Course Specifications

Valid as from the academic year 2019-2020

Historical Practice I: Classical Antiquity (A004023)

Course size (nominal values; actual values may depend on programme)
- Credits: 5.0
- Study time: 150 h
- Contact hrs: 40.0 h

Course offerings and teaching methods in academic year 2019-2020
- A (year)
- Lecture: 10.0 h
- Guided self-study: 2.5 h
- Seminar: 15.0 h
- Self-reliant study activities: 5.0 h

Lecturers in academic year 2019-2020
- Bongers, Toon (LW03 staff member)
- Brüsewitz, Amber (LW03 staff member)
- Zuiderhoek, Andries (LW03 lecturer-in-charge)
- Oppeneer, Thierry (co-lecturer)

Offered in the following programmes in 2019-2020
- Bachelor of Arts in History
  - Credits: 5
  - Offering: A

Teaching languages
- Dutch

Keywords
- Historical practice, exercise, classical history, ancient sources, research question, academic writing

Position of the course
- This introductory course builds on the course **Introduction to Historical Research**. It is intended as:
  - an introduction to the interpretation of historical sources.
  - an introduction and basic exercise into academic writing.
- Students will complete this course with an independently composed, academically well-written, scientifically sound end-of-term-paper.

Contents
- First semester:
  - During lectures, students will be initiated in the different stages of historical research.
  - Introductory courses will allow them to gain some understanding of the peculiarities of ancient sources, editions, bibliographies, to reflect on debates in the specialist literature and to acquire basic research skills. The permanent evaluation consists of related individual exercises (e.g. formulating a research question or establishing a bibliography).
- Second semester:
  - Each student individually writes a paper in which he/she discusses one or more ancient sources on the basis of a research question falling within the confines of a topic chosen individually. During fixed contact moments, students receive detailed feedback on the different stages of their research (research question, collecting sources and literature, etc.). Finally, they present their results during an individual oral presentation.

Initial competences
- The student has a good reading knowledge of English and a sufficient reading knowledge of French and German.
- Knowledge of Latin or Greek is not required.

(Approved)
Final competences

1. The student has insight into the methodology of history.
2. The student has a basic knowledge of the diversity of sources and academic literature (also in another language than Dutch) used in historical research and the specialist skills required to read and interpret sources (also in another language than Dutch).
3. The student has the ability to initiate problem-oriented historical research.
4. The student has the ability to set up a simple historical research strategy in the form of a roadmap.
5. The student has the ability to indicate the most appropriate types of sources relative to a specific historical research question.
6. The student has the ability to use scientific criteria to justify heuristic methods and bibliographical research in the field of history.
7. The student is able to interpret, evaluate, and report on extant research (also in another language than Dutch) and on one’s own initial research or research plans.
8. The student is conscious of the importance of scientific integrity.
9. The student has an inquiring attitude with an aptitude for historical critique and creativity, and with a positive attitude towards lifelong learning.
10. The student has the ability to participate actively in group discussions (also in another language than Dutch) and to communicate the results of historical research to both experts and peers in a clearly structured oral presentation, in a clear and academically correct language.
11. The student has insight into the way in which historical scientific research functions and is organized.
12. The student is able to interpret and use clearly defined concepts that are important for historical analysis.

Conditions for credit contract

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

Conditions for exam contract

This course unit cannot be taken via an exam contract.

Teaching methods

Guided self-study, lecture, seminar, self-reliant study activities.

Extra information on the teaching methods

Lecture, seminar, independent work, micro-teaching.

Learning materials and price

All teaching material is freely made available via Minerva.

References

No further specific recommended reading.

Course content-related study coaching

In-class tutoring is provided, as well as electronically through Minerva. Sample exercises during lectures. Individual coaching is possible through email communication, or in person by electronic appointment.

Evaluation methods

continuous assessment.

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

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

Examination methods in case of permanent evaluation

Participation, assignment

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent evaluation

Examination during the second examination period is possible in modified form.

Extra information on the examination methods

No oral or written examination. Marks will be given depending on the results for the smaller assignments, participation in tutorials and the final paper. Successful participation in class will entail:

- Written submission of research questions and answers
- Critical analysis of the sources to answer research questions
- Intractive participation in class discussions.

(Approved)
Paper:
- Formulate a research problem and associated research questions: are these doable and consistent?
- Use sufficient, and sufficiently diverse, primary source materials
- Analyse the sources in function of the research question(s): does the analysis connect to the research question, have the sources been analysed correctly, does the argument work?
- Is the conclusion supported by the analysis?

Calculation of the examination mark

100% non-periodical assessment, distributed over: (1) several smaller assignments discussed in class (40%) (2) one major exercise - a written paper - (50%); and (3) an oral presentation of the research results (10%). The deadlines for both the smaller assignments and the paper have to be respected. A late submission will result in the loss of one point of the total score.

The paper, written in the second semester, is the most important assignment in the whole course, because it reflects all of the competences that have been acquired during the first semester via the lectures, seminars and small class assignments. For this reason, it is impossible to pass this course if the student has not received a pass grade for the paper assignment. If the student does not pass the paper, but receives a mathematical pass grade for the whole course (10/20 or more), this score will be automatically reduced to 7/20. If the student receives a pass grade for the paper, but fails (some of) the other assignments, he/she can still pass the course if the total score is a pass. If students fail the small assignments from the first semester (40%) they can do a substitute assignment to pass this part of the assessment. Students who fail the paper (50%) can resubmit it once, after feedback, to pass this part of the assessment.

Facilities for Working Students

1. Possible exemption from educational activities requiring student attendance, a task is imposed in substitution
2. Possible rescheduling of the examination to a different time in the same academic year
3. Feedback can be given by email, telephone or during an appointment during or after office hours

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