

The Classical Tradition in Western History (A005724)

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

Gent

Lecturers in academic year 2026-2027

Formisano, Marco

LW07

lecturer-in-charge

Vandewalle, Alexander

LW07

co-lecturer

Offered in the following programmes in 2026-2027

	crdts	offering
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Dutch - English)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Dutch - French)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Dutch - German)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Dutch - Greek)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Dutch - Italian)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Dutch - Latin)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Dutch - Spanish)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Dutch - Swedish)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject English - German)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject English - Greek)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject English - Italian)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject English - Latin)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject English - Spanish)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject English - Swedish)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject French - English)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject French - German)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject French - Greek)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject French - Italian)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject French - Latin)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject French - Spanish)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject French - Swedish)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject German - Greek)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject German - Italian)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject German - Spanish)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject German - Swedish)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Latin - Greek)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Latin - Italian)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Latin - Spanish)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Latin - Swedish)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Art History, Musicology and Theatre Studies	5	A
Master of Science in Teaching in Languages(main subject Linguistics and Literature)	5	A
Linking Course Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Latin)	5	A
Preparatory Course Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Latin)	5	A
Preparatory Course Master of Arts in Historical Linguistics and Literature	5	A
Elective Set Literature	5	A
Elective Set The Classical Tradition	5	A

Teaching languages

Dutch

Keywords

reception studies; the classical tradition; Nachleben; metamorphosis and transformation; Ovid; post-human; identity; critical ancient world studies; popular culture; text, film and videogames.

Position of the course

This course unit aims to provide an introduction to the reception of antiquity in contemporary culture. The course provides an overview of (1) theories of reception studies, (2) the reception of Ovid's *Metamorphoses* and the transformation of human and nonhuman identity, and (3) the presence of antiquity in contemporary media (e.g., video games and social media). Participants will consider the role of Greek and Roman culture for the construction of Western identity.

Contents

This course consists of three parts.

In the first three meetings we shall discuss the most important terminology and approaches in reception studies.

In the second part we shall consider the complex and variegated reception of Ovid's *Metamorphoses* (1st century CE) in modern texts and movies. In particular, we shall discuss three kinds of reception of this highly influential Latin poem: 1) direct reworking of and clear references to episodes from the *Metamorphoses*; 2) thematic correspondences between Ovidian tales and modern literature and film; 3) Ovidian style of representation.

Finally, inspired by critical ancient world studies, the course approaches the reception of antiquity in recent media, discussing recent case studies in politics, social media and popular culture (e.g., video games).

Initial competences

To have an elementary knowledge of European history and art history as acquired in secondary education, complemented with general historical and cultural historical courses in Ba1, or having acquired these competences in another way.

Final competences

- 1 Being able to elucidate and actively apply central theoretical concepts and cultural-critical terms from the course.
- 2 Being able to elucidate and identify various forms of reception.
- 3 To have general insight into the perception and creative use of the classics within new cultural products from different periods and cultural movements.
- 4 Being able to autonomously gain insights into the forms, functions and cultural contexts of classical reception pertaining to specific cultural products and to communicate those insights in a scientific manner.
- 5 Being able to autonomously formulate a critical perspective on the contemporary social relevance of the course contents.
- 6 Knowledge of the metamorphosis as a central topic in both ancient culture and contemporary art and culture.
- 7 use Gen AI responsibly

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

Group work, Seminar, Lecture, Independent work

Extra information on the teaching methods

(on line) frontal lesson, (on line) group discussion; independent study; plenary sessions; (on line) group work.

Study material

Type: Reader

Name: 1) D'Hane-Scheltema, Ovidius Metamorphosen, Athenaeum 2013 (12 €) + further material available on Ufora

Indicative price: € 12

Optional: no

Language : Dutch

References

Further reading will be announced by the teacher and if necessary made available on UFORA.

Course content-related study coaching

Feedback and questions during contact and office hours (also on line)

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

Presentation, Assignment

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment

examination during the second examination period is possible

Extra information on the examination methods

Written exam: specific information will be shared with the students during classes

Creative discussion: students write an analysis of a cultural product of their choice

Active participation (presentation)

Calculation of the examination mark

Written exam: 50%

Creative discussion: 40%

Presentation: 10%

Facilities for Working Students

1. Possible exemption from educational activities requiring student attendance.

2. Possible rescheduling of the examination to a different time in the same academic year

3. Alternative time for feedback is possible

For more information concerning flexible learning: contact the monitoring service of the faculty of Arts and philosophy