

## Ancient Near Eastern Society and Religion (A005364)

**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 2023-2024**

A (semester 1)

Dutch

Gent

seminar

lecture

independent work

peer teaching

**Lecturers in academic year 2023-2024**

Goddeeris, Anne

LW21

lecturer-in-charge

**Offered in the following programmes in 2023-2024**

**crdts**

**offering**

Bachelor of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures(main subject Arabic and Islamic Studies)

5

A

Bachelor of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures(main subject China (China Track))

5

A

Bachelor of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures(main subject China (UGent Track))

5

A

Bachelor of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures(main subject India)

5

A

Bachelor of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures(main subject Japan)

5

A

Bachelor of Arts in African Languages and Cultures

5

A

Bachelor of Arts in Archaeology

5

A

Bachelor of Arts in Art History, Musicology and Theatre Studies

5

A

Bachelor of Arts in East European Languages and Cultures

5

A

Bachelor of Arts in Moral Sciences

5

A

Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy

5

A

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

5

A

Master of Arts in Archaeology

5

A

Micro-credential The Ancient Near East Unriddled

5

A

Exchange Programme History

5

A

**Teaching languages**

Dutch

**Keywords**

society, economy, religion, mythology, Ancient Near East

**Position of the course**

This advanced course offers the students insight in the structures of Mesopotamian society on a social, institutional and economic level, as well as in the nature and evolution of the Mesopotamian religion and its expression in the mythological texts.

Exchange students may take up this course unit, for which no prior knowledge of Dutch is required, as exchange students will be set an alternative exam.

**Contents**

The lectures provide students with an insight in the social and religious structures of Mesopotamia through thematic classes (money and market, private and institutional, bureaucracy and law, social classes and gender, science and philosophy, cosmogonic and anthropogonic mythological traditions, temple and sacrifice, rituals, magic and medicine) in which case studies are explored in depth on the basis of visual material and excerpts of historical, literary and administrative sources.

Within the framework of a project (the topic of which changes annually, e.g. "the role and function of women in the society and religion of Mesopotamia"), the student will be taught in seminars how to consult and critically process secondary sources and primary sources (in translation) in order to be able to write a paper and give a presentation on a chosen subject within the topic of the project.

### **Initial competences**

To have passive knowledge of English, French and German (to be able to consult specialist literature).

### **Final competences**

- 1 To be able to show an overall insight in the structures of Mesopotamian society on a social, institutional and economical, as well as in the nature and evolution of the Mesopotamian religion and its expression in the mythological texts.
- 2 To have insight in various aspects of the Mesopotamian social and religious structures discussed in the thematic classes and case-studies.
- 3 To be able to interpret the archaeological and epigraphic sources discussed in class and to be able to evaluate their significance for Mesopotamian society and religion.
- 4 To be able to consult and critically process secondary sources and primary sources (in translation).
- 5 To be able to write a paper on a subject chosen within the framework of the topic of the project.
- 6 To be able to give a presentation on a subject chosen within the framework of the topic of the project.

### **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**

Seminar, Lecture, Independent work, Peer teaching

### **Extra information on the teaching methods**

- Lecture 20h: theoretical underpinning and elaboration of case studies in thematic classes
- Seminar 5h: supervising the writing and presenting of a paper.
- Self-reliant study activities 10h: the student writes a paper and prepares an oral presentation.
- Microteaching 5h: the students give an oral presentation of their paper by means of a powerpoint presentation in class, after which their paper is open for discussion in the group.

### **Learning materials and price**

Syllabus, scientific literature and powerpoint presentations offered via Ufora (printing costs).

### **References**

### **Course content-related study coaching**

The lectures are interactive: the content of the thematic classes and case-studies are discussed in an interactive and demand-driven way during the lectures. Within the framework of the seminars, the students are taught to consult and critically process secondary sources and primary sources (in translation) in order to write a paper and give a presentation on a subject chosen within the framework of the theme of the project. These seminars are highly interactive by using the flipped classroom method. The course is concluded by microteaching sessions in which the students present orally their papers and take part in a final group discussion. After the examinations there is individual feedback regarding the written examination and the paper.

**Because of Covid 19, forms of education and evaluation may be subject to deviations. Such deviations will be communicated via Ufora.**

**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

**Extra information on the examination methods**

periodic evaluation: written examination with open questions.

permanent evaluation: written paper and oral presentation paper.

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**Calculation of the examination mark**

written examination with open questions: 60%

written paper and oral presentation paper: 40%

In order to pass this course, the student has to pass both the written examination and the paper.

Students who do not take part in the assessment of one or more parts of the course evaluation or obtain a mark of less than 10/20 for one of its parts cannot pass the course evaluation. Should the average mark nevertheless be higher than 10/20, the final mark will be reduced to the highest non-pass mark (= 9).

**Facilities for Working Students**

Possible exemption from educational activities requiring student attendance in lectures.

Possible rescheduling of the written examination to a different time in the same academic year.

Participation in microteaching is compulsory.

Feedback can be given by email or during an appointment.