Course Specifications
Valid as from the academic year 2019-2020

Capita Selecta Ancient History (A005253)

Course offerders and teaching methods in academic year 2019-2020
A (semester 2) English seminar 11.25 h
microteaching 7.5 h
lecture 11.25 h
PDE tutorial 7.5 h

Lecturers in academic year 2019-2020
Mazzola, Marianna LW03 lecturer-in-charge

Offered in the following programmes in 2019-2020 crdts offering
Master of Science in Teaching in Arts and Humanities (main subject History) 5 A
Master of Arts in History 5 A
Exchange Programme History 5 A

Teaching languages
English

Keywords
Eastern Christianity; Early Middle Ages and Byzantium; Greek, Syriac and Armenian Historiography.

Position of the course

In this MA course, one or more researchers affiliated with the research group ancient history will teach a series of classes (lectures and/or seminars) based on an ongoing research project in which they are engaged. Themes and topics change regularly/annually, as different members of the research groups present classes on their research. The principal aim of the course is to introduce master students specializing in ancient history to the vicissitudes, opportunities and problems of ancient historical research-in-progress. Such a confrontation with research ‘in action’ should help students to reflect on the formulation of proper research questions, the presentation of hypotheses, the selection of appropriate methodologies and theoretical frameworks, and the critical analysis of relevant sources, types of reflection in which they will constantly have to engage throughout their MA program as they work on their own MA theses. By thus providing master students with the possibility to engage (to some extent) with ongoing scholarly work carried out within the research group ancient history, the aim is not just to provide the students with in-depth knowledge of the research theme being explored, but also and particularly to sharpen the students’ own research skills as they work on their thesis projects.

Contents
In 2019-2020 this course focuses on Eastern Christianity (4th-13th c.). Eastern Churches (Armenian, Coptic, East Syrian, Syrian Orthodox) separated from the Greek Orthodox and Latin churches as a result of the Christological controversies in the 4th-5th centuries. They are distinguished by their theologies, as well as by political, linguistic and cultural factors. The course will focus on a series of themes (such as Eastern monasticism between charisma and hierarchy, Eastern Christian responses to the Arab conquest, interreligious and interconfessional controversies).

Initial competences
The student possesses all the final competences formulated in the bachelor curriculum

(Proposal)
in History of Ghent University.

Final competences

1. To have the ability to use advanced insights into historical conceptual frameworks (also in another language than Dutch) to analyse and evaluate new and complex ideas.
2. To have general insight into the field’s literature (also in another language than Dutch), and the ability to use sources (also in another language than Dutch) in an original and creative way.
3. To have the ability to critically analyse and make original use of current national and international scientific debates in the field of history (also in another language than Dutch).
4. To have the ability to form nuanced and value conscious opinions on historical questions.
5. To have the ability to write down the results of one’s own historical scientific research in a clearly structured, academically justified text, written in a clear and academically correct language.
6. To have the ability to present the results of one’s own historical research, to both experts and peers, in a clearly structured oral presentation, in a clear and academically correct language.

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

Lecture, microteaching, PDE tutorial, seminar.

Extra information on the teaching methods

Students have to read scholarly literature before each class. Part of the class is taught by the lecturer, the other part consist of discussion on the readings assigned. The last classes consist of presentations by the students, followed by discussion.

Learning materials and price

The material consists of: a) a reading list; b) selected passages from ancient sources; c) selected scholarly articles. These will be distributed via Minerva.

References

No specific recommended reading.

Course content-related study coaching

- The lecturer is available for questions and coaching
- Specific questions can be answered by the lecturer during an appointment arranged via email, or can simply be asked via email.
- Minerva

Evaluation methods

direct evaluation and continuous assessment

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

Written examination with open questions, oral examination.

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

Written examination with open questions, oral examination.

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.

Extra information on the examination methods

Students are evaluated in the following way:
- each student is asked to have read the literature for every seminar and to demonstrate this by active participation in the discussion. (10%)
- each student gives a presentation in one of the final classes and writes a paper on the basis of that (20%)

At the end of the semester, an exam takes place that consists of two parts:
- a written exam with open questions (40%). The questions in the written exam concern the lectures and the readings discussed in the seminars (source-passages and specialist literature).

(Proposal)
- an oral examination that discusses the paper with the student (30%)

Calculation of the examination mark

  - 70% periodical assessment (30% oral, 40% written exam)
  - 30% non-periodical assessment (10% participation, 20% presentation and paper)

Facilities for Working Students

1. Possible exemption from activities requiring student attendance. The student is given an assignment as alternative after consultation with the lecturer.
2. Feedback can be given by email, telephone 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.