



Master Classics & Ancient Civilizations, Programme Ancient Studies
VU University Amsterdam - Faculteit der Letteren - M Classics & Ancient Civilizations - 2013-2014

[Programme overview \(pdf\)](#)

Ancient Studies is an interdisciplinary master's programme training in problem-oriented research using all kinds of data: textual and archaeological, historical sources as studied by historians, classicists, assyriologists, students of Old and New Testament studies and philosophy. The programme distinguishes five different specializations. With the students of the Ancient History programme most students follow the core course on "Great Debates in Ancient Historical Studies". In addition you choose courses from the rich amount of courses which best fit your bachelor study: ancient history, classics, archaeology, assyriology, theology or philosophy. Consult the study advisor or a staff member for assistance.

You can opt for five specializations:

- a. Archaeological and Historical Approach
- b. Latin Language and Culture
- c. Greek Language and Culture
- d. Babylonian-Assyrian Language and Culture
- e. Ancient Thought: From Plato to Augustine

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Master Classics & Ancient Civilizations, Programme Ancient Studies, Specialization Ancient Thought/From Plato to Augustine

Choose in period 1 an elective from the Amsterdam Centre for Ancient Studies and Archaeology (ACASA) worth 6 credits. Recommended is Emerging Canons and Beyond I.

Choose in period 2 Emerging Canons and Beyond II or Greek Literature: Nonnus of Panopolis' Dionysiaca (5th century): a Whirling Epic from Turbulent Times or Exegesis of the New Testament (Ma), and choose an elective from the Amsterdam Centre for Ancient Studies and Archaeology (ACASA) worth 6 credits.

Choose in period 5 Ancient Funerary Cult and its Literary Aspects or Rise of Christianity II.

Programme components:

- [Specialization Ancient Thought/From Plato to Augustine, Electives Semester 1](#)

Courses:

Name	Period	Credits	Code
Ancient Funerary Cult and its Literary Aspects	Period 5	6.0	L_XAMAOHS003
Emerging Canons and Beyond II: Extracanonical early Christian Literature	Period 2	6.0	L_AAMAOHS006
Greek Literature: Nonnus of Panopolis' Dionysiaca (5th century): a Whirling Epic from Turbulent Times	Period 2	6.0	L_XGMAOHS002
Imagining the Divine in Context	Period 1	6.0	L_AAMAOHS003
Rise of Christianity I	Period 4	6.0	L_AAMAOHS011
Rise of Christianity II	Period 5	6.0	L_AAMAOHS013
Term Paper Ancient History and Ancient Studies	Period 3	6.0	L_OAMAOHS003
Thesis Classics and Ancient Civilizations	Ac. Year (September)	18.0	L_OAMAOHSSCR
Tutorial Ancient History and Ancient Studies	Ac. Year (September), Period 1	6.0	L_OAMAOHS004

Specialization Ancient Thought/From Plato to Augustine, Electives Semester 1

Choose in period 1 an elective from the Amsterdam Centre for Ancient Studies and Archaeology (ACASA) worth 6 credits; recommended is Emerging Canons and Beyond I.

Choose in period 2 an elective from the Amsterdam Centre for Ancient Studies and Archaeology (ACASA) worth 6 credits.

Courses:

Name	Period	Credits	Code
Burial and Ancient Society	Period 2	6.0	L_AAMAARC002
Emerging Canons and Beyond I	Period 1	6.0	L_AAMAOHS002
Great Debates in Ancient Historical Studies I	Period 1	6.0	L_OAMAOHS001
Great Debates in Ancient Historical Studies II	Period 2	6.0	L_AAMAOHS005
Historical Landscape and Archaeological Heritage	Period 1	6.0	L_AAMAERF001
MA Course History of Philosophy	Period 1	6.0	W_MA_HP
MA Spec. course History of Philosophy III	Period 1	6.0	W_MASP_HF010
MA Specialization course History of Philosophy IV	Period 2	6.0	W_MASP_HF011
Master Seminar Akkadian 2B: The Nabonidus Chronicle (ABC 7)	Period 2	6.0	L_OAMAOHS005
Master's Seminar in the History of Philosophy	Period 3	3.0	W_MASE_HF
Money in Ancient and Medieval Society. An archaeological view	Period 2	6.0	L_BAMAARC014
Roman Archaeology and the Romanisation Paradigm	Period 2	6.0	L_BEMAARC016
Transformations of the Medieval Rural World: Landscapes and Settlements	Period 2	6.0	L_AAMAARC003

Master Classics & Ancient Civilizations, Programme Ancient Studies, Specialization Ancient Greek

Choose in period 1 Great Debates in Ancient Historical Studies I or Narrativity or Intertextuality and Reception of Greek and Latin Literature, and choose an elective from the Amsterdam Centre for Ancient Studies and Archaeology (ACASA) worth 6 credits.

Choose in period 2 Great Debates in Ancient Historical Studies II or Greek Literature: Nonnus of Panopolis' Dionysiaca (5th century): a Whirling Epic from Turbulent Times, and choose an elective from the Amsterdam Centre for Ancient Studies and Archaeology (ACASA) worth 6 credits.

Choose in period 4 between The Ilioupersis in Greek (and Latin) Literature and Greek Linguistics: Ancient Greek Dialects.

Choose in period 5 Ancient Funerary Cult and its Literary Aspects or

Rise of Christianity II.

Programme components:

- Specialization Ancient Greek, Electives 1

Courses:

Name	Period	Credits	Code
Ancient Funerary Cult and its Literary Aspects	Period 5	6.0	L_XAMAOHS003
Great Debates in Ancient Historical Studies I	Period 1	6.0	L_OAMAOHS001
Great Debates in Ancient Historical Studies II	Period 2	6.0	L_AAMAOHS005
Greek Linguistics: Ancient Greek Dialects	Period 4	6.0	L_XGMAOHS001
Greek Literature: Nonnus of Panopolis' Dionysiaca (5th century): a Whirling Epic from Turbulent Times	Period 2	6.0	L_XGMAOHS002
Intertextuality and Reception of Greek and Latin Literature	Period 1	6.0	L_AAMAOHS004
Narrativity	Period 1	6.0	L_XAMAALG001
Rise of Christianity II	Period 5	6.0	L_AAMAOHS013
Term Paper Ancient History and Ancient Studies	Period 3	6.0	L_OAMAOHS003
The Ilioupersis in Greek (and Latin) Literature	Period 4	6.0	L_AAMAOHS015
Thesis Classics and Ancient Civilizations	Ac. Year (September)	18.0	L_OAMAOHSSCR
Tutorial Ancient History and Ancient Studies	Ac. Year (September), Period 1	6.0	L_OAMAOHS004

Specialization Ancient Greek, Electives 1

Choose in period 1 an elective from the Amsterdam Centre for Ancient Studies and Archaeology (ACASA) worth 6 credits.

Choose in period 2 an elective from the Amsterdam Centre for Ancient Studies and Archaeology (ACASA) worth 6 credits.

Courses:

Name	Period	Credits	Code
Biography of the Landscape	Period 2	6.0	L_BAMAARC010
Great Debates in Ancient Historical Studies I	Period 1	6.0	L_OAMAOHS001
Great Debates in Ancient Historical Studies II	Period 2	6.0	L_AAMAOHS005

Greek Literature: Nonnus of Panopolis' Dionysiaca (5th century): a Whirling Epic from Turbulent Times	Period 2	6.0	L_XGMAOHS002
Homeric Greece: Epics, Archaeology and the Wider Mediterranean World	Period 1	6.0	L_BMMAARC010
Intertextuality and Reception of Greek and Latin Literature	Period 1	6.0	L_AMAOHS004
Late Iron Age Societies in North Western Europe	Period 1	6.0	L_BEMAARC015
Master Seminar Akkadian 1A	Period 1	6.0	L_SAMAOHS001
Medieval and Neolatin: Latin Literature after Antiquity	Period 2	6.0	L_AMAOHS008
Narrativity	Period 1	6.0	L_XAMAALG001
Perspectives on Ancient Landscapes	Period 1	6.0	L_BAMAARC009
The Archaeological Heritage of the Medieval and Early Modern Town	Period 1	6.0	L_AAMAARC001
The Objects of Religion: Material Culture at Sanctuaries	Period 1	6.0	L_BAMAARC012

Master Classics & Ancient Civilizations, Programme Ancient Studies, Specialization Latin

Choose in period 1 Great Debates in Ancient Historical Studies I or Narrativity or Intertextuality and Reception of Greek and Latin Literature, and choose an elective from the Amsterdam Centre for Ancient Studies and Archaeology (ACASA) worth 6 credits.

Choose in period 2 Great Debates in Ancient Historical Studies II or Medieval and Neolatin: Latin Literature after Antiquity; and choose Latin Literature: The poetics of Civil War: Lucanus' Bellum Civile or Latin Discourse Linguistics.

Choose in period 5 Ancient Funerary Cult and its Literary Aspects or Rise of Christianity II.

Programme components:

- [Specialization Latin, Electives 1](#)

Courses:

Name	Period	Credits	Code
Ancient Funerary Cult and its Literary Aspects	Period 5	6.0	L_XAMAOHS003
Great Debates in Ancient Historical Studies I	Period 1	6.0	L_OAMAOHS001

Great Debates in Ancient Historical Studies II	Period 2	6.0	L_AAMAOHS005
Intertextuality and Reception of Greek and Latin Literature	Period 1	6.0	L_AAMAOHS004
Latin Literature: Seneca's Agamemnon from a Reception-historical Perspective.	Period 4	6.0	L_XLMAOHS002
Latin Literature: The Poetics of Civil War: Lucanus' Bellum Civile	Period 2+3	6.0	L_AAMAOHS017
Medieval and Neolatin: Latin Literature after Antiquity	Period 2	6.0	L_AAMAOHS008
Narrativity	Period 1	6.0	L_XAMAALG001
Rise of Christianity II	Period 5	6.0	L_AAMAOHS013
Term Paper Ancient History and Ancient Studies	Period 3	6.0	L_OAMAOHS003
The Pragmatics of Colloquial Latin	Period 2+3	6.0	L_AAMAOHS016
Thesis Classics and Ancient Civilizations	Ac. Year (September)	18.0	L_OAMAOHSSCR
Tutorial Ancient History and Ancient Studies	Ac. Year (September), Period 1	6.0	L_OAMAOHS004

Specialization Latin, Electives 1

Choose in period 1 an elective from the Amsterdam Centre for Ancient Studies and Archaeology (ACASA) worth 6 credits.

