.
- 8 Critically analyse and make original use of current national and international scientific debates in the field of ancient history (also in another language than Dutch).
- 9 Write a relevant and coherent historical scientific research project.
- 10 Independently select, correctly use and critically evaluate methods for qualitative and quantitative research.
- 11 Creatively design and implement one's own historical research.
- 12 Possess the techniques required to independently collect, criticise, and process historical sources and literature (also in another language than Dutch), and to integrate these in a historical argument.
- 13 Give a nuanced interpretation and correct presentation of the results of one's own research in the form of a report, thesis or article.
- 14 Systematically act with scientific integrity.
- 15 To have the ability to independently recognize the dynamics, processes and recurrences in complex historical situations.
- 16 Form nuanced and value conscious opinions on historical questions.
- 17 Have a reflective and critical attitude that demonstrates historical scientific curiosity, pluralism and a positive attitude towards lifelong learning.
- 18 Critically reflect upon the limits of one's own skills, thoughts, and actions.
- 19 Approach a problem systematically from multiple perspectives – multiperspectivism.
- 20 Write down the results of one's own historical scientific research in a clearly structured, academically justified text, written in a clear and academically correct language
- 21 Present the results of one's own historical research, to both experts and peers, in a clearly structured oral presentation, in a clear and academically correct language.
- 22 Communicate, collaborate and act in an inspiring, advisory or authoritative manner, depending on the situation.
- 23 Integrate cultural sensitivity, respect for diversity, and historical consciousness into a scientific work.
- 24 Undertake independent historical research, and fit into a group conducting historical scientific research.
- 25 Adjust to specialist interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary professional situations.
- 26 Use tailored media for the communication of historical information to a specific audience.

Conditions for credit contract

Access to this course unit via a credit contract is determined after successful competences assessment

Conditions for exam contract

Access to this course unit via an exam contract is unrestricted

Teaching methods

Seminar, Independent work

Extra information on the teaching methods

The course consists of interactive, discussion-based seminars, hence classes will not be recorded.

Study material

Type: Syllabus

Name: Selection of articles from scholarly literature

Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty

Optional: no

Language : English

Number of Pages : 200

Oldest Usable Edition : Current

Available on Ufora : Yes

Online Available : No

Available in the Library : No

Available through Student Association : No

Additional information: This information is for the time being, since the articles still need to be selected and collected

References

- Miko Flohr and Arjan Zuiderhoek (eds.), *A companion to cities in the Greco-Roman world* (Hoboken N.J.: Wiley-Blackwell, 2025).
- Anna Heller and Martin Hallmannsecker (eds.), *The Oxford handbook of Greek cities in the Roman empire* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2024).
- John Ma, *Polis: a new history of the ancient Greek city-state from the early Iron Age to the end of antiquity* (Princeton N.J.: Princeton University Press, 2024)
- Arjan Zuiderhoek, *The ancient city*. Key Themes in Ancient History (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2017).

Course content-related study coaching

- Teaching is very interactive; the lecturer is constantly available for questions and coaching
- Specific questions can be asked during the lecturer's consultation hours or via email
- E-learning platform

Assessment moments

continuous assessment

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

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

Examination methods in case of permanent assessment

Participation, Presentation, 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

- Presentation consists of the active leading of one seminar and the preparation for it, as well as of an oral presentation of the results of the student's independent research for the written assignment (paper).
- Participation consists of weekly preparation of classes (reading the assigned literature and sources, preparing questions about them, etc.) and active participation in the discussions in class.
- The written assignment (paper) comprises independent research carried out by the student about a freely chosen topic that relates to the overall theme of the research seminar, and consists of independent critical analysis of primary source material and modern scholarly literature.

Calculation of the examination mark

Non-periodic evaluation, divided as follows:

- Presentation (30%)
- Participation (20%)
- Written assignment (paper) (50%)

Facilities for Working Students

Facilities:

- 1 Possible exemption from activities requiring student attendance. The student is given an assignment as alternative after consultation with the lecturer
- 2 Feedback can be given by email, telephone or during an appointment during office hours

For more information contact the monitoring service of the Faculty of Arts and

Philosophy: [https://www.ugent.](https://www.ugent.be/lw/nl/student/studiestudentenbegeleiding/trajectbegeleiding.htm)

[be/lw/nl/student/studiestudentenbegeleiding/trajectbegeleiding.htm](https://www.ugent.be/lw/nl/student/studiestudentenbegeleiding/trajectbegeleiding.htm)