Course Specifications
Valid as from the academic year 2020-2021

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.

Historical Scripts and Cultures of Writing in the Middle Ages (A005252)

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 2020-2021
- A (semester 1)
  - English
  - Gent
  - microteaching: 5.0 h
  - seminar: coached: 5.0 h
  - exercises: 5.0 h
  - lecture: 35.0 h
  - excursion: 5.0 h

Lecturers in academic year 2020-2021
- Van Gassen, Tineke LW03 lecturer-in-charge

Offered in the following programmes in 2020-2021
- Master of Science in Teaching in Arts and Humanities (main subject History) 5 A
- Master of Arts in Historical Linguistics and Literature 5 A
- Master of Arts in History 5 A
- Exchange Programme History 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,
- organisation of monastic scriptoria and secular 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. With the help of many illustrations, this course will gain insight into the most striking palaeographical features of medieval scripts, as well as into 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, medieval reading and layout practices, and 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

(Approved) 1
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. 1.1. Have advanced insight into the use of the historical terminological framework for analyzing and evaluating new and complex ideas. 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. 1.3. Have insight into the history of Belgium and/or Europe and/or the world that can be used for the critical analysis of complex problems and the formulation of possible research questions. Have advanced insight into the origins and development of Western script types to chronologically and geographically situate selected samples of medieval handwritings or manuscripts.

3. 1.4. Have the ability to take a critical approach to the history of a particular period or subject. Have the ability to take a critical approach to the history of Palaeography as an academic discipline.

4. 1.5. Have the ability to use basic knowledge of bordering sciences in research and/or professional activities in an original and in-depth manner. Have the ability to use basic knowledge of bordering sciences (dipomtics, sigillography, papyrology, epigraphy and codicology) to formulate more complex definitions of a problem with regard to the study of medieval manuscripts and handwritings.

5. 1.6. Have the ability to employ historical scientific methodology in research or professional activities.

6. 1.7. Have general insight into the field’s literature, and the ability to use sources in an original and creative manner.

7. 2.1. Have the ability to critically analyze the current historiographical debate with regard to the discipline of Palaeography, and translate this into a concrete research project.

8. 3.4. Have the ability to critically reflect upon the limits of one's own skills, thoughts, and actions. 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. 4.2. Have the ability to substantiate and present (also in another language than Dutch) one's own historical research to both experts and laypersons. 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: coached exercises

Extra information on the teaching methods

- (theoretical) lectures
- tutorial (learning how to describe medieval manuscripts and handwritings) (University library, Manuscript reading room)
- microteaching: oral presentation of an article or online project (e.g. relative to 'digital palaeography'); students receive feedback from both the teacher and other students
- excursion to the Royal Library in Brussels, or to a temporary exhibition of medieval manuscripts

Because of COVID19, modified teaching forms can be rolled out if this proves necessary, more detailed information will then be provided via Ufora.

Learning materials and price

Ufora gives access to all learning materials. No additional costs.

- Powerpoints
- Syllabus (in Dutch)
- Reader (connected to thematic classes)

References

- Additional literature: 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...

Course content-related study coaching
- Via Ufora, e-mail and in person after appointment

Evaluation methods
- end-of-term evaluation and continuous assessment

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
- Oral examination (with written preparation time) (90%)
- Presentation and participation during class (10%)

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent evaluation
- not applicable

Extra information on the examination methods
- Oral examination (with written preparation time) (90%)
- Presentation and participation during class (10%)

Calculation of the examination mark
- 90% periodical assessment
- 10% non-periodical assessment

Facilities for Working Students
- Possible exemption from educational activities requiring student attendance
- Possible rescheduling of the examination to a different time in the same academic year
- Feedback can be given by email or by appointment during office hours

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