

Transmission of Ancient Greek Texts (A005481)

Course size *(nominal values; actual values may depend on programme)*

Credits 5.0 **Study time 150 h**

Course offerings in academic year 2026-2027

A (semester 2) Dutch, English Gent

Lecturers in academic year 2026-2027

Giannikou, Kyriaki	LW06	staff member
Bernard, Floris	LW07	lecturer-in-charge

Offered in the following programmes in 2026-2027

	crdts	offering
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Dutch - Greek)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject English - Greek)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject French - Greek)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject German - Greek)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Latin - Greek)	5	A
Exchange Programme Classics	5	A
Exchange Programme Linguistics and Literature	5	A
Preparatory Course Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Greek)	5	A

Teaching languages

English, Dutch

Keywords

Ancient Greek, papyrology, codicology, paleography, textual transmission, textual criticism

Position of the course

This course intends to offer students insight into how and in which circumstances the ancient Greek texts have been transmitted to us. It introduces them to the original ancient and medieval sources of those texts (papyri, manuscripts), and explains the history of script, book culture, and philology.

Contents

This course offers students insight into the material and historical circumstances of the transmission of ancient Greek texts. Students get acquainted with the development of Greek writing, from its origins to the dissemination of print. The course comprises the teaching of specific skills, namely to decipher and date papyri and manuscripts. Students get acquainted with original sources in situ, in the university library. The course also teaches insight into the cultural and historical context of writing culture, textual transmission, and philology. Finally, the course teaches the basic notions of textual criticism (critical editions of texts, methodologies of philology, etc.) and the basic tools of the scientific disciplines of papyrology, codicology and palaeography.

Initial competences

Students have followed the courses Ancient Greek Language Acquisition I and Ancient Greek Language Acquisition II, or have otherwise acquired equivalent final competences of these courses.

Final competences

1 To read the original sources of ancient Greek texts (papyri and manuscripts), and to transcribe them in a methodologically correct way

- 2 Situate Greek papyri and manuscripts (chronologically, historically and culturally) on the basis of their external features and writing style
- 3 To know the intellectual and cultural developments that influenced the ancient and medieval transmission and study of texts
- 4 To be acquainted with the ancient and medieval material features of textual transmission (writing tools, material features of papyrus and manuscript, and roll and codex).
- 5 To distinguish, identify, date, and situate the diverse styles and phases in the development of Greek writing
- 6 To use the most important paper and digital tools for the study of Greek papyri and manuscripts; and to be acquainted with relevant library resources
- 7 To be acquainted with the methods of scientific critical editions of ancient Greek texts.

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

Extra information on the teaching methods

- Lecture: 15 h. Introduction, explanation, and presentation.
- Seminar: 15h. Coached exercises: Students read and transcribe textual fragments themselves, guided by the teacher. Occasional excursions to the university library to show original materials (papyri, facsimiles)

Study material

Type: Slides

Name: Slides and other didactic material

Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty

Optional: no

Language : Dutch

Available on Ufora : Yes

Online Available : Yes

Available in the Library : No

Available through Student Association : No

References

Course content-related study coaching

- In-class discussion of assignments with attention for common problems
- Corrections of the coached exercises and the assignments
- Individual coaching during in-class exercises
- Personal appointment on request

Assessment moments

end-of-term and continuous assessment

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

Written assessment

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

Written assessment

Examination methods in case of permanent assessment

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

- Written exam: open questions about theoretical parts, and exercises testing reading and transcription skills.
- Assignment: Regular assignment where students retrieve, read, and transcribe

fragments from the original sources; or short oral presentations about original materials from the university library

- The rest of the assignment consists of a scientific paper describing a paleographical and/or codicological problem

Calculation of the examination mark

- 50% written exam
- 50% assignments

Facilities for Working Students

- Possible exemption from attendance with an alternative assignment after consultation with the lecturer