

Text Analysis of Latin Sources (A005442)

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)

Dutch

Gent

seminar

peer teaching

Lecturers in academic year 2025-2026

Robinson, Karl

LW03

staff member

Zoeter, Matthijs

LW03

lecturer-in-charge

Offered in the following programmes in 2025-2026

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

crdts

offering

5

A

[Master of Arts in History](#)

5

A

Teaching languages

Dutch

Keywords

Latin

Historical sources

Ancient history

History: Middle Ages

Cultural History: Early Modern Era

Position of the course

Historians working on Ancient history, history of the Middle Ages or Cultural history of the Early Modern Era often come across sources written in Latin. This course offers support to students who, for example for their master thesis, wish to make use of Latin literary and historiographical texts, but also inscriptions, documentary sources, archival material, church documents etc. It introduces students to reading and interpreting a wide range of Latin texts, including texts that differ from classical Latin in vocabulary and grammar, and that have sometimes never been translated before.

Contents

In a first series of seminars, students read a wide variety of Latin texts from Antiquity to the Early Modern Era. Particular attention is given to matters of grammar, vocabulary and style, and several tips & tricks for reading Latin texts are given, including the use of AI. Historical content and context are also discussed. A second series of seminars take the form of microteaching (student presentations): students present their own reading and interpretation of a chosen Latin texts, and engage in dialogue about this with their fellow students and with the lecturer.

Initial competences

A good basic knowledge of Latin as acquired throughout secondary school, potentially updated in the BA course Historical texts: Latin (A004005), or as offered e.g. in the BA course Latin Language I (A000779).

Final competences

- 1 Understand Latin texts from Antiquity to the Early Modern Era in the original language (with the help of dictionaries etc.).
- 2 Refer to precise formulations in the original language when interpreting Latin

historical sources.

- 3 Make independent use of Latin texts as sources for historical research, and presenting the results both orally and in writing.
- 4 Be attentive to linguistic nuances and for the added value of reading Latin historical sources in the original language.
- 5 Engage in critical interpretative discussion of Latin texts.
- 6 Have knowledge of the main evolutions of the Latin language from Antiquity to the Early Modern Era.

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

This course unit cannot be taken via an exam contract

Teaching methods

Seminar, Peer teaching

Study material

Type: Slides

Name: Slides

Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty

Optional: no

Language : Dutch

Available on Ufora : Yes

Type: Reader

Name: Reader with source texts

Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty

Optional: no

Language : Other

Available on Ufora : Yes

References

Course content-related study coaching

In case of questions, students can contact the lecturer via e-mail, and if necessary book an (online or offline) appointment.

Assessment moments

end-of-term and continuous assessment

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

Oral assessment, Assignment

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

Examination methods in case of permanent assessment

Participation, Assignment

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment

not applicable

Extra information on the examination methods

Permanent evaluation (50%): oral presentation of a chosen Latin text (text, translation and interpretation) (10%), and participation in discussions in class (10%).

Exam (50%): Oral examination, based on a paper submitted to the lecturer at least 2 weeks before the exam. The paper offers a text, translation and interpretation (in total ca. 5 pp.) of a chosen Latin text not previously discussed during class (25%).

At the oral exam, the student briefly presents his/her paper, and engages in a discussion with the lecturer (25%).

Calculation of the examination mark

Permanent evaluation (50%): presentation (40%) and participation (10%).

Exam: Oral presentation and discussion (25%) of a paper submitted in advance (25%).

