

Ancient Greek Literature: Research Topics (A006676)

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 1)

Dutch

Gent

Lecturers in academic year 2026-2027

Van Pelt, Julie

LW07

lecturer-in-charge

Offered in the following programmes in 2026-2027

	crdts	offering
Master of Science in Teaching in Languages(main subject Linguistics and Literature)	5	A
Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Dutch - Greek)	5	A
Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject English - Greek)	5	A
Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject French - Greek)	5	A
Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject German - Greek)	5	A
Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Greek)	5	A
Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Latin - Greek)	5	A
Master of Arts in Historical Linguistics and Literature	5	A
Exchange Programme Linguistics and Literature	5	A

Teaching languages

Dutch

Keywords

Greek literature, capita selecta

Position of the course

The course aims at:

- the acquisition of a thorough understanding of and research experience in a specific genre, author, period, or problem from Ancient Greek literature; the less canonical literature from the imperial period is covered extensively;
- a deepening of the knowledge and skills acquired during the bachelor's degree, including actively participating in critical discussions about primary and secondary literature, applying different literary theories and methods to Ancient Greek texts, and understanding, interpreting, and presenting Ancient Greek texts using professional tools.

Contents

The course targets research-oriented discussion and analysis of selected texts from Ancient Greek literature. Detailed analysis is preceded by one or more theoretical introductory lectures. At least one lecture is taught by a guest speaker with research experience in the theme of the course.

Theme 2026-2027: Greek biography and fiction theory

We cover the history of the biographical genre and problematize the concepts of 'fiction', 'fictionality' and 'truth' in this genre. Both ancient and contemporary theoretical approaches to these concepts are addressed. The focus is on reading and analyzing various examples from Ancient Greek literature, from the classical period to the early Middle Ages.

Initial competences

A good knowledge of the Greek language and a clear understanding of the main genres in Greek literature, as acquired during the bachelor training programme.

Final competences

- 1 Applying literary theories and methods to the analysis of Ancient Greek texts.
- 2 Acquiring a broad knowledge of and familiarity with classical literature from various (also non-canonical) genres and periods.
- 3 Collaborating with fellow students.
- 4 Understanding, interpreting and presenting Ancient Greek texts to an academic audience, making use of appropriate professional tools.
- 5 Presenting personal research findings orally.
- 6 Participating actively in critical discussions of primary and secondary literature.

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, Lecture, Independent work, Peer teaching

Extra information on the teaching methods

Lectures and workshops are coordinated by the main and guest lecturer(s).

Part of the meetings are devoted to presentations by students based on individual home assignments and group assignments.

The lectures and workshops are not recorded.

Study material

Type: Slides

Name: PowerPoint slides for all lectures

Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty

Optional: no

Language : Dutch

Number of Slides : 500

Available on Ufora : Yes

Online Available : No

Available in the Library : No

Available through Student Association : No

Type: Reader

Name: Reader with preparatory reading

Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty

Optional: no

Language : English

Number of Pages : 500

Available on Ufora : Yes

Online Available : Yes

Available in the Library : Yes

Available through Student Association : No

References

D. Cohn, "Signposts of Fictionality: A Narratological Perspective," *Poetics Today* 11/4 (1990), 775-804.

K. De Temmerman & K. Demoen (eds.), *Writing Biography in Greece and Rome: Narrative Technique and Fictionalization* (Cambridge, 2016).

K. De Temmerman (ed.), *The Oxford Handbook of Ancient Biography* (Oxford, 2020).

T. Hägg, *The Art of Biography in Antiquity* (Cambridge, 2012).

B.C. McGing, J. Mossman & E. Bowie (eds.), *The Limits of Ancient Biography* (Swansea, 2006).

A. Momigliano, *The Development of Greek Biography* (Cambridge Mass., 1993).

H.S. Nielsen, J. Phelan & R. Walsh, "Ten Theses about Fictionality," *Narrative* 23/1 (2015), 61-73.

J. Van Pelt & K. De Temmerman (eds.), *Narrative, Imagination and Concepts of Fiction in Late Antique Hagiography* (Leiden, 2024).

Course content-related study coaching

Office hours, home assignments supervised by the main lecturer, feedback on presentations and on oral assessment.

Assessment moments

end-of-term and continuous assessment

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

Oral assessment

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

Oral assessment

Examination methods in case of permanent assessment

Participation, Presentation, Peer and/or self assessment

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

The student attends and actively contributes to the lectures and seminars (preparatory reading, taking notes, participation in class discussions, micro-teaching).

The student delivers a 20-minute oral research presentation on a topic of choice from a list of selected topics. The student can choose one of two formats for this presentation: academic and popularizing. Both formats are explained during one of the seminars.

During the oral assessment, the student's understanding and individual processing of the material covered in the lectures and seminars will be assessed (no reproduction of knowledge).

For the research presentation, generative AI may be used to (1) compile a bibliography, (2) help structure arguments, and (3) edit the presentation. Appropriate use of AI will be further trained and defined during one of the seminars.

Calculation of the examination mark

- 1) continuous assessment - participation in lectures and seminars: 20%
- 2) continuous assessment - research presentation: 50%
- 3) end-of-term assessment - oral assessment: 30%

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 available following appointment during office hours

Extra information:

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