Courses:

Name	Period	Credits	Code
Great Debates in Ancient Historical Studies I	Period 1	6.0	L_OAMAOHS001
Homeric Greece: Epics, Archaeology and the Wider Mediterranean World	Period 1	6.0	L_BMMAARC010
Intertextuality and Reception of Greek and Latin Literature	Period 1	6.0	L_AAMAOHS004
Late Iron Age Societies in North Western Europe	Period 1	6.0	L_BEMAARC015
Master Seminar Akkadian 1A	Period 1	6.0	L_SAMAOHS001
Narrativity	Period 1	6.0	L_XAMAALG001
Perspectives on Ancient Landscapes	Period 1	6.0	L_BAMAARC009
The Archaeological Heritage of the Medieval and Early Modern Town	Period 1	6.0	L_AAMAARC001

The Objects of Religion: Material Culture at Sanctuaries	Period 1	6.0	L_BAMAARC012
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Master Classics & Ancient Civilizations, Programme Ancient Studies, Specialization New-Babylonian/Assyrian

Courses:

Name	Period	Credits	Code
Confrontation between Greek and Mesopotamian Civilizations	Period 4	6.0	L_GOMAALG001
Great Debates in Ancient Historical Studies I	Period 1	6.0	L_OAMAOHS001
Great Debates in Ancient Historical Studies II	Period 2	6.0	L_AAMAOHS005
Master Course Ancient Near Eastern Civilizations: Reception of Mesopotamian Culture	Period 5	6.0	L_OAMAOHK004
Master Seminar Akkadian 1A	Period 1	6.0	L_SAMAOHS001
Master Seminar Akkadian 2B: The Nabonidus Chronicle (ABC 7)	Period 2	6.0	L_OAMAOHS005
Term Paper Ancient History and Ancient Studies	Period 3	6.0	L_OAMAOHS003
Thesis Classics and Ancient Civilizations	Ac. Year (September)	18.0	L_OAMAOHSSCR
Tutorial Ancient History and Ancient Studies	Ac. Year (September), Period 1	6.0	L_OAMAOHS004

Master Classics & Ancient Civilizations, Programme Ancient Studies, Specialization Archaeological and Historical Approach

Choose in period 1 an elective from the Amsterdam Centre for Ancient Studies and Archaeology (ACASA) worth 6 credits.

Choose in period 2 an elective from the Amsterdam Centre for Ancient Studies and Archaeology (ACASA) worth 6 credits.

Choose in period 4 an elective from the Amsterdam Centre for Ancient Studies and Archaeology (ACASA) worth 6 credits.

Choose in period 5 an elective from the Amsterdam Centre for Ancient Studies and Archaeology (ACASA) worth 6 credits.

Programme components:

- Specialization Archaeological and Historical Approach, Electives Semester 1
- Specialization Archaeological and Historical Approach, Electives Semester 2

Courses:

Name	Period	Credits	Code
Great Debates in Ancient Historical Studies I	Period 1	6.0	L_OAMAOHS001
Great Debates in Ancient Historical Studies II	Period 2	6.0	L_AAMAOHS005
Term Paper Ancient History and Ancient Studies	Period 3	6.0	L_OAMAOHS003
Thesis Classics and Ancient Civilizations	Ac. Year (September)	18.0	L_OAMAOHSSCR
Tutorial Ancient History and Ancient Studies	Ac. Year (September), Period 1	6.0	L_OAMAOHS004

Specialization Archaeological and Historical Approach, Electives Semester 1

Choose in period 1 an elective from the Amsterdam Centre for Ancient Studies and Archaeology (ACASA) worth 6 credits.

Choose in period 2 an elective from the Amsterdam Centre for Ancient Studies and Archaeology (ACASA) worth 6 credits.

Courses:

Name	Period	Credits	Code
Biography of the Landscape	Period 2	6.0	L_BAMAARC010
Burial and Ancient Society	Period 2	6.0	L_AAMAARC002
City full of Gods. Religion, Society and Politics in the Greek City	Period 2	6.0	L_AAMAOHS014
City Life in the Roman Empire	Period 1	6.0	L_AAMAOHS001
Historical Landscape and Archaeological Heritage	Period 1	6.0	L_AAMAERF001
Homeric Greece: Epics, Archaeology and the Wider Mediterranean World	Period 1	6.0	L_BMMAARC010
Late Iron Age Societies in North Western Europe	Period 1	6.0	L_BEMAARC015
Money in Ancient and Medieval Society. An archaeological view	Period 2	6.0	L_BAMAARC014
Perspectives on Ancient Landscapes	Period 1	6.0	L_BAMAARC009
Roman Archaeology and the Romanisation Paradigm	Period 2	6.0	L_BEMAARC016

The Archaeological Heritage of the Medieval and Early Modern Town	Period 1	6.0	L_AAMAARC001
The Objects of Religion: Material Culture at Sanctuaries	Period 1	6.0	L_BAMAARC012
Transformations of the Medieval Rural World: Landscapes and Settlements	Period 2	6.0	L_AAMAARC003

Specialization Archaeological and Historical Approach, Electives Semester 2

Choose in period 4 an elective from the Amsterdam Centre for Ancient Studies and Archaeology (ACASA) worth 6 credits.

Choose in period 5 an elective from the Amsterdam Centre for Ancient Studies and Archaeology (ACASA) worth 6 credits.

Courses:

Name	Period	Credits	Code
Ancient Funerary Cult and its Literary Aspects	Period 5	6.0	L_XAMAOHS003
Confrontation between Greek and Mesopotamian Civilizations	Period 4	6.0	L_GOMAALG001
Greek Elite Culture in the Roman Empire	Period 5	6.0	L_GOMAALG002
Latin Epigraphy on location	Period 4	6.0	L_BEMAOHD002
Master Course Ancient Near Eastern Civilizations: Reception of Mesopotamian Culture	Period 5	6.0	L_OAMAOHK004
Rise of Christianity I	Period 4	6.0	L_AAMAOHS011
Rise of Christianity II	Period 5	6.0	L_AAMAOHS013

Ancient Funerary Cult and its Literary Aspects

Course code	L_XAMAOHS003 ()
Period	Period 5
Credits	6.0
Language of tuition	English
Faculty	Faculteit der Letteren
Coordinator	dr. E.M. van Opstall
Teaching staff	dr. A.M.J. Derks, dr. E.M. van Opstall, dr. L.W. van Gils
Teaching method(s)	Seminar
Level	400

Course objective

Acquaintance with funerary cult through the study of Greek and Latin epigraphy and epigrams; acquaintance with a multidisciplinary approach of a cultural phenomenon in Antiquity, combining archaeology, ancient history, history of religions, linguistics and literary studies; writing of a paper containing a commentary on a specific (set of) inscriptions.

Course content

Funerary inscriptions are original documents which encompass hundreds of years of Graeco-Roman history and come from all the areas of the Ancient world. They remember the powerful and the powerless. They tell us not only about the deaths, but also about the lives and ideas of men and women: their religious convictions, their social roles, their emotions.

Funerary inscriptions are inscribed in stone, on private or public monuments, but also lead a literary life as epigrams on papyrus or parchment. During this course different aspects of funerary texts (from inscriptions on stone to literary epigrams) will be studied: physical support (sarcophagus, stele, statue, monument, papyrus), setting (private or public monument), personal or collective memory (family members, civil servants, soldiers), social roles (wives, children, slaves), language (abbreviations, dialects, rhetoric), literary epigrams (metre, motifs), religion (pagan, Christian, Jewish).

Form of tuition

Seminars (2x2 hours weekly) by speakers from various disciplines; presentations by students

Type of assessment

The final score for this course is based on three elements: participation in classroom discussions (20%), the quality of an individual presentation during the course (30%) and the final paper (50%)

Course reading

to be announced

Entry requirements

Students admitted to one of the following Master's programmes can do this course: Classics, Ancient History, Mediterranean Archaeology; adequate knowledge of Greek and Latin is required (ability to translate simple texts)

Target group

Master students Classics and Ancient Civilizations

Remarks

This module also carries UvA subject code 172411296; it can either be done as an independent module or as an in-depth follow-up of the interuniversity epigraphy courses organised in the NIA (Nederlands Instituut Athene, October-November 2013; www.nia.gr) and in the KNIR (see Royal Dutch Institute Rome; February-March 2014, code L_BEMAOHD002; www.knir.it/nl/onderwijs/ma-cursussen-en-masterclasses); it also focuses on didactics for those who wish to become a teacher in secondary education. Obligatory presence in the courses.

Biography of the Landscape

Course code	L_BAMAARC010 ()
Period	Period 2

Credits	6.0
Language of tuition	English
Faculty	Faculteit der Letteren
Coordinator	prof. dr. N.G.A.M. Roymans
Teaching staff	prof. dr. N.G.A.M. Roymans, prof. dr. R. van der Laarse
Teaching method(s)	Excursion, Seminar
Level	400

Course objective

- Understanding the development of “biographical approaches” to landscape research in geography and archaeology from 1979 onwards
- Understanding different concepts of authorship and “layeredness” in landscapes
- Knowledge of different geographical, anthropological, historical and archaeological perspectives on the long-term history and temporality of landscapes
- Competence in working with these theoretical concepts in specific case studies, thereby developing interesting and useful narratives for the present-day (public) understanding and transformation of landscapes
- Competence in combining and integrating different sources (archaeological, historical, art historical) in the study of landscapes

Course content

In heritage practices the disciplines which are dealing with culture historical heritage (archaeology, history of architecture and historical geography), are confronted more and more with each others knowledge in cases of advising about management, preservation and reuse of the historical landscape. The term 'landscape biography' can offer a common approach. In the lectures the term will be explained in a theoretical concept and placed in the perspectives of the three disciplines that were mentioned above. Analyzing a number texts the students get acquainted with differing interpretations of the term and they learn to practice it in a topic that is chosen from their own discipline.

Form of tuition

Lectures and practical exercises

Type of assessment

essay

Course reading

Will be communicated later

Entry requirements

bachelor in history, geography, archaeologie, history of architecture and studies related with heritage that are positively decided upon by the Exam Committee

Target group

masterstudents Heritage Studies and students of other Heritage programma at a masterlevel. Master students Archaeology of ACASA

Remarks

Attending lectures mandatory. This course is taught in collaboration with prof. dr. R. van der Laarse, coordinator of the dual master

Burial and Ancient Society

Course code	L_AAMAARC002 ()
Period	Period 2
Credits	6.0
Language of tuition	English
Faculty	Faculteit der Letteren
Coordinator	prof. dr. N.G.A.M. Roymans
Teaching staff	prof. dr. N.G.A.M. Roymans
Teaching method(s)	Seminar
Level	400

Course objective

The course aims to provide students with a critical knowledge and understanding of the theoretical background to burial practices. At the same time it aims to familiarize students with methodologies that focus on the relations between the burial record and the evidence of the living society. On completion of the module students will have acquired a series of analytical tools which enables them to reflect critically on the specific nature of both worlds and on the particularities that combine them or set them apart.

