

## Writing and Written Culture in the Middle Ages (A004066)

Course size (nominal values; actual values may depend on programme)

Credits 5.0 Study time 150 h Contact hrs 60.0 h

Course offerings and teaching methods in academic year 2016-2017

A (semester 1)	English	microteaching	5.0 h
		lecture	30.0 h
		excursion	5.0 h
		seminar	5.0 h

Lecturers in academic year 2016-2017

De Paermentier, Els LW03 lecturer-in-charge

Offered in the following programmes in 2016-2017

	crdts	offering
<a href="#">Master of Arts in Historical Linguistics and Literature</a>	5	A
<a href="#">Master of Arts in History</a>	5	A
<a href="#">Exchange Programme History</a>	5	A

Teaching languages

English

Keywords

development of medieval Western script types, literacy and writing competences, material production of manuscripts and records, medieval reading and writing practices, organization of monastic scriptoria and lay chanceries, Late Antiquity, Middle Ages, Early Renaissance

Position of the course

This course offers a cultural-historical introduction to the development of script types (letter forms and scribal hands) and writing techniques in Western Europe from the late Antiquity to the Early Renaissance, with special attention to the medieval period. Through many illustrations this course will gain insight into the most striking palaeographical features of medieval scripts and the political, economic, cultural and technical factors which explain their development and mutations. Further attention will go to the material context in which manuscripts and documents were produced, to medieval reading and layout practices and to the circumstances in which medieval writing activities took place. A final discussion college is devoted to the opportunities and limits of digital technologies and tools applied within the academic field of palaeography.

Contents

- Development of the auxiliary science of palaeography as an academic discipline; evaluation of its position in relation to other auxiliary sciences for the study of medieval history
- Terminology and challenges with regard to the nomenclature of medieval handwritings
- Evolution of Western letter forms, with special attention to various factors which can explain processes of mutation
- Material production of manuscripts and documents
- Development of digital technologies and tools relevant for the study of medieval manuscripts and handwritings

Initial competences

- Have a referential framework regarding the history of the Middle Ages
- Have basic knowledge of the relevance of Palaeography as an auxiliary science for

the study of medieval handwritings

#### Final competences

- 1 Have advanced insight into the use of the terminological framework with regard to the nomenclature of medieval script types and the material features of medieval manuscripts for analyzing and critically evaluating them.
- 2 Have advanced insight into the origins and development of Western script types for chronologically and geographically situating selected samples of medieval handwritings or manuscripts.
- 3 Have the ability to take a critical approach to the history of palaeography as an academic discipline.
- 4 Have the ability to use basic knowledge of bordering sciences (diplomats, sigillography, papyrology, epigraphy and codicology) to formulate more complex definitions of a problem with regard to the study of medieval manuscripts and handwritings.
- 5 Have the ability to employ historical scientific methodology in research or professional activities.
- 6 Have general insight into the field's literature, and the ability to use sources in an original and creative manner.
- 7 Have the ability to critically analyze the current historiographical debate with regard to the discipline of palaeography and translate this into concrete research questions.
- 8 Have the ability to critically reflect upon the opportunities and limits of digital tools and digitally-based methodological approaches used within the academic field of palaeography and medieval manuscript studies.
- 9 Have the ability to present and critically comment in group one or more scholarly articles with regard to a particular subject.

#### Conditions for credit contract

Access to this course unit via a credit contract is determined after successful competences assessment

#### Conditions for exam contract

Access to this course unit via an exam contract is unrestricted

#### Teaching methods

Excursion, lecture, microteaching, seminar

#### Extra information on the teaching methods

- (theoretical) lectures
- tutorial (learning how to describe medieval manuscripts and handwritings) (University library, Manuscripts room)
- microteaching
- excursion

#### Learning materials and price

Syllabus (in Dutch, available in English) + teaching material on Minerva

#### References

- A. Petrucci, 'Au-delà de la paléographie: histoire de l'écriture, histoire de l'écrit, histoire de l'écrire', *Bulletin de l'Académie Royale de Belgique (Classe des lettres et des sciences morales et politiques)*, 1-6, 1996, p. 123-135.
- M.P. Brown, *A guide to Western Historical Scripts from Antiquity to 1600* (1990)
- A. Derolez, *The palaeography of Gothic manuscript books : from the twelfth to the early sixteenth century* (2003)
- *Codicology and palaeography in the digital age*, ed. Malte Rehbein, Patrick Sahle, Torsten Schassan (2009)

#### Course content-related study coaching

Via Minerva, e-mail and in person after appointment

#### Evaluation methods

end-of-term evaluation

#### Examination methods in case of periodic evaluation during the first examination period

Oral examination

#### Examination methods in case of periodic evaluation during the second examination period

Oral examination

#### Examination methods in case of permanent evaluation

#### Possibilities of retake in case of permanent evaluation

not applicable

Extra information on the examination methods

Oral examination (with written preparation time)

Calculation of the examination mark

100% periodical assessment

Facilities for Working Students

Facilities:

- 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 Feedback can be given by email or during an appointment during office hours

Extra information:

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