Course Specifications
Valid as from the academic year 2020-2021

History of the Ancient Near East (A003374)

Due to Covid 19, the education and evaluation methods may vary from the information displayed in the schedules and course details. Any changes will be communicated on Ufora.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Study time</th>
<th>Contact hrs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5.0</td>
<td>150 h</td>
<td>40.0 h</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Course offerings and teaching methods in academic year 2020-2021

A (semester 1) Dutch Gent

Guided self-study 5.0 h
Self-reliant study activities 5.0 h

Lecturers in academic year 2020-2021

Goddeiris, Anne LW02 staff member
De Graef, Katrien LW21 lecturer-in-charge

Offered in the following programmes in 2020-2021

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Programme</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bachelor of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures (main subject Arabic and Islamic Studies)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bachelor of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures (main subject China (China Track))</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bachelor of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures (main subject China (UGent Track))</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bachelor of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures (main subject India)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bachelor of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures (main subject Japan)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bachelor of Arts in Art History, Musicology and Theatre Studies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bachelor of Arts in History</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Master of Science in Teaching in Arts and Humanities (main subject Archaeology)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Master of Arts in Archaeology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exchange Programme Archaeology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exchange Programme History</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Linking Course Master of Arts in History</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preparatory Course Master of Arts in History</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Teaching languages

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. They will be able to approach archaeological and epigraphic sources critically, and to situate and evaluate the more important historical processes as well as the interaction with the ancient environment.

Contents

An overview of the history of the Ancient Near East is offered on the one hand through the handbook A History of the Ancient Near East ca. 3000-323 BC by M. Van De Mieroop (Wiley-Blackwell, 2016) by means of which the general periodization, the main events and their dynamics are treated, and on the other by lectures in which specific topics of Ancient Near Eastern history are explored in depth through specific archaeological and/or epigraphic sources, such as the origin and development of the first cities, the origin and development of writing, the origin and development of science
and literature, changing balances of power and diplomacy, etc. illustrated through visual material and excerpts of historical, literary and administrative sources, the historical significance of which will be expounded.

Within the framework of a project (the topic of which changes annually: AY 20-21 “Everyone Expert! Policy Advisors in the Ancient Near East”), the student will be taught in seminars how to consult and critically process primary and secondary sources in order to be able to write a paper on a subject within the topic of the project. The student will be taught to critically read and correct his/her own work in function of evaluation criteria by means of a peer and self-review process.

Initial competences

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

Final competences

1. To be able to situate the different periods chronologically.
2. To be acquainted with the main characteristics of each period.
3. To have insight into the historical processes.
4. To be familiar with the geography of the area and to be able to situate the main geographical features on a map.
5. To be able to explain the interaction of the geographical area with human history.
6. To be able to interpret the archaeological and epigraphic sources discussed in class and their significance for history.
7. To be able to consult and critically process primary and secondary sources.
8. To be able to write a coherent paper on a subject within the framework of the topic of the project, including references and bibliography, and a critical discussion of the primary sources.
9. To be able to read and correct one’s own work in function of evaluation criteria by means of a peer and self-review process.

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

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

Extra information on the teaching methods

- Online lecture 21h: theoretical underpinning of the handbook used in class and in-depth exploration of specific subjects. All lectures will be offered online by means of recordings (lesson videos and knowledge clips) through Ufora.
- Seminar 5h: supervising the writing of a paper; supervising the critically reading and correcting one’s own work in function of evaluation criteria by means of a peer and self-review process (“flipping-the-classroom”). The seminars will be offered on campus in small groups (in accordance with the Covid-19 measures). Attendance at the seminars is mandatory.
- Guided self-study 9h: self-reliant processing of parts of the handbook (Q&A sessions); consulting and critically processing primary and secondary sources (online test with automatic feedback), reading and correcting one’s own work (peer & self-review).
- Self-reliant study activities 5h: the student writes, peer and self reviews a paper.

Learning materials and price

- recordings of lectures (lesson videos and knowledge clips), course notes, scientific articles and sources regarding the specific subjects discussed in class will be offered through Ufora.
- manual, powerpoint presentations, knowledge clips, tips and tricks, etc. regarding the paper and peer and self review process will be offered through Ufora.

References

Course content-related study coaching

Given the Covid-19 measures, the lectures will be offered online (by means of lesson videos and knowledge clips). The students process parts of the handbook in guided self-study. In order to provide as much interaction as possible, four Q&A sessions will be offered on campus in small groups (in accordance with the Covid-19 measures) in addition to a biweekly online consultation hour (via Zoom) in which the students can ask questions about the lectures and the handbook and a discussion can take place. Within the framework of the seminars, the students are taught to consult and critically 

(Proposal)
End-of-term evaluation and continuous assessment during the second examination period is possible.

**Assignment**

Process primary and secondary sources in order to write a paper on a subject chosen within the framework of the theme of the project. These seminars are highly interactive by using the flipped classroom method, as well as peer and self review. In addition, there is a biweekly online consultation hour (via Zoom) where the students can go with questions about the paper. After the examinations there is feedback regarding the written examination and the paper.

**Because of Covid 19, forms of education and evaluation may be subject to deviations. Such deviations will be communicated via Ufora.**

**Evaluation methods**

- end-of-term evaluation and continuous assessment

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

- Written examination with open questions

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

- Written examination with open questions

**Examination methods in case of permanent evaluation**

- Assignment

**Possibilities of retake in case of permanent evaluation**

- Examination during the second examination period is possible

**Extra information on the examination methods**

- Periodic evaluation: written examination with open questions
- Permanent evaluation: paper

**Because of Covid 19, forms of education and evaluation may be subject to deviations. Such deviations will be communicated via Ufora.**

**Calculation of the examination mark**

- Written examination: open questions: 60%
- Paper: 40%

In order to pass this course, the student has to pass both the written examination and the paper.

Students who do not take part in the assessment of one or more parts of the course evaluation or obtain a mark of less than 10/20 for one of its parts cannot pass the course evaluation. Should the average mark nevertheless be higher than 10/20, the final mark will be reduced to the highest non-pass mark (= 9).

**Facilities for Working Students**

**Facilities:**

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

**Extra information:**

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