Course content

This seminar is designed to gain insight into the relations between the world of the dead and that of the living focussing on the Mediterranean world in the first millennium BC. Burial practices offering interesting views on the ways the dead were treated will be studied in relation to the material record of the living in order to acquire a better understanding of the ancient societies under study.

Form of tuition

The course will consist partly of lectures and partly of seminars and discussions based on assigned readings. The student will undertake individual research on a selected case-study, presenting the results in both oral and written form.

Type of assessment

Participation in class room discussions, final extended essay

Course reading

Will be made available during the course.

Entry requirements

Students admitted to one of the following Master's programmes can take this course : Archaeology (all three programmes) or Classics and Ancient Civilizations (all three programmes)

Target group

Core course for Master students Specialisation 'Issues of Objects and People'; also accessible for Master students Ancient History, Classics and Ancient Civilizations

Remarks

This module is taught at the UvA by mw. prof.dr. M. Gnade (UvA subject code 140412016). Module registration at the UvA is required.

City full of Gods. Religion, Society and Politics in the Greek City

Course code	L_AAMAOHS014 ()
Period	Period 2
Credits	6.0
Language of tuition	English
Faculty	Faculteit der Letteren
Teaching method(s)	Seminar
Level	400

Course content

Greek religion has been considered in various ways, but almost always in relationship with the city. Cities were known by their gods - what would Athens be without Athena, or Corinth without Aphrodite? Even great interstate sanctuaries such as Olympia and Delphi were principally characterized for their promotion of civic rivalry. In fact much of what it meant to be a citizen was defined through cult and public ritual. But was civic religion always political? What about public cults that were directed towards individuals, such as healing or mystery cults, and how should we consider private practices such as curses and the 'Orphic' rites? In this course we will focus on the triangular relationship between individual, community and the divine as we explore the wide range of religious experiences in the ancient Greek city, using a variety of historical, literary and archaeological sources.

Remarks

This module is taught at the UvA by mw.dr. C.G. Williamson (UvA subject code 143410196Y). Module registration at the UvA is required.

City Life in the Roman Empire

Course code	L_AAMAOHS001 ()
Period	Period 1
Credits	6.0
Language of tuition	English
Faculty	Faculteit der Letteren
Coordinator	prof. dr. E.A. Hemelrijk
Teaching staff	prof. dr. E.A. Hemelrijk
Teaching method(s)	Seminar
Level	400

Course content

Roman culture was pre-eminently an urban culture. Cities formed the backbone of the Roman Empire; they were the centre of government and the heart of economics, religion and culture. In this course, attention will be paid to theories concerning the Roman city, the process of Romanisation, the discussion of the economic function of cities and,

last but certainly not least, to social-cultural aspects of urban life during the Empire. We shall discuss the structure of Roman cities, their architectural organization, public buildings, funerary plots and cemeteries (including rites and usages of sanitary and hygienic kind), the administration of towns, their priesthoods, religious and professional clubs, the role of benefactors (and benefactresses) and the relation between the various sections of the population (the elite, the middle classes and the lower ranks, citizens and foreigners, the free-born and the freedmen and finally, the slaves). We shall mainly deal with the towns of Italy and the western provinces, esp. Spain, Gallia and Northern Africa.

Form of tuition

Seminar

Type of assessment

Written test (40% of the final mark), oral assignments (20%), written assignments (40%).

Course reading

Articles and parts of books, to be announced in class.

Entry requirements

BA History, Classics, Mediterranean Archaeology

Target group

(R)MA studenten Ancient History, Ancient Studies and Mediterranean Archaeology

Remarks

This module is taught at the UvA by mw. prof.dr. E. Hemelrijk (UvA subject code 143410116Y). Module registration at the UvA is required.

Confrontation between Greek and Mesopotamian Civilizations

Course code	L_GOMAALG001 ()
Period	Period 4
Credits	6.0
Language of tuition	English
Faculty	Faculteit der Letteren
Coordinator	prof. dr. R.J. van der Spek
Teaching staff	prof. dr. R.J. van der Spek
Teaching method(s)	Seminar
Level	400

Course objective

The student is trained in research skills (phrasing of a research topic, heuristics, reporting) and is capable to use literary and documentary sources.

Course content

Since the establishment of great empires in the Near East of the first millennium BC (the Neo-Assyrian, Neo-Babylonian, Persian, and Hellenistic empires [Alexander the Great, the Seleucids and Parthians]) gradually a multiform society emerged due to military operations,

deportations, trade and the foundation of cities. In the empires of Alexander the Great and the Seleucids a great effort was made to spread Greek culture by the foundation of new cities with a core of Greek or Hellenized citizens or by the settlement of Greeks, Macedonians and Hellenized people in ancient oriental cities, like Babylon, Uruk and Susa. In two areas this process can be studied fruitfully thanks to the availability of Greek as well as of indigenous sources: Babylonia and Judea. This allows us to look at the interaction of cultures from both sides. As regards Babylonia a lot of new material has been published recently: <http://www.livius.org> > Babylonian Chronicles.

Form of tuition

Research seminar. It is a combination of lectures and independent research by the students. In a series of lectures theory on integration processes will be presented in an anthropological perspective. Relevant sources in Greek and Akkadian will be read and studied (esp. with research master students in the original languages). In consultation with the students research topics will be formulated about which the students will write a paper.

Type of assessment

Weekly assignments; paper.

Course reading

To be announced.

Entry requirements

Students admitted to one of the following Master's programmes can take this course:

(research) Master's programme in Classics and Ancient Civilizations or History .

Students with knowledge of Greek and/or Akkadian can follow extra classes in reading Greek and Akkadian texts in the original languages.

Target group

Students MA and RMA History; Classics and Ancient Civilizations.

Emerging Canons and Beyond I

Course code	L_AAMAOHS002 ()
Period	Period 1
Credits	6.0
Language of tuition	English
Faculty	Faculteit der Letteren
Coordinator	prof. dr. N.G.A.M. Roymans
Teaching staff	prof. dr. N.G.A.M. Roymans
Teaching method(s)	Seminar
Level	400

Course objective

1. Discussion of important issues concerning the formation of Jewish identities.
2. Study of extra-canonical primary sources in their historical contexts.
3. Reading of a selection of secondary literature.

Course content

The course aims at introducing students to recent scholarly discussions concerning extra-canonical literature related to the Hebrew Bible as well as Jewish identity formation. Relevant primary sources will also be discussed. The course also aims at improving students' ability to follow and analyze complex scholarly discussions and subsequently formulate their own position therein.

Form of tuition

This course will have the format of a seminar, which means that active participation of students is essential. The instructor will give feedback and additional information by means of short lectures, but a considerable part of the course will be done in collaboration with the students. Students will introduce the readings of the respective week and prepare the discussion in class in oral presentations. The course also includes the oral presentation of a specific topic, a brief academic paper as well as the writing of a review.

Contact hours: 1x3 hrs. per week.

Type of assessment

Assignments every week, oral presentation, short paper and review.

Course reading

Scholarly literature will be available either in the form of a reader or in electronic format. Students have to pay for copyrights.

Costs ca. 50 Euro

Entry requirements

Students admitted to one of the following Master's programmes can take this course: Religious Studies, or Classics and Ancient Civilizations (all three programmes)

Recommended background knowledge

Basic knowledge concerning the Bible.

Target group

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Remarks

Knowledge of Biblical Hebrew and/or Greek is recommended but not required.

Recommended are recent translations of the primary sources, e.g. The Old Testament Pseudepigrapha I-II (ed. J. H. Charlesworth; London: 1983-85); G. Vermes, The Dead Sea Scrolls in English (London: 1997).

This module is taught at the UvA by prof.dr. J.W. van Henten (UvA subject code 153411006). Module registration at the UvA is required.

Emerging Canons and Beyond II: Extracanonial early Christian Literature

Course code	L_AAMAOHS006 ()
Period	Period 2
Credits	6.0
Language of tuition	English
Faculty	Faculteit der Letteren
Coordinator	prof. dr. N.G.A.M. Roymans

Teaching staff	prof. dr. N.G.A.M. Roymans
Teaching method(s)	Seminar
Level	400

Course objective

This course aims at introducing students to extracanonical early Christian literature as well as scholarly discussions related to this material. To this end both source texts as well as secondary literature will be studied. The course also aims at training the students' academic skills, more specifically their ability to follow and analyze scientific discussions and to formulate their own position therein, as well as their presentation skills.

Course content

This course is devoted to early Christian literature that was not included in the Bible, such as the Protevangelium of James, the Gospel of Peter, the Acts of Paul and Thecla, the Shepherd of Hermas. Apart from an analysis of the source texts, more methodological issues will be discussed as well, including definitions of orthodoxy and heresy, questions related to the boundaries of the canon and the authority of these documents as well as motives for their exclusion from the canon.

Form of tuition

Seminar, with introductions, presentations and discussion of source texts as well as secondary literature.

Contact hours: 1x3 hrs. per week.

Type of assessment

Weekly assignments, presentation during the course, and paper due before the end of the first term.

Course reading

Ehrman, B.D. 2003: Lost Scriptures: Books that Did Not Make It into the New Testament, Oxford. selection of articles.

Target group

Students admitted to one of the following Master's programmes can take this course: Religious Studies, Ancient Studies.

Remarks

This module is taught at the UvA by dr. B.J. Koet (UvA subject code 153412006). Module registration at the UvA is required.

Great Debates in Ancient Historical Studies I

Course code	L_OAMAOHS001 ()
Period	Period 1
Credits	6.0
Language of tuition	English
Faculty	Faculteit der Letteren
Coordinator	prof. dr. R.J. van der Spek
Teaching staff	dr. J.J. Flinterman, dr. A. Prent, prof. dr. R.J. van der Spek, dr. K. Kleber
Teaching method(s)	Seminar

Level	400
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Course objective

Thorough introduction to several important themes in the study of the ancient world. Development of theoretical and methodical approaches, with special attention for interdisciplinary perspectives. Broad knowledge of the ancient world through careful study of primary and secondary sources regarding several important topics.

Course content

The four debates that will be treated are: R.J. van der Spek: Marketless Economy and the Asiatic Mode of Production; J.J. Flinterman: The Hellenistic World and the Coming of Rome: 220 – 146 BC.; K. Kleber: The Axial Age; M. Prent: Orientalization from Aegean perspective. Using these debates, we will deal with methodical and theoretical questions, and come to grips with the difficulties of interpreting different types of source material. What are the developments in a specific debate? Which definitions and what sort of criteria are used? What are the reasons for stagnation of a debate and what does it take to make progress again?

Form of tuition

Seminar. Each debate will be discussed in three consecutive two-hour sessions. Students are required to actively participate through preparation of research questions, oral presentations and written papers, and giving and receiving feedback on said presentations and papers.

