

Ancient Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations (A005371)

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 1)	Dutch	Gent	independent work
			lecture
			peer teaching
			seminar

Lecturers in academic year 2024-2025

Goddeeris, Anne	LW21	lecturer-in-charge
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Offered in the following programmes in 2024-2025

	crdts	offering
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 Unveiled	5	A
Exchange Programme Cultures and Languages in Context	5	A
Exchange Programme History	5	A
Exchange Programme Oriental Languages and Cultures	5	A
Elective Set Culture and Society	5	A

Teaching languages

Dutch

Keywords

Ancient Near East, languages of the Ancient Near East, literary traditions of the Ancient Near East, cultural traditions of the Ancient Near East

Position of the course

The course offers an overview of the various languages and literary traditions of the Ancient Near East, embedded within its historical and cultural context. The aim of the course is to provide a number of basic skills in approaching languages and literary traditions from the Ancient Near East in order to gain insight into the cultural, literary and linguistic diversity of the region.

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 (more specifically response colleges) provide the students with (1) an insight into the various languages and writing systems that were developed in the Ancient Near East (with emphasis on the Semitic language family, Sumerian, Elamite, Anatolian and Old Persian) based on the study of some representative text excerpts (in the original script, in transcription and translation), and (2) an insight into the various literary traditions of the Ancient Near East based on the study of texts and text fragments (in translation) embedded within their historical and cultural context. The aim of the course is to provide the students with a deeper insight into important aspects of the various cultures and peoples of the Ancient Near East, from Syria-Palestine over Asia Minor and Mesopotamia to ancient Persia. In a project offered in seminars, work is done around a current theme. This theme changes annually (e.g. "Fake news, propaganda then and now"). The students deal with a self-chosen topic within this project based on secondary literature and primary sources in translation. This results in an essay and an oral presentation.

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 name, describe chronologically and geographically, and define in general the various languages, writing systems, and literary and cultural traditions of the Ancient Near East
- 2 To have basic insight into the structural characteristics of the language(families) and writing systems treated
- 3 To be able to interpret the texts, text excerpts and fragments dealt with in class within their historical and cultural context
- 4 To be able to define the various literary genres and to situate their evolution chronologically and geographically
- 5 To be able to consult and critically process secondary sources and primary sources (in translation)
- 6 To be able to write a essay on a subject chosen within the framework of the topic of the project
- 7 To be able to write an essay and 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 an essay
- Self-reliant study activities 10h: the student writes an essay and prepares an oral presentation of the essay
- Microteaching 5h: the students give an oral presentation of their essay by means of a powerpoint presentation in class, after which their essay is open for discussion in the group

Study material

Type: Reader

Name: slides, handouts, scientific articles, book chapters, sources

Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty

Optional: no

Available on Ufora : Yes

Online Available : Yes

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 primary and secondary sources 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. 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: essay, presentation essay
- Second examination period: resubmission essay, including presentation, is possible

Calculation of the examination mark

Written examination with open questions: 60%

Essay, presentation essay: 40%

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

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.