

# Course Specifications

Valid as from the academic year 2020-2021

## Capita Selecta Ancient History (A005253)

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)  
Credits 5.0 Study time 150 h Contact hrs 45.0 h

### Course offerings and teaching methods in academic year 2020-2021

A (semester 2)	English	Gent	seminar	11.25 h
			microteaching	7.5 h
			lecture	15.0 h

### Lecturers in academic year 2020-2021

John, Alison	LW03	staff member
Wijnendaele, Jeroen	LW03	lecturer-in-charge

Offered in the following programmes in 2020-2021	crdts	offering
<a href="#">Master of Science in Teaching in Arts and Humanities (main subject History)</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

Western Roman Empire, Eastern Roman Empire, Late Antiquity, Early Middle Ages, Barbarians, Violence, Processes of Disintegration, Ethnicity, Late Antique 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 2020-2021, this course will focus on the decline of the Roman Empire in the West (c. 375-500 CE). It will focus on the disintegration of political structures and their impact on society. Special attention goes to the so-called "barbarian migrations", cultures of violence, and the response from the imperial state to local communities. The course will zoom in on key moments or controversies, such as the growing apart of the imperial east and west, the sack of Rome in 410, the creation of new entities and the debate around ethnicity (Goths, Vandals, Huns etc), or the dissolution of western Roman emperors.

## Initial competences

The student possesses all the final competences formulated in the bachelor curriculum 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 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 and/or sources 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.

Due to COVID19 the format of classes and work-practices can be modified should this be necessary

## 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.
- 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, 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.

-each student gives a presentation in one of the final classes based on two monographs about a preferred topic (no written paper required)

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).

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

Due to COVID19 the format of evaluation can be modified should this be necessary

#### 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](#)