Type of assessment

Written exam (75%) and paper (25%). Marks given on the scale 1 to 10. Exam and paper may not be lower than 5. Final mark must be 6 or higher.

Course reading

To be announced on Blackboard

Entry requirements

Students admitted to one of the following Master's programmes can take this course: Ancient Studies, Ancient History, Classics, History, research MA Classics and Ancient Civilizations, research MA History.

Target group

(Research) Master's students of Ancient Historical Studies, specifically students of the programmes Ancient History and Ancient Studies.

Remarks

One of the debates may be the subject of the individual "term paper" of period 3. Consult staff members.

Great Debates in Ancient Historical Studies II

Course code	L_AAMAOHS005 ()
Period	Period 2
Credits	6.0
Language of tuition	English
Faculty	Faculteit der Letteren
Coordinator	prof. dr. E.A. Hemelrijk

Teaching staff	prof. dr. E.A. Hemelrijk
Teaching method(s)	Seminar
Level	400

Course objective

Thorough introduction to several important themes in the study of the ancient world. Development of theoretical and methodical approaches, with special attention for interdisciplinary perspectives. Broad knowledge of the ancient world through careful study of primary and secondary sources regarding several important topics.

Course content

What do Christianity and ancient mystery cults have in common? Is gender a useful category of historical analysis for the ancient world? Is there a link between Roman political culture and democracy? Each of these themes is topic of fierce debate between ancient historians. These debates will be central to this course. Using these debates, we will deal with methodical and theoretical questions, and come to grips with the difficulties of interpreting different types of source material.

What are the developments in a specific debate? Which definitions and what sort of criteria are used? What are the reasons for stagnation of a debate and what does it take to make progress again?

Form of tuition

Seminar. Each debate will be discussed in three consecutive two-hour sessions. Students are required to actively participate through preparation of discussions, oral presentations and written papers, and giving and receiving feedback on said presentations and papers. On each debate a brief paper is written (of 2000 words). In the last session, each student presents a brief outline of his or her term-paper (to be written in period 3); topics may be selected from the debates of Great Debates I and II or from broadly related themes.

Type of assessment

Three written assignments (30% each) and an oral presentation (10%). As a rule, individual assignments may not be resubmitted in order to obtain a higher mark. Only if the final mark is between 5 and 6, the paper which received the lowest mark may be resubmitted after revision; in this case, however, the final mark can never exceed 6.

Course reading

Articles, book chapters, primary sources in translation (to be announced during the course)

Entry requirements

Students admitted to one of the following Master's programs can take this course: MA Ancient History, Ancient Studies, or Classics and Ancient Civilizations, Research Master History, Classics and Ancient Civilizations, or Archaeology.

Target group

(Research) Master's students of Ancient Historical Studies, specifically students of the programs Ancient History and Ancient Studies.

Remarks

The course is obligatory for students of the MA Ancient History and Ancient Studies. Students of the other MA programs of ACASA (Classics,

Archaeology), and students of the MA Geschiedenis can choose the course as an elective.

This module is taught at the UvA by mw. prof.dr. E. Hemelrijk (coördinator), mw.dr. L.A. Dirven, dr. J.A. van Rossum (all UvA)(UvA subject code 143417606Y). Module registration at the UvA is required.

Greek Elite Culture in the Roman Empire

Course code	L_GOMAALG002 ()
Period	Period 5
Credits	6.0
Language of tuition	English
Faculty	Faculteit der Letteren
Coordinator	dr. J.J. Flinterman
Teaching staff	dr. J.J. Flinterman
Teaching method(s)	Seminar
Level	400

Course objective

In-depth introduction to Greek intellectual life during the 'long second century', from the Flavian up to and including the Severan period; recognizance of the problems involved in characterizing the intellectual and cultural life of a period.

Course content

Discussion of the life and work of some ten prominent intellectuals from the period under discussion, each of them representing a specific intellectual discipline as well as a specific view of the role in society of the *pepaideumenos*, the intellectually and culturally educated man. People who will be discussed include the philosopher and biographer Plutarch; Dio of Prusa, orator and local politician; Arrian of Nicomedia, chronicler of the philosophical discussions of Epictetus, historiographer of Alexander the Great, and high-ranking member of the imperial aristocracy; the sophist and physiognomist Polemo of Laodicea; Herodes Atticus, latter-day Croesus, large-scale benefactor, Greek sophist and Roman consul; the oneirocritic Artemidorus of Daldis; Pausanias the Periegete; Aelius Aristides, orator and mystic; the satirical genius Lucian; Galen, theorist and practitioner of medicine; and Philostratus, sophist and author of a multifaceted oeuvre.

Form of tuition

Seminar, 4 hours a week

Type of assessment

Weekly assignments, viva voce.

Course reading

To be announced

Entry requirements

Students admitted to one of the following Master's programmes can take this course: Classics and Ancient Civilizations (all three programmes) and History

Target group

Students MA Classics and Ancient Civilizations and MA History

Greek Linguistics: Ancient Greek Dialects

Course code	L_XGMAOHS001 ()
Period	Period 4
Credits	6.0
Language of tuition	English
Faculty	Faculteit der Letteren
Coordinator	dr. mr. R.J. Allan
Teaching staff	dr. mr. R.J. Allan
Teaching method(s)	Seminar
Level	400

Course objective

The student will acquire an understanding of the function of discourse particles in Ancient Greek texts and knowledge of theoretical approaches to Greek particles.

Course content

Ancient Greek is notorious for its astonishing variety of discourse particles such as *gar*, *d*, *mn*, *oun*, etc. Acquiring a deeper understanding of the various things these particles do is highly rewarding since particles play a crucial role in the organisation of the text and give important information of the attitude of the speaker with regard to what is said and with regard to the addressee. Insight into the workings of the Greek particles, therefore, enriches one's interpretation of the text substantially. In this course, the student is familiarized with modern linguistic theory on Greek discourse particles through study of secondary literature. The acquired theoretical knowledge will be applied to the analysis of Greek literary texts (such as tragedy, Plato)

Form of tuition

Seminar (2 x 2 hours per week)

Type of assessment

Research assignment and/or final exam. For this course attendance of the lectures is obligatory. If a student misses more than 20% of the lectures he will not be admitted to the exam.

Course reading

To be announced.

Entry requirements

Students admitted to one of the following Master's programmes can take this course: Classics

Target group

Master students Classics and Ancient Civilization

Greek Literature: Nonnus of Panopolis' Dionysiaca (5th century): a Whirling Epic from Turbulent Times

Course code	L_XGMAOHS002 ()
Period	Period 2
Credits	6.0
Language of tuition	English
Faculty	Faculteit der Letteren
Coordinator	dr. E.M. van Opstall
Teaching staff	dr. E.M. van Opstall
Teaching method(s)	Seminar
Level	400

Course objective

Getting acquainted with and acquiring insight in the text and the context of the Dionysiaca (epic tradition, Late Antique aesthetics, pagans and Christians).

Course content

Seminars examining the text and the context of Nonnus' mythological epic Dionysiaca, written in a turbulent period of tensions between pagans and Christians. This vertiginous mythological epic in 48 books (no less than 20.426 hexameters) tells the history of the demi-god Dionysus. The first books are dedicated to his ancestors, beginning with the rape of Europe by Zeus. The following books describe his birth, infancy and youth. From book 13 onwards, the central theme is Dionysus' mission to bring happiness to mankind by introducing the vine. They include his travels eastwards to India and back again to Europe, with many military conquests and erotic adventures. In the last book Dionysus is finally deified. The coherence of the narrative structure of the whole story is obscured by the accumulation of loosely interrelated episodes full of metamorphoses and mythological exempla. 'The Dionysiaca has a verbal energy and a capacity for prolific growth that makes it look like a literary version of the vine itself,' as a commentator has vividly expressed it. The meaning and the quality of the Dionysiaca are much debated. It is not merely an antiquarian or encyclopaedic work, masterfully combining old stories and mixing different genres. It is a product of contemporary aesthetics, characterised as poikilia, jewelled style, accumulative style or baroque. It also is intimately linked with contemporary religious ideas common to both pagan mystery cults and Christianity, such as the idea of a saviour god with a mission. As such, it must have appealed to its Late Antique educated audience. While a few decades ago, Late Antiquity was still considered as a period of decline, recent studies show that far from being a disillusioned world falling apart, it was an extraordinary creative period. The number of studies on Nonnus' Dionysiaca is still growing.

Form of tuition

During the first part of the course a selection of passages of the Dionysiaca will be read and commented upon (form, content, context). During the second part, each student will present his/her interpretation of a passage.

Type of assessment

Presentation, written exam. For this course attendance of the lectures is obligatory. If a student misses more than 20% of the lectures he will not be admitted to the exam.

Course reading

R. Shorrock, *The Myth of Paganism. Nonnus, Dionysus, and the World of Late Antiquity* (London 2011).

Syllabus with texts and articles (to be announced).

Historical Landscape and Archaeological Heritage

Course code	L_AAMAERF001 ()
Period	Period 1
Credits	6.0
Language of tuition	English
Faculty	Faculteit der Letteren
Coordinator	prof. dr. J. Renes
Teaching method(s)	Lecture
Level	400

Course objective

Knowledge of the frameworks, legal rules and regulations for treating archaeological heritage and culture historical landscapes in the Netherlands;
 knowledge of changes in contemporary culture historical policies in the Netherlands; knowledge of the genealogy and history of the term heritage; knowledge of the various opinions on archaeological and landscape heritage in the past decades;
 critical reflection on the use of the term heritage in contemporary (archaeological) preservation policies and the management of historical landscapes.

Course content

In these introductory lectures theoretical, historiographical and practical topics are dealt with, that are connected with the interest and the care for historical landscapes and archaeological heritage. In the theoretical part, among other matters, attention will be paid to recent heritage opinions. The historiographic part treats the history of the archeological heritage policies and the interest in the historical natural and cultural landscape. Practical training contains the programs and legal rules and regulations for dealing with landschapes and archaeological monuments, like methods of valuation and selecting, restoration and re-destining and preservation. The course consists of lectures. Discussions will be stimulated by image material like tv-documentaries.

Form of tuition

lectures

Type of assessment

written exam

Course reading

will be communicated later

Entry requirements

bachelor in history, geography, archaeologie, history of architectue and studies that are related to heritage and are admitted through a decision of the Exam Committee.

Target group

masterstudents Heritage Studies and students of other heritage programs at a master level. Master students Archaeology of ACASA (VU/UvA)

Remarks

Attending the lectures mandatory

Homeric Greece: Epics, Archaeology and the Wider Mediterranean World

Course code	L_BMMAARC010 ()
Period	Period 1
Credits	6.0
Language of tuition	English
Faculty	Faculteit der Letteren
Coordinator	prof. dr. J.P. Crielaard
Teaching staff	prof. dr. J.P. Crielaard
Teaching method(s)	Seminar
Level	400

Course objective

The course aims to explore the interrelationships between textual, archaeological and anthropological sources of information. At the end of the course, you will have acquired a more profound knowledge of early Greek culture and will be able to place this in a wider Mediterranean framework.

