GHENT UNIVERSITY

Course Specifications

Valid in the academic year 2022-2023

Historical Practice I: Antiquity (A005552)

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

Credits 5.0	**Study time 150 h**	**Contact hrs**	40.0h

Course offerings and teaching methods in academic year 2022-2023

A (Year)	Dutch	Gent	self-reliant study activities	15.0h
			guided self-study	2.5h
			seminar: practical PC room classes	2.5h
			lecture	15.0h
			seminar	5.0h

Lecturers in academic year 2022-2023

Oppeneer, Thierry	LW03	lecturer-in-charge
Brüsewitz, Amber	LW03	staff member
De Graef, Katrien	LW21	co-lecturer
Goddeeris, Anne	LW21	staff member
Kooijman, Marijke	LW03	staff member
Slotman, Dineke Riët	LW03	staff member

Offered in the following programmes in 2022-2023	**crdts**	**offering**
Bachelor of Arts in History	5	A

Teaching languages

Dutch

Keywords

Historical practice/exercise, Greek and Roman history, history of the ancient near east, Mesopotamia, research question, ancient sources, source analysis, scientific literature, academic writing

Position of the course

This introductory course builds on the course *Introduction to Historical Research*. In this practically-oriented course students learn how to engage in historical research. Using the skills developed during the first semester the students conclude their initiation into historical research by writing an independently composed, academically well-written end-of-term-paper. The basic research competences developed during this course will be further developed in the course *Historical Practice II*.

Contents

In this course, students learn to conduct historical research into a topic of their choice. At the start of the first semester, students have to choose one of two modules that take place simultaneously throughout the year. Module 1 covers the history of the Ancient Near East (ca. 3000-323 BC); module 2 examines the history of the Greek and Roman world (ca. 800 BC-AD 600). It is not possible to switch between modules during the academic year.
First semester:
During lectures, students will be initiated in the different stages of historical research. Introductory courses will allow them to gain some understanding of the peculiarities of ancient sources, source-editions, bibliographies and digital tools, to reflect on debates in the specialist literature and to acquire basis research skills. The permanent evaluation consists of related individual exercises (e.g. formulating

a research question or composing a bibliography).
Second semester:
Each student individually writes a paper in which he/she discusses one or more ancient sources on the basis of a research question falling within the confines of a topic chosen individually. During fixed contact moments, students receive detailed feedback on the different stages of their research (research question, collecting sources and literature, etc.) from a personal supervisor. Finally, they present their results during an individual oral presentation.

Initial competences

- The student has elementary knowledge of historical developments.
- The student has reading knowledge of English, French and German.
- **NB**: Knowledge of Latin, Greek or cuneiform languages is not required.

Final competences

1 B.1.6. The student has insight into the methodology of history.
2 B.1.7. The student has a basic knowledge of the diversity of sources and academic literature (also in another language than Dutch) used in historical research and the specialist skills required to read and interpret sources (also in another language than Dutch).
3 B.2.1. The student has the ability to initiate problem-oriented historical research.
4 B.2.2. The student has the ability to situate research results in the correct national and international historiographical context.
5 B.2.3. The student has the ability to set up a simple historical research strategy in the form of a roadmap.
6 B.2.4. The student has the ability to apply quantitative and qualitative methods in a sound manner.
7 B.2.5. The student has the ability to indicate the most appropriate types of sources relative to a specific historical research question.
8 B.2.6. The student has the ability to use scientific criteria to justify heuristic methods and bibliographical research in the field of history.
9 B.2.7. The student is able to interpret, evaluate, and report on extant research (also in another language than Dutch) and on one's own initial research or research plans.
10 B.2.8. The student is conscious of the importance of scientific integrity.
11 B.3.4. The student has an inquiring attitude with an aptitude for historical critique and creativity, and with a positive attitude towards lifelong learning.
12 B.4.1. The student has the ability to summarize ongoing scientific discussions in the historiography (also in another language than Dutch), using an adequate critical apparatus, in a coherently structured, scientific text, written in clear and academically correct language.
13 B.4.2. The student has the ability to participate actively in group discussions (also in another language than Dutch) and to communicate the results of historical research to both experts and peers in a clearly structured oral presentation, in a clear and academically correct language.
14 B.4.3. The student has the ability to cooperate with peers on a project basis.
15 B.6.1. The student has insight into the way in which historical scientific research functions and is organized.
16 B.6.2. The student has insight into the functioning of related disciplines in the social sciences and humanities.

Conditions for credit contract

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

Conditions for exam contract

This course unit cannot be taken via an exam contract

Teaching methods

Guided self-study, Seminar, Lecture, Self-reliant study activities, Seminar: practical pc room classes

Extra information on the teaching methods

It is possible that due to COVID-19 different teaching methods will be applied.
More detailed information will be supplied via Ufora.

Learning materials and price

All teaching material is freely made available via Ufora.

References

No further specific recommended reading.

Course content-related study coaching

Tutoring is provided during the classes as well as electronically via Ufora. The classes are taught interactively. The teacher provides time for questions and answers.
Individual coaching is possible through email communication or in person by electronic appointment.

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, 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

No oral or written examination takes place. Marks will be given for the smaller assignments, participation in the tutorials and the final paper.
Successful participation in class will entail:
- Written submission of assignments.
- Active participation in class discussions.

Paper:
- Formulate a research problem and associated research questions according to the rules communicated in the first semester.
- Individual selection of relevant, primary source material.
- Analyse the sources in function of the research question(s) and in dialogue with existing scholarship.
- Formulate an answer to the research problem and questions. Is the conclusion supported by the analysis of the sources?

Calculation of the examination mark

100% non-periodical assessment, distributed over: (1) several smaller assignments discussed in class (40%) (2) one major exercise - a written paper - (50%); and (3) an oral presentation of the research results (10%). The deadlines for both the smaller assignments and the paper have to be respected. A late submission will result in the loss of up to four points of the total score.
The paper, written in the second semester, is the most important assignment of the course, because it reflects all of the competences that have been acquired during the first semester via the lectures, seminars and small class assignments. **For this reason, it is impossible to pass this course if the student has not received a pass grade for the paper assignment.** If the student does not pass the paper, but receives a mathematical pass grade for the whole course (10/20 or more), this score will be automatically reduced to 7/20. If the student receives a pass grade for the paper, but fails (some of) the other assignments, he/she can still pass the course if the total score is a pass. If students fail the small assignments from the first semester (40%) they can request a substitute assignment to pass this part of the assessment. Students who fail the paper (50%) can resubmit it once, after feedback, to pass this part of the assessment.

Facilities for Working Students

1. Possible exemption from educational activities requiring student attendance, a task is imposed in substitution.
2. Possible rescheduling of the examination to a different time in the same academic year.
3. Possibility for feedback at an alternative moment during or after office hours either digitally (by email or videocall) or in person.