

Medieval Greek Linguistics and Literature (A006744)

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

Wijnendaele, Jeroen	LW03	staff member
Bernard, Floris	LW07	lecturer-in-charge
Paoletti, Giulia Maria	LW07	co-lecturer

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 Classics	5	A
Exchange Programme Linguistics and Literature	5	A
Exchange Programme Medieval Studies and Auxiliary Sciences	5	A

Teaching languages

English

Keywords

Medieval Greek language, Byzantine literature

Position of the course

This course provides an overview of the language forms (learned and popular) and the literature of Medieval Greek. It offers insight in how Medieval Greek language and literature relates to ancient Greek and modern Greek language and literature. The Byzantine phase of Greek is important to the study of both ancient and modern Greek, and is also instrumental for a comparative study of medieval European linguistics and literature.

Contents

This courses offers an overview of the most important literary genres and linguistic developments in Greek from the 4th to 15th century. After an introductory session, chronologically ordered sessions each discuss one particular period, while some sessions discuss specific genres in a broader diachronical context.

The emphasis of the course is on:

- the complex relationships between Byzantine texts and the ancient cultural and intellectual heritage;
- the embedment of texts in a specifically medieval historical, cultural, and/or religious context (propaganda, criticism, social tensions, education, rituals, etc.)
- the specific nature of textual production and consumption in the Middle Ages (book culture, authorship, fluid texts, etc.)

Initial competences

Good knowledge of classical and/or Modern Greek.

Final competences

- 1 To know the most important authors, subjects, and literary forms of Medieval Greek literature
- 2 To know the evolution of the Greek language from Late Antiquity to the Early Modern period
- 3 To understand the specific nature of medieval textual culture (transmission, authorship, orality) and to demonstrate this on the basis of primary texts
- 4 To clarify the linguistic and literary features of Medieval Greek texts in relation to the broader developments of Greek language and literature (from Antiquity to now)
- 5 To understand and critically assess the complex relations between Byzantine language and literature and the cultural and intellectual heritage of Antiquity
- 6 To understand and critically assess the historical, cultural, intellectual and religious context and agency of Medieval Greek texts
- 7 To formulate a research question about Byzantine texts, to clarify the scientific debate about it in a concise and clear manner, and to adopt a critical standpoint based on the analysis of primary texts
- 8 Participate in an academic-level debate about questions related to medieval Greek 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

Access to this course unit via an exam contract is unrestricted

Teaching methods

Seminar, Lecture, Independent work

Extra information on the teaching methods

- guided self-study: online learning path where students read and understand a selection of primary texts on the basis of concrete questions; and where they are introduced into a set of issues related to those texts, on the basis of scientific literature
- seminar: class debate where the texts are discussed with specific attention to literary and linguistic features, and where broader issues (historical and social contexts) are discussed in a guided debate

No lecture recordings are provided for this course (interactive teaching format).

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Study material

Type: Handouts

Name: Primary texts and scientific literature

Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty

Optional: no

Language : Other

Available on Ufora : Yes

Online Available : Yes

Available in the Library : Yes

Additional information: PDFs on Ufora. Original texts in Greek, and secondary literature in the languages of the field (mainly English, but also French, German, and Italian).

References

References in each chapter of the syllabus.

Course content-related study coaching

- Extensive feedback to response papers
- Personal oral feedback on 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

Extra information on the examination methods

- assignment: three response papers: brief essays in which students approach a well-defined problem (already discussed in class debate) by critically assessing both primary texts and scientific literature (80%)
- participation:
 - frequency and quality of contributions to online learning path (10%)
 - frequency and quality of contributions to online forum dedicated to preparation of primary texts and scientific literature (10%)

Calculation of the examination mark

- assignment: 80%
- participation: 20%

In the resit examination period, a resit is only possible for the assignments.

Facilities for Working Students

Possibility to be exempt from presence, by learning path that replaces attendance.

Feedback on appointment.