Course content

In this course we will focus on the interconnections between the Homeric epics and archaeology. In an introductory lecture the research topic and the course's main aims will be defined. During the following two sessions we will discuss the problem of the historicity of the epics. The remainder of the course will be devoted to specific aspects of material culture in the Iliad and Odyssey, more in particular their functioning and socio-cultural significance. Examples of themes that we will discuss are objects and exchanges, social structures, warfare, and death, burial rituals and afterlife. We will also reflect on the connections with the wider Mediterranean world. We will look at, for instance, cultural encounters and aspects of identity (the self vs. the culturally other) in the epics and how these may be related to contemporary 'protocolonial' experiences. A number of times we use video material that offers anthropological comparanda for, for instance, warfare and exchanges in non-Western societies. These archaeological and anthropological insights we will use to analyse parts of the Iliad and Odyssey (in translation).

Form of tuition

Students prepare topics by means of close reading of academic texts and present their viewpoints during weekly plenary discussion sessions and in a short written report (ca. 3 pages). This series of papers provides the basis for writing a final essay in which general conclusions are drawn regarding the interdisciplinary study of the society that produced the Homeric epics.

Type of assessment

Participation in class room discussions and weekly written reports, (short) final essay.

Course reading

Will be made available during the course.

Entry requirements

Students admitted to one of the following Master's programmes can take this course : Archaeology (all three programmes) or Classics and Ancient Civilizations (all three programmes)

Target group

Core course for Master students of Mediterranean archaeology, specialisation 'Mediterranean interconnections'; also accessible for Master students Ancient History, Classics and Ancient Civilizations.

Remarks

Attendance is obligatory.

Imagining the Divine in Context

Course code	L_AAMAOHS003 ()
Period	Period 1
Credits	6.0
Language of tuition	English
Faculty	Faculteit der Letteren
Coordinator	prof. dr. N.G.A.M. Roymans
Teaching staff	dr. N.M. Vos
Teaching method(s)	Seminar, Lecture
Level	400

Course objective

Acquaintance with ancient conceptions of the divine in various contexts; close reading of key primary texts.

Course content

Imagining the Divine in Context focuses on the intellectual history of Greco-Roman literature and philosophy as well as the Jewish and Christian traditions in antiquity. It comprises an interdisciplinary trajectory in which sessions are taught by specialists in philosophy, theology/religious studies and classics. In the course, which also functions as an introduction to the broader specialisation From Plato to Augustine, various conceptions of the divine are analysed. Students will become acquainted with the different ways in which Greek philosophers and tragedians as well as Jewish and Christian thinkers mapped out their concepts of G/god, the gods, and the divine realm. In this context, the connections between images of the divine and images of the cosmos, the human condition, ethical and cultic practice will be traced. While the different traditions will be treated in their own right, students are also invited to envisage the relations between Greco-Roman culture, Judaism and Christianity in (late) antiquity. In many ways, these traditions influenced one another, resulting in rich amalgams of thought and practice. Thus, the dynamics of reception and processes of mutual influence figure prominently both in the introductory course and in the

specialisation as such.

Form of tuition

Lectures and seminar; lectures will be given by scholars from various disciplines within ACASA.

Contact hours: 2x2 hours per week.

Type of assessment

Oral presentation, paper and review.

Course reading

To be announced on blackboard.

Costs: approximately € 40

Entry requirements

Students admitted to one of the following Master's programmes can take this course: Classics and Ancient Civilizations (all three programmes), Religious Studies, Philosophy, Theology.

Target group

The course is intended for students in the Master's programme in Classics and Ancient Civilizations

Remarks

This module is taught at the UvA by prof.dr. J.W. van Henten (UvA) and dr. N.M. Vos (VU) (UvA subject code 153416176Y). Module registration at the UvA is required.

Intertextuality and Reception of Greek and Latin Literature

Course code	L_AAMAOHS004 ()
Period	Period 1
Credits	6.0
Language of tuition	English
Faculty	Faculteit der Letteren
Coordinator	prof. dr. N.G.A.M. Roymans
Teaching staff	dr. M.H. Koenen, dr. E.M. van Opstall
Teaching method(s)	Seminar
Level	400

Course objective

Solid overview of the current state of reception theory. A survey of the history of classical receptions in western culture. A number of detailed case studies in the reception of Virgil's Aeneid.

Course content

General lectures on reception theory and intertextuality, focused on crucial periods for both fields (Late Antiquity, Byzantium, Carolingian Renaissance, Italian Renaissance, Romanticism, Post-Modernism); seminars concentrating on one key text (Virgil's Aeneid) in which theoretical and general themes are applied to detailed case-studies.

Form of tuition

Plenary lectures on the theory, practice and history of intertextuality and reception; seminars (work-groups) on one exemplary text, viz. Vergil's Aeneid. Detailed examination of reception theory and practical examples taken from different periods; detailed examination of forms and functions of intertextuality and practical examples taken from different periods; ability to put both into practice.
 Contact hours seminar: 3 hours per week
 Contact hours lectures: 2 hours per week

Type of assessment

Written exam (60%) and presentation during the seminar (40%)

Course reading

- Syllabus
- Ph. Hardie 2013, The Last Trojan Hero. A Cultural History of Virgil's Aeneid, Tauris, London

Entry requirements

BA in Classics, or compatible expertise.

Target group

Master students Classics and Ancient Civilizations

Remarks

This module is taught at the UvA by dr. Piet Gerbrandy, dr. David Rijser (both UvA) and dr. M. H. Koenen, dr. E. M. van Opstall (both VU) (UvA subject code 172411256Y). Module registration at the UvA is required.

Late Iron Age Societies in North Western Europe

Course code	L_BEMAARC015 ()
Period	Period 1
Credits	6.0
Language of tuition	English
Faculty	Faculteit der Letteren
Coordinator	prof. dr. N.G.A.M. Roymans
Teaching staff	prof. dr. N.G.A.M. Roymans
Teaching method(s)	Seminar
Level	400

Course objective

Upon successful completion of this course, you will:

1. have a deep knowledge of, and insight into the structure and development of Late Iron Age societies in North Western Europe.
2. have an extensive knowledge of the actual debate about the major social changes in Late Iron Age societies as well as of theories and concepts relevant for the explanation of these changes. This course also provides a firm basis for understanding the social and cultural transformation of Celto-Germanic societies after their integration into the Roman empire.

Course content

The course starts with an introductory lecture in which the main research topics and the organisation of the course are outlined. In the following lectures we will discuss specific themes of research,

including material culture and the ethnic debate, Oppida and the urbanisation process in pre-Roman Gaul, Diffusion and social role of Iron Age coinage; Cult places and their material culture, Material culture studies: the case of glass La Tène bracelets, Mediterranean connectivity: the wine consumption in Late Iron Age Gaul. The final meetings will be used for the presentation of essays by students. Key concepts: ethnicity, state formation, urbanisation, Laténisation, connectivity with the Mediterranean world.

Form of tuition

Lectures, guest-lectures, class room discussions

Type of assessment

Written essay (70%), participation in class room discussions (10%), oral presentation (20%).

Course reading

Will be made available during the course.

Entry requirements

Students admitted to one of the following Master's programmes can take this course: Archaeology (all three programmes) or Classics and Ancient Civilizations (all three programmes)

Target group

Core course for Master students following the specialisation Late Iron Age and Roman archaeology of the programme Archaeology North Western Europe.

Latin Epigraphy on location

Course code	L_BEMAOHD002 ()
Period	Period 4
Credits	6.0
Language of tuition	Dutch
Faculty	Faculteit der Letteren
Coordinator	dr. A.M.J. Derks
Teaching staff	dr. A.M.J. Derks
Teaching method(s)	Seminar, Computer lab
Level	400

Latin Literature: Seneca's Agamemnon from a Reception-historical Perspective.

Course code	L_XLMAOHS002 ()
Period	Period 4
Credits	6.0
Language of tuition	English
Faculty	Faculteit der Letteren
Coordinator	dr. M.H. Koenen
Teaching staff	dr. M.H. Koenen
Teaching method(s)	Seminar
Level	400

Course objective

The aim of this class is (a) to become thoroughly acquainted with Seneca Tragicus (b) to learn to appreciate the workings of intertextuality in his tragedy Agamemnon and (c) to explore the way this play has inspired authors from three periods: Late Antiquity, Renaissance & Classicism, 20th Century.

Course content

Within the context of the history of European drama the Roman author Seneca can be compared with a sandglass. He incorporates much from a number of preceding literary texts (Homer, Greek Tragedy, Tragedies from Republican Rome, Vergil, Ovid) into his own tragedies, which on their part have inspired authors from Late Antiquity, e.g. Dracontius in his epyllion Orestis Tragoedia (500 AD), as well as Renaissance/Classicistic poets (Vondel, Shakespeare, Corneille, Racine). After a period of unpopularity in the 19th century one observes a revival of Seneca's tragedies after World War I and the beginning of Le Théâtre de la Cruauté, e.g. the famous play Mourning becomes Electra by the American author Eugene O'Neill (1931), which in 2013-2014 is included in the repertoire of Toneelgroep Amsterdam. After World War II this upward trend continues, e.g. the adaptations by Hugo Claus (c. 1970).

In this class we will explore the several stages of the reception by Seneca as well as the reception of this Roman author himself in later times. We will focus on his Agamemnon, a tragedy about the Greek commander Agamemnon who on his return from Troy is killed by his wife Clytemnestra. In this play important roles are also assigned to the tragic heroines Cassandra and Electra.

The central question will be: how does the twofold reception influence the interpretations of Seneca's Agamemnon?

Form of tuition

Lectures and seminars.

Type of assessment

The final score for the course is based on (1) participation in classroom discussion (20%); (2) individual presentation (40%); (3) paper (40%).

Course reading

Latin text as well as a Dutch Translation of Seneca's Agamemnon will become available in Blackboard/Course Documents in January 2014.

Entry requirements

BA Classics or compatible expertise (with Latin). Students admitted to one of the following Master's programmes can take this course: Classics and Ancient Civilizations (all three programmes).

NB: Participants are expected to have read the Dutch translation of the Agamemnon before the first meeting.

Target group

Master students Classics and Ancient Civilizations

Remarks

This module is taught by dr. M. H. Koenen (VU) and prof. dr. P.H. Schrijvers (UvA).

