

History of the Ancient Near East (A006715)

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) English Gent

Lecturers in academic year 2026-2027

De Graef, Katrien	LW21	lecturer-in-charge
Surdi, Mirko	LW21	co-lecturer

Offered in the following programmes in 2026-2027

	crdts	offering
Bachelor of Arts in History	5	A
Master of Science in Teaching in Arts and Humanities (main subject Archaeology)	5	A
Master of Arts in Archaeology	5	A
Micro-credential The Ancient Near East Unravalled	5	A
Micro-credential The Ancient Near East Unveiled	5	A
Micro-credential The Ancient Near East Unveiled	5	A
Exchange Programme History	5	A
Linking Course Master of Arts in History	5	A
Preparatory Course Master of Arts in History	5	A
Elective Set History	5	A

Teaching languages

English, Dutch

Keywords

History, Ancient Near East, Mesopotamia

Position of the course

This introductory course offers the students a general historical framework of the history of the Ancient Near East (from the Neolithic revolution to the Persian empire). They become acquainted with the archaeological and epigraphic sources and learn to approach them critically, and gain insight in important historical processes as well as in the interaction with the ancient environment.

Contents

An overview of the history of the Ancient Near East is offered by lectures in which (1) the general periodization, the main events and their dynamics are treated based on the the handbook *A History of the Ancient Near East ca. 3000-323 BC* by M. Van De Mierop (3rd edition, Wiley-Blackwell, 2016), and (2) specific topics of Ancient Near Eastern history are explored in depth through case-studies illustrated by archaeological and/or epigraphic sources and elaborated in thematic dossiers with supplementaty literature.

Initial competences

- good knowledge of English
- passive knowledge of French and German (to be able to consult specialist literature)

Final competences

- 1 To be able to situate chronologically the different periods of the history of the Ancient Near East.
- 2 To be acquainted with the main characteristics and developments of each period

of the history of the Ancient Near East.

3 To have insight into the general historical processes of the history of the Ancient Near East.

4 To be familiar with the geography of the Ancient Near East, to be able to situate the main geographical features on a map and to explain the interaction of the geographical area with human history.

5 To be able to interpret the archaeological and epigraphic sources discussed in class and their significance for the history of the Ancient Near East.

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

Lecture

Extra information on the teaching methods

- Lecture 30h: theoretical underpinning of the handbook used in class and in-depth exploration of specific subjects.
- Recordings: in principle, no lesson recordings are made available, unless requested due to exceptional circumstances and after consultation with the docent.

Study material

Type: Handbook

Name: Van De Mieroop, M., 2016: A History of the Ancient Near East, ca. 3000-323 BC (3rd Edition). Oxford: Wiley Blackwell.

Indicative price: € 40

Optional: no

ISBN : 978-1-11871-816-2

Oldest Usable Edition : 3rd edition

Available through Student Association : Yes

Type: Syllabus

Name: Syllabus: case-studies

Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty

Optional: no

Language : English

Available on Ufora : Yes

Type: Slides

Name: slides: History of the Ancient Near East

Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty

Optional: no

Language : English

Available on Ufora : Yes

Type: Reader

Name: Articles relating to thematic case-studies

Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty

Optional: no

Language : English

Available on Ufora : Yes

References

Van De Mieroop, M. 2016: A History of the Ancient Near East ca. 3000-323 BC (3rd edition), Wiley-Blackwell.

Course content-related study coaching

The lectures are as interactive as possible. The students are incited to ask questions in class and afterwards. The students learn a part of the handbook and the thematic dossiers through guided self-study with the possibility to ask questions.

After the examination there is individual feedback.

Assessment moments

end-of-term assessment

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

Written assessment with open-ended questions

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

Written assessment with open-ended questions

Examination methods in case of permanent assessment**Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment**

not applicable

Extra information on the examination methods

periodic evaluation: written examination with open questions

Calculation of the examination mark**Facilities for Working Students**

Facilities:

- 1 Possible exemption from educational activities requiring student attendance
- 2 Possible rescheduling of the written examination to a different date in the same academic year
- 3 Feedback can be given by email or on appointment