Heuristics: Ancient History (A005657)

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	group work	0.0h
			peer teaching	0.0h
			seminar	0.0h
			independent work	0.0h

Lecturers in academic year 2024-2025

Slotman, Dineke Riët	LW03	lecturer-in-charge

Offered in the following programmes in 2024-2025	**crdts**	**offering**
Bachelor of Arts in History	5	A
Preparatory Course Master of Arts in History	5	A

Teaching languages

Dutch

Keywords

Historical practice, heuristics, Classical antiquity

Position of the course

This advanced course wants to teach the students the basic competences to do research in the field of ancient history, and in particular how to found sources and modern literature and how to interpret these. This results in the following aims: 1°: to become acquainted with the available bibliographic instruments and reference works pertaining to the history of the ancient world; 2°: to find one's way in the different source types and publications, and the different sub-dsciplines; 3°: to be able to identify different types of sources with particular attention for their nature, form, content, structure, format, accessibility and find spots. Through a practical exercise, the course also teaches the students the skills and attitudes needed 1° to find primary sources and literature related to a specific research question; 2° and to make a first synthesis of the available data; 3° to reflect on the characteristics of the different source types.
It is recommended that the student also follows the course 'Historical Practise II: Exercise - Classical Antiquity'

Contents

- Concise survey of the main types of sources for ancient history, and the contexts in which these sources were preserved.
- Short survey of the specific subdisciplines for research of sources pertaining to the history of the ancient world.
- Short survey of the main working instruments, with particular attention to source publications and bibliographies.
- Discussion of the research traditions and theories that shaped the secondary literature.
- Specific case-studies that touch on detailed problems.

Initial competences

Have successfully completed the course "Introduction to Historical Research" and a "Historical Practice I" class, or their equivalent. For Erasmus students, or students who want to follow this course as a preparatory course, the lecturer is able to

ascertain that they have acquired the requisite skills in another manner.

Final competences

1 Have basic knowledge of the diverse sources and scientific literature (also in other languages than Dutch) for use in historical research and the specialist skills requisite to reading and interpreting sources (also in other languages than Dutch).

2 Have the ability to place the result of historical research (also in other languages than Dutch) within the correct historiographical context, and initiate new research.

3 Have the ability to outline a simple strategy for historical research in the form of a step-by-step plan.

4 Have the ability to critically apply quantitative and qualitative methods and techniques.

5 Have the ability to indicate the most appropriate types of sources relative to a specific historical research question.

6 Have the ability to use scientific criteria to substantiate a heuristic method and historical bibliographical research.

7 Have the ability to contextualize historical research and one's own actions, and interpret them within a societal reference framework.

8 Have an inquiring attitude with a love of historical critique and creativity, and with a positive attitude towards lifelong learning.

9 Have the ability to summarize ongoing scientific discussions in the historiography using adequate critical apparatus.

10 Have the ability to communicate the results of historical research with both experts and laypersons, either orally or in writing.

11 Have the ability to work with one's colleagues on a project.

12 Have insight into the way in which historical scientific research works and is organized.

13 Have insight into how related human and social sciences work.

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

Group work, Seminar, Independent work, Peer teaching

Extra information on the teaching methods

The module is based for a large part on active preparation by the students: for every class a substantial reading packet needs to be prepared, which is further explained and expanded upon in class.
Attendance is expected. Lecture recordings are possible for students who have full-time jobes.

Study material

Type: Syllabus

Name: Compendium
Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty
Optional: no

Type: Syllabus

Name: Manual of ancient history
Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty
Optional: no

Type: Slides

Name: Slides
Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty
Optional: no

References

Course content-related study coaching

During class and through Minerva. Individual feedback and couching is possible if requested on appointment.

Assessment moments

end-of-term and continuous assessment

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

Written assessment open-book, Assignment

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

Written assessment open-book, Assignment

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

Assessment moment
Non-periodical: continuous assessment (40%) and periodical: exam (60%)
(If a student does not pass the non-periodical evaluation, a second chance is offered by means of a compensatory activity between the first and second exam period.)

Assessment form
- Exam Part 1 (20%) consists of an exercise in the library, where the student has to do a concise piece of research.
- Exam Part 2 (40) is an opn book exam, consisting of four questions: 1°: A discussion of one source; to identify the source type and analyse it; 2°: one question testing the insight and understanding the student has concerning the historical context in which specific subdisciplines have developed or relating to general characteristics of the sources of the ancient world; 3 The discussion of an existing publication of a source to demonstrate s/he is able to use these and interpret them correctly. 4°: Discussion of some technical terms necessary for research in Ancient History.
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- Continuous assessment comprises seven small exercises of which the best five scores count towards the total (20% of the total mark) and one larger assignment (20%). The larger assignment is to study a given historical event from the perspective of different types of sources and present the results in class. This will be done in small groups. The small exercises are specific tasks related to the finding of modern literature or sources of a specific type. There is weekly feedback (oral & written) on the asssignments.

Calculation of the examination mark

Facilities for Working Students

Facilities:
1 Possible exemption from certain educational activities requiring student attendance
2 Possible rescheduling of the examination to a different time in the same academic year
3 Feedback can be given by email, telephone or during an appointment during or after office hours
4 Possible recording of classes

Extra information:
The reader can be studied through home study. The understanding of the bibliographical compedium requires student attendance as well as specific examples of sources and their use.
For more information concerning flexible learning: contact the monitoring service of the faculty of Arts and philosophy