Latin Literature: The Poetics of Civil War: Lucanus' Bellum Civile

Course code	L_AAMAOHS017 ()
Period	Period 2+3
Credits	6.0
Language of tuition	English
Faculty	Faculteit der Letteren
Coordinator	dr. M.A.J. Heerink
Teaching staff	dr. M.A.J. Heerink
Teaching method(s)	Seminar
Level	400

Course content

What kind of epic would one write after Virgil's instant classic, the Aeneid? One answer is given by Ovid's metamorphosis of the Aeneid and the epic tradition in general. Lucan's epic on the Civil War between Caesar and Pompey (mid first century BC) provides a dramatically different answer. This epic, dedicated to Nero, about a historical subject, in which the traditional gods are virtually absent, has been called iconoclastic, an anti-Aeneid and even an anti-epic. Through the ages, this post-Virgilian epic has always found a readership and can be regarded a classic, but it has also evoked passionate and quite diverse reactions in its readers. Dante was a great admirer, and Shelley thought that the Bellum Civile was "of wonderful genius and transcending Virgil". Others, however, found the poem too gruesome, rhetorical or extravagant.

In this seminar, we will try to make sense of this unique epic by studying several of its aspects, for instance its place in the epic tradition and in the social and historical context of Neronian Rome, its language, style and humour, and instances of its long and rich reception.

Form of tuition

Lectures and seminars

Type of assessment

The final score for the course is based on (1) individual presentation (40%), (2) written examination of individual reading list (60%).

Course reading

Will be made available during the course.

Entry requirements

BA Classics or compatible expertise (with Latin)

Students admitted to one of the following Master's programmes can take this course: Classics and Ancient Civilizations (all three programmes).

Target group

Master students Classics and Ancient Civilizations

Remarks

This module is taught at the UvA by dr. Heerink (UvA subject code 172411366Y). Module registration at the UvA is required.

MA Course History of Philosophy

Course code	W_MA_HP ()
Period	Period 1
Credits	6.0
Language of tuition	English
Faculty	Faculteit der Wijsbegeerte
Coordinator	prof. dr. W. Goris
Teaching staff	prof. dr. W. Goris
Teaching method(s)	Lecture
Level	500

Course objective

Knowledge of the historical tradition of reflection on the good, the ability to analyze the problem of the good, and insight in its ethical dimensions.

Course content

The Stoic reception of Platonic and Aristotelian reflections on the good inaugurated a tradition that connects the medieval doctrine of the transcendentals with the Kantian reformulation of transcendental philosophy, a tradition that is fundamentally called into question by Nietzsche. Apart from the interest of the analysis of this classical tradition for historians of philosophy, the course is equally relevant for students of theoretical philosophy, as it entails an informed analysis of a fundamental philosophical concept, and for students of practical philosophy, since the names of Aristotle, Kant, and Nietzsche stand for major alternatives in the ethical debate up to the present day.

Form of tuition

Lecture and seminar

Type of assessment

Written exam

Course reading

Reader with literature will be published on Blackboard.

Entry requirements

Regular entrance requirements for the MA

Remarks

Obligatory attendance 80%.

MA Spec. course History of Philosophy III

Course code	W_MASP_HF010 ()
Period	Period 1
Credits	6.0
Faculty	Faculteit der Wijsbegeerte
Coordinator	prof. dr. W. Goris

Teaching method(s)	Lecture
Level	600

Course objective

Knowledge of and insight in the historical tradition of reflection on truth and the ability to analyze the problem of the true.

Course content

This course will deal with the problem of truth, as it was conceived as a transcendental concept in medieval philosophy. The medieval doctrine of the transcendentals brought together the Platonic and the Aristotelian traditions of reflection on the notion of the being, the one, the true, and the good, and hence presents an excellent means to get familiar with the classical tradition of reflection on these basic notions. Medieval reflection on the true as a transcendental related the ontological dimension of the true with its propositional dimension and advanced, as this course will make clear, to the formulation of the classic conception of the true as the *adaequatio rei et intellectus*.

Form of tuition

Lecture and seminar.

Type of assessment

Paper and oral exam.

Course reading

Reader with literature will be published on Blackboard.

Entry requirements

Regular entrance requirements for the MA Phil.

Remarks

Obligatory attendance 80%.

MA Specialization course History of Philosophy IV

Course code	W_MASP_HF011 ()
Period	Period 2
Credits	6.0
Language of tuition	English
Faculty	Faculteit der Wijsbegeerte
Coordinator	dr. O.L. Lizzini
Teaching method(s)	Lecture
Level	600

Course objective

The ability to see texts and philosophical ideas analytically is the main goal of the course. At the end of the course students will have developed their ability to write a philosophical paper.

Course content

The course will illustrate the topic of essence in Arabic philosophy (mainly in Alfarabi and Avicenna). Arabic texts will be presented together with an English translation. The course will be an exploration

of the theory first found in Arabic philosophy (falsafa) concerning the distinction between essence and existence. It will analyze the meaning of the terms implicit in the notion of essence (and of existence) and will take into account the difference between the existential and the predicative function of the verb "to be". At the same time it will not ignore the contribution of the theology and the discussions about the meaning of the term "thing" in the Mu'tazilite and the Ash'arite schools.

Form of tuition

Lecture and texts analysis (class assignments : papers, reading, etc.).

Type of assessment

Form of assessment (paper.) + percentages of the different parts of assessment (Class assignments: 30 %, Exam: 70%).

Course reading

A bibliography and a more detailed description will be available on BB before the beginning of the course (digital blackboard).

Entry requirements

The main courses on History of Philosophy are recommended, the ability to read Latin and/or Ancient Greek and/or Classical Arabic is appreciated but there is no entrance requirement.

Remarks

Attendance is obligatory + no more than two classes can be missed without notice

Master Course Ancient Near Eastern Civilizations: Reception of Mesopotamian Culture

Course code	L_OAMAOHK004 ()
Period	Period 5
Credits	6.0
Language of tuition	English
Faculty	Faculteit der Letteren
Coordinator	prof. dr. R.J. van der Spek
Teaching staff	prof. dr. R.J. van der Spek, dr. K. Kleber
Teaching method(s)	Lecture
Level	400

Course objective

Exploring themes in the history and culture of the Ancient Near East from an interdisciplinary perspective.

Course content

Reception of Mesopotamian Culture. The History of Mesopotamian Civilization is a long history of about three millennia and has gone through a long process of conservation and adaptation of its own culture. A.L. Oppenheim calls this "the stream of tradition". The culture of Mesopotamia also left its marks outside Mesopotamia, as in the civilizations of the Hittites, the Levant (Israel) and the Graeco-Roman world. Specialists of various fields will elucidate this process in the respective civilizations.

Form of tuition

Lectures and discussion sessions

Type of assessment

Weekly assignments and paper

Course reading

to be announced

Entry requirements

BA in Ancient Civilizations (Oudheidkunde), Classics, Archaeology, History, Theology, Philosophy.

Target group

MA and rMA Ancient Studies with specialisation in Neo-Babylonian/Assyrian and other MA students of Classics and Ancient Civilizations, Archaeology, History, Theology with interest in the Ancient Near East.

Master Seminar Akkadian 1A

Course code	L_SAMAOHS001 ()
Period	Period 1
Credits	6.0
Language of tuition	English
Faculty	Faculteit der Letteren
Coordinator	dr. K. Kleber
Teaching staff	dr. K. Kleber
Teaching method(s)	Seminar
Level	400

Course objective

- a) training of Akkadian language skills: grammar, translation, reading of cuneiform;
- b) reinforcement of detailed historical knowledge ;
- c) acquisition of skills needed for a scientific edition of unedited cuneiform texts.

Course content

The topics of this course change yearly so that Research Master students can participate more than once. Topics are, for example "Neo-Babylonian Economy and Society"; "Introduction to Archival Studies"; "The Bisotun Inscription"; "Neo-Assyrian and Neo-Babylonian Letters.. In the 2012 course an introduction to archival studies will be offered with reading and copying original tablets from the collections of the VU and Leiden.

Form of tuition

Research and reading seminar. It is a combination of an Akkadian reading course, independent research by the students and discussion seminar. Students will present their research in class. Students can choose to write a term paper in period 3 instead of their term paper in the course "Great Debates". 2 hours per week

Type of assessment

Weekly assignments on the basis of original text and secondary literature; preparations of discussions, student's presentations in class..

Course reading

To be announced.

Entry requirements

Students admitted to one of the following Master's programmes can take this course: Ancient Studies, (who have adequate reading and translation skills in Akkadian)

Target group

Students MA and RMA Ancient Studies with Babylonian

Master Seminar Akkadian 2B: The Nabonidus Chronicle (ABC 7)

Course code	L_OAMAOHS005 ()
Period	Period 2
Credits	6.0
Language of tuition	English
Faculty	Faculteit der Letteren
Coordinator	prof. dr. R.J. van der Spek
Teaching staff	prof. dr. R.J. van der Spek
Teaching method(s)	Seminar
Level	400

Course objective

- a) training of Akkadian language skills: grammar, translation, reading of cuneiform;
- b) reinforcement of detailed historical knowledge;
- c) acquisition of skills needed for a scientific edition of unedited cuneiform texts.

Course content

The topics of this course change yearly so that Research Master students can participate more than once. Topics are, for example "Neo-Babylonian Economy and Society"; "Introduction to Archival Studies"; "The Bisotun Inscription"; "Neo-Assyrian and Neo-Babylonian Letters".

In the 2013 course we shall read the so-called Nabonidus Chronicle (ABC 7), which records the last years of king Nabonidus and the conquest of Babylonia by Cyrus the Great. We shall do this on the basis of handmade copies and photographs of the tablet. It is our goal to make a new scholarly edition of the tablet with transliteration, translation and commentary. This is useful as new readings have been proposed in the recent past and other passages deserve reconsideration.

Form of tuition

Research and reading seminar. It is a combination of an Akkadian reading course, independent research by the students and discussion seminar. Students will present their research in class. Each student will prepare a commented edition.

Type of assessment

Weekly assignments on the basis of original text and secondary literature; preparations of discussions, student's presentations in class. Grades 1-10.

Course reading

A.K. Grayson, Assyrian and Babylonian Chronicles. Locust valley 1975.
S. Smith, Babylonian Historical Texts, pl. XI -XIV; pp. 98-123.
Photos and other copies presented in class.

Entry requirements

Students admitted to one of the following Master's programmes can take this course: Ancient Studies (who have adequate reading and translation skills in Akkadian). Any MA student with advanced knowledge of Akkadian.

Target group

Students MA and RMA Ancient Studies with Babylonian. MA students Assyriology.

Master's Seminar in the History of Philosophy

Course code	W_MASE_HF ()
Period	Period 3
Credits	3.0
Faculty	Faculteit der Wijsbegeerte
Coordinator	prof. dr. W. Goris
Teaching staff	prof. dr. W. Goris
Teaching method(s)	Seminar

Course objective

The main objectives of this course are:

- knowledge: acquiring

knowledge of different views of the nature and limitations of historiography of philosophy

- insight: developing insight in the difficulties involved in writing a history of philosophy

- skills:

applying the above theories to a case study; developing your own views on the nature of historiography of philosophy

Course content

What would Plato think of our presentation of his theory of Forms?

Would Aristotle understand today's metaphysics and find it useful?

Historians of philosophy only rarely stop to think what it means to write a history of philosophy. How do we demarcate the field of philosophy through the ages? Which factors influence how we read past philosophers? Do we work on the assumption of intellectual progress? Can we rely on some sort of continuity in the development of philosophical notions? These and similar questions will be addressed.

Form of tuition

Primarily discussion, on the basis of close reading of literature on the topic and an ancient philosophical text by way of case study.

The

relevant literature will have to be studied before each class. Active

participation is required.

Type of assessment

Paper

Course reading

Capita selecta from Rorty, Skinner and Schneewind and similar literature; one primary text; further details to be announced through Blackboard.

Entry requirements

Complete BA, preferably but not necessarily with a thesis in History of Philosophy.

Non-philosophy students?

Remarks

This course will be taught in English unless all participating students have both active and passive knowledge of Dutch. Either way, papers can be written in Dutch or English.

Late papers will not be accepted.

Medieval and Neolatin: Latin Literature after Antiquity

Course code	L_AAMAOHS008 ()
Period	Period 2
Credits	6.0
Language of tuition	English
Faculty	Faculteit der Letteren
Coordinator	prof. dr. N.G.A.M. Roymans
Teaching staff	prof. dr. N.G.A.M. Roymans
Teaching method(s)	Seminar
Level	400

Course objective

The module comprises a thematic survey of a subject in the Latin literature of the Middle Ages and the Renaissance. This year's course will study the function of visual images in Latin literature and its cultural context up to the 17th century.

Course content

In this course both formal ecphrases of works of visual art and visualizing descriptions in general are closely studied in Latin texts from Late Antiquity to ca. 1650. e.g. Ammianus Marcellinus, Claudian, Walafrid Strabo, Mattieu de Vendôme, Petrarca, Pontano, Alciati, Janus Secundus and Constantijn Huygens. Attention will be paid to modern theory on visualization in literature.

The module is integrated in the MA-programme of Golden Age Studies and connects with this year's subject of Jacob Cats and emblematic literature.

The module is given in collaboration with the University of Ghent, Belgium. Joint sessions with Ghent students and professors are included.

Form of tuition

Seminars.

Seminar Middle Ages: 2 hours per week

Seminar Early Modern Period: 2 hours per week

For the excursion to Ghent subsidy will be sought, but a small individual contribution will be inevitable.

Type of assessment

Written exam, block 2 week 8 (60%), and presentation, block 2 week 8 (40%).

Course reading

- Syllabus.
- J. Heffernan, Museum of Words. The Poetics of Ecphrasis from Homer to Ashbery, Chicago 2004

Entry requirements

BA Classics or Latin, Medieval or Early Modern Studies, History, or Art History. In principle texts will be studied in the original Latin.

However, or those deficient in Latin will be able to follow the course with the help of translations.

Target group

Master students Classics and Ancient Civilizations; MA Medieval and/or Early Modern (Art-) History, MA 'Cultuurwetenschappen' Students with a different background than a bachelor programme in Latin, or Greek and Latin will be able to read the texts in translation

Remarks

This module is taught at the UvA by dr. P.S. Gerbrandy, dr. D. Rijser (both UvA) and dr. W. Verbaal (University of Ghent)(UvA subject code 172411266). Module registration at the UvA is required.

Money in Ancient and Medieval Society. An archaeological view

Course code	L_BAMAARC014 ()
Period	Period 2
Credits	6.0
Language of tuition	English
Faculty	Faculteit der Letteren
Coordinator	dr. J.G. Aarts
Teaching staff	dr. J.G. Aarts, prof. dr. V.V. Stissi
Teaching method(s)	Seminar
Level	400

Course objective

Upon successful completion of this course, you will:

- have acquired a general knowledge of the western discourse on the 'transformative powers' of money in (Ancient and Medieval) society
- have acquired an extensive view of the key themes in the debate on the use of money in Ancient and Medieval societies
- have learned to take your own position in the debate on these topics
- have learned to make use of different types of evidence and

combine them in synthetic research

- understand how to apply different methodologies to different kinds of research questions
- be able to design and conduct your own research in a case study of your choice and write a paper on it

Course content

Money has always been regarded as having a profound impact on the societies which made use of it. This course is focussed on the emergence and spread of money in Ancient and Medieval societies, and its wide repertoires of use. This will be treated from the perspective of several 'hot issues' in economic and numismatic research regarding societies our archaeological departments cover: monetization and its impact on the economy and society; the structure of governmental finance in Classical Athens and the Roman Empire, banks and the role of credit, ritual use of money, money and propaganda and the impact of Roman money on societies in the northwestern Empire. The selected themes are intended to give a as wide as possible scope on the vastness of numismatic research and archaeological and historical research involving coinage, and serve simultaneously as case studies for different methodological approaches used in this field. Special attention will be paid to the use of quantitative methods, anthropological theories of money and the use of various source materials: archaeological evidence (coins and other material culture) and ancient texts (literary texts and epigraphy).

Form of tuition

Lectures provided by teacher, class room discussions.

Type of assessment

Participation in class room discussion (including small written assignments (40%), written essay (60%).

Course reading

Will be made available at the beginning of the course.

Entry requirements

Students admitted to one of the following Master's programmes can take this course : Archaeology (all three programmes) or Classics and Ancient Civilizations (all three programmes)

Target group

Course for all Archaeology Master students. Also accessible for Master students Ancient History, Medieval History, Ancient Cultures and Classics.

Narrativity

Course code	L_XAMAALG001 ()
Period	Period 1
Credits	6.0
Language of tuition	English
Faculty	Faculteit der Letteren
Coordinator	dr. L.W. van Gils
Teaching staff	prof. dr. C.H.M. Kroon, dr. mr. R.J. Allan, dr. L.W. van Gils, dr. M.G. Onrust
Teaching method(s)	Lecture, Seminar

Course objective

Narrativity is a characteristic of a wide range of text types. The student is capable of analyzing narrative characteristics in several types of texts in such a way that the resulting insights can be put to use in the issues of their specialization.

Course content

The art of storytelling is traditionally studied in corpora of narrative texts. Stories are not only told in prototypical narrative texts, however. A writer can persuade by presenting his argument in the form of a story or he can write an informative text while using narrative principles. Journalists, for instance, make use of narrative principles when they insert quotations or dialogues in their newspaper articles. Also other text types such as forensic speeches, informative texts on the world wide web and corporate stories may show traces of narrativity. Knowledge of narrative principles and their effects is, therefore, necessary for academics working with texts, whether their work involves the production of texts, the analysis of literature or the interpretation of historical sources.

This course investigates the characteristics of narrativity and covers several narrative principles such as time, plot, focalization and speech representation. These principles will be discussed from the view point of narratological theory and illustrated by means of examples from both classical and modern literature.

Apart from this theoretical part (3 EC), students will study the use of these narrative principles in non-narrative texts (3 EC).

There will be two seminar groups, one for master students Classics and Ancient Civilizations and one for master students Schrijven en Vertalen. Depending on their specialization, students will analyze classical texts of genres that are not prototypically narrative (e.g. tragedy, forensic speeches, letters, poetry) or they will study and, most importantly, learn to apply narrative principles in newspaper articles, web texts, corporate stories et cetera. In both seminars, the central issue will be the effect of narrativity in non-narrative texts.

Form of tuition

Weekly lectures, seminars

Type of assessment

Written exam, essays

Course reading

David Herman (ed.) 2009. The Cambridge Companion to Narrative. Cambridge University Press.

Entry requirements

Bachelor in Humanities

Target group

Master students Schrijven en vertalen, Master students Classics and Ancient Civilizations

Remarks

Language of tuition is English, but the seminars for Master students CIS: Schrijven en vertalen are in Dutch.

Perspectives on Ancient Landscapes

Course code	L_BAMAARC009 ()
Period	Period 1
Credits	6.0
Language of tuition	English
Faculty	Faculteit der Letteren
Coordinator	dr. S.J. Kluiving
Teaching staff	dr. S.J. Kluiving, dr. A. Prent
Teaching method(s)	Seminar
Level	400

Course objective

- Understanding of theoretical concepts and approaches in current landscape research: processual, interpretative, phenomenological
- Competence in applying these concepts and approaches to specific case studies in European and Near Eastern Archaeology

Course content

The course focuses on the following key issues and research questions:

- How do we look at past landscapes within an archaeological framework?
- What characterizes the different methodological -like new processual, phenomenological, hermeneutic and Annaliste- approaches in landscape archaeology?
- What are the underlying concepts?
- How do we apply these approaches in our own research?

These issues and questions are discussed with the help of cases taken from Northwest-European, Scandinavian and Mediterranean archaeology.

Form of tuition

Lectures, class room discussions

Type of assessment

Written essay (70%), participation in class room discussions (30%).

Course reading

Will be made available during the course

Entry requirements

Students admitted to one of the following Master's programmes can take this course : Archaeology (all three programmes) or Classics and Ancient Civilizations (all three programmes)

Target group

Core Course for Master students Specialisation Landscape Archaeology. Also accessible to Master students Ancient History and Ancient Cultures, as well as Geo-archaeology.

Rise of Christianity I

Course code	L_AAMAOHS011 ()
Period	Period 4

Credits	6.0
Language of tuition	English
Faculty	Faculteit der Letteren
Coordinator	prof. dr. N.G.A.M. Roymans
Teaching staff	prof. dr. N.G.A.M. Roymans
Teaching method(s)	Seminar
Level	400

Course objective

Insight in the complex development of Christianity by using an interdisciplinary approach; familiarity with various sources, such as texts, archaeological remains and sociological data, as well as sociological and anthropological theories.

Course content

During the four centuries following the death of Jesus of Nazareth, the movement of his followers developed from an obscure oriental sect into the sole legitimate religion of the Roman empire. The goal of this course is to study and to understand this spectacular development. In order to do so, we study the development of the Christian movements in the context of their surroundings, the Roman world. Followers of Christ will be studied in relation to the religion of the Roman state, contemporary Judaism and so-called mystery cults. In addition, attention will be paid to the social composition of the Christian communities, the appeal of the new cult to women and the role of Christian martyrs in the growth and dissemination of the new faith. Last but not least, the role of Constantine and other Christian emperors during the fourth century will be a central issue. Ancient literary sources (in translation), material remains and secondary literature on the subject will serve as the starting point of this course.

Form of tuition

Lectures 2 hours a week

Type of assessment

Exam, (2 x 30 %), two smaller assignments (2x 20%).

Course reading

Clark, G. 2004. Christianity and Roman Society (Key Themes in Ancient History, Cambridge). Various article that can be found on Blackboard.

Entry requirements

Students admitted to one of the following Master's programmes can take this course:

History, Theology, Archaeology (all three programmes) or Classics and Ancient Civilizations (all three programmes).

Target group

Ancient Historians, Classicists, Church Historians, Historians of Religion, Archaeologists, Art Historians

Remarks

This module is taught at the UvA by dr. K.C. Innemée and various guest lecturers (UvA subject code 143410006). Module registration at the UvA is required.

Rise of Christianity II

Course code	L_AAMAOHS013 ()
Period	Period 5
Credits	6.0
Language of tuition	English
Faculty	Faculteit der Letteren
Coordinator	prof. dr. N.G.A.M. Roymans
Teaching staff	prof. dr. N.G.A.M. Roymans
Teaching method(s)	Seminar
Level	400

Course objective

Insight in the complex development of Christianity by using an interdisciplinary approach; familiarity with various sources, such as texts, archaeological remains and sociological data, as well as sociological and anthropological theories.

Course content

During the four centuries following the death of Jesus of Nazareth, the movement of his followers developed from an obscure oriental sect into the sole legitimate religion of the Roman empire. The goal of this course is to study and to understand this spectacular development. In order to do so, we study the development of the Christian movements in the context of their surroundings, the Roman world. Followers of Christ will be studied in relation to the religion of the Roman state, contemporary Judaism and so-called mystery cults. In addition, attention will be paid to the social composition of the Christian communities, the appeal of the new cult to women and the role of Christian martyrs in the growth and dissemination of the new faith. Last but not least, the role of Constantine and other Christian emperors during the fourth century will be a central issue. Ancient literary sources (in translation), material remains and secondary literature on the subject will serve as the starting point of this course.

Form of tuition

Lectures, 2 hours a week

Type of assessment

Exam, (2 x 30 %), two smaller assignments (2x 20%).

Course reading

Clark, G. 2004: Christianity and Roman Society (Key Themes in Ancient History, Cambridge) . Various article that can be found on Blackboard.

Entry requirements

Students admitted to one of the following Master's programmes can take this course: Ancient history, Ancient Studies, Classics, History, Archaeology (all three programmes) , Religious Studies, Theology, Art History

Target group

Ancient Historians, Classicists, Church Historians, Historians of Religion, Archaeologists, Art Historians

Remarks

This module is taught at the UvA by dr. K.C. Innemée and various guest lecturers (UvA subject code 144410046). Module registration at the UvA is required.

Roman Archaeology and the Romanisation Paradigm

Course code	L_BEMAARC016 ()
Period	Period 2
Credits	6.0
Language of tuition	English
Faculty	Faculteit der Letteren
Coordinator	dr. A.M.J. Derks
Teaching staff	dr. A.M.J. Derks
Teaching method(s)	Seminar
Level	400

Course objective

Upon successful completion of this course, you will:

1. have acquired a profound knowledge of key positions within the long-lived academic debate on cultural changes within the multi-cultural context of the Roman empire ('romanisation') and the theoretical foundations thereof;
2. have learned to define and defend a position of your own in this debate in both oral and written form;
3. have acquired a basic understanding of the diverse mechanisms that directed the process of cultural change among various groups and societies under Roman rule;
4. have acquired a profound knowledge of the immense cultural differences the impact of Roman rule had on the communities of the empire
5. have acquired some ability to connect the debate on cultural change in the Roman empire with discussions on identity, inclusion and cultural change in contemporary society.

Course content

One of the key issues of Roman archaeology is to describe and explain the cultural changes that took place in the communities that had been absorbed by the Roman empire. Related to this issue is the question as to how the Roman empire was able to keep together a world empire consisting of many different people and ethnicities with as many different traditions for so long. Over the past two centuries, generations of ancient historians and archaeologists have tried to provide answers to these central questions of the discipline, taking very different sometimes conflicting and often contested, positions. This course begins with an opening lecture in which the aims of the course are set out and a first global overview of the problem is presented. During the second class the obligatory course reading will be discussed. For the following classes, each participant will have to prepare an oral presentation on one or more key publications in the debate. The reading material will cover all parts of the empire, the northwestern and Mediterranean provinces as well as Italy. At the end of the course all participants will have to submit a paper using a case study from a particular region of the empire.

Form of tuition

Lectures, class room discussions

Type of assessment

Participation in class room discussions (10%), oral presentation (30%), written essay (60%).

Course reading

Burke, P., 2009: Cultural hybridity, Cambridge.

Entry requirements

Students admitted to one of the following Master's programmes can take this course : Archaeology (all three programmes) or Classics and Ancient Civilizations (all three programmes)

Target group

Core course for Master students Archaeology, Specialisations II (Mediterranean interconnectivity) and III (Late Iron Age and Roman archaeology of Northwest Europe). Also accessible for Master students Ancient History, Ancient Studies, and Classics and Ancient Civilizations.

Term Paper Ancient History and Ancient Studies

Course code	L_OAMAOHS003 ()
Period	Period 3
Credits	6.0
Language of tuition	English
Faculty	Faculteit der Letteren
Coordinator	prof. dr. R.J. van der Spek
Level	400

Course objective

Independent evaluation of scholarly debates and the applied methodology; to give written testimony of this according to the norms of scientific publication.

Course content

The topic of the term paper is based on one of the courses taught in the first semester, such as the course "Great Debates in Ancient Historical Studies".

Form of tuition

Individual supervision by one of the ACASA staff members, unspecified number of supervisory interactions

Type of assessment

Written paper

Course reading

Depending on the subject.

Entry requirements

Students admitted to one of the following Master's programmes can take this course: RMA Classics and Ancient Civilizations, rMA History,

Remarks

Each student is required to initiate contact with a prospective supervisor before 1 December.

The Archaeological Heritage of the Medieval and Early Modern Town

Course code	L_AAMAARC001 ()
Period	Period 1
Credits	6.0
Language of tuition	English
Faculty	Faculteit der Letteren
Coordinator	prof. dr. N.G.A.M. Roymans
Teaching staff	prof. dr. N.G.A.M. Roymans
Teaching method(s)	Seminar
Level	400

Course objective

After this course you will:

- have an insight into the origin and development of the medieval town in Europe
- have a more specific knowledge of the urban landscape in the Netherlands
- be able to relate archaeological research to general
- be able to formulate ideas for archaeological research within medieval towns

Course content

This course focusses on the development of towns from the late-Roman period until the end of the middle ages. We will study the decline of urban life in the late-Roman period and see how the Roman past structured medieval developments. The topography of early medieval proto-urban settlements is discussed as well as their religious and economic functions. During the Carolingian period Dorestad was the hub in an international network of trading settlements or early towns. The functioning of this network is assessed as well as its relevance for the growth of towns in the later middle ages. Special attention is paid to the large-scale urban expansion which took place in the later middle ages, when the society and economy saw a profound transformation. Conceptual frameworks in the study of urbanism are subject of the module as well as specific urban research topics as cesspits or artisanal production. Developments in the Low Countries are placed in a general European perspective, where some attention is paid to the Mediterranean world.

Seminars focus on individual or of groups of towns and provide case studies against which general developments can be evaluated. Different groups of towns along the rivers Rhine, Meuse or Scheldt come into. Visiting lecturers present results from the research conducted in their town.

Form of tuition

Formal lectures and seminars and an excursion

Type of assessment

Oral and written reports, final essay

Course reading

Hodges, R., 2000: Towns and Trade in the age of Charlemagne. London.

Schofield, J./A. Vince 2003: Medieval towns : the archaeology of British towns in their European setting. (Archaeology of medieval Europe, 1100-1600). London.

Verhulst, A., 1999: The rise of cities in north-west Europe. Cambridge.

Other literature will be made available on the blackboard.

Entry requirements

Students admitted to one of the following master's programmes can take this course: Archaeology, History, Heritage Studies

Remarks

This module is taught at the UvA by prof.dr. J.H.G. Gawronski (UvA subject code 140412036). Module registration at the UvA is required.

The Iliouperis in Greek (and Latin) Literature

Course code	L_AAMAOHS015 ()
Period	Period 4
Credits	6.0
Language of tuition	English
Faculty	Faculteit der Letteren
Coordinator	prof. dr. N.G.A.M. Roymans
Teaching method(s)	Seminar
Level	400

Course objective

The aim of this module is to increase your knowledge of important texts from Greek literature, to learn to apply different methodologies when close-reading these texts (mainly intertextuality, narratology, and New Historicism).

Course content

In this module you will read a selection of texts from Greek literature which deal with the theme of the Fall of Troy: a.o. Homer Iliad, epic cycle, archaic lyric (Stesichorus, Ibycus, Alcaeus), Aeschylus Agamemnon, Euripides Hecuba, Troades, Q. Smyrnaeus, Triphiodorus Iliou Halosis. In the papers attention will also be given to Latin versions of the Iliouperis (e.g. Virgil Aeneid 2, Ovid. Metam. 13.404-622, Petronius Satyricon).

Form of tuition

Seminar (four weeks 2x2 hours p.w., one day oral presentations)

Type of assessment

Oral presentation and written examination

Course reading

Syllabus (on blackboard)

Target group

BA GLTC

Remarks

This module is taught at the UvA by mw. Prof. Dr. Irene J.F. de Jong (UvA subject code 172411326). Module registration at the UvA is required.

The Objects of Religion: Material Culture at Sanctuaries

Course code	L_BAMAARC012 ()
Period	Period 1
Credits	6.0
Language of tuition	English
Faculty	Faculteit der Letteren
Coordinator	dr. A.M.J. Derks
Teaching staff	dr. A.M.J. Derks, dr. P.S. Lulof
Teaching method(s)	Seminar
Level	400

Course objective

Students who will have successfully completed this course will

- 1.) have a good understanding of religion in Etruria and Rome;
- 2.) have acquired a thorough knowledge of the symbolic nature and potential multivocality of material culture;
- 3.) have developed a methodology to interpret a case study;
- 4.) have the ability to write a concise and clearly structured paper with a well-focused argument.

Course content

This course focuses on the interpretation of material culture from sanctuaries in Etruria, Republican Rome and Italy, and the Mediterranean provinces of the Roman empire. Most finds from these sanctuaries will have played a role in the religious communication between man and god. While it thus may be assumed that many finds had a strong symbolic dimension, excavation reports often do not reach beyond basic descriptions of the finds themselves. In the introductory lecture to the course, several competing models of interpretation will be presented and a methodology that might help us to decipher the codes of the material culture from sanctuaries will be discussed. This will be followed by two meetings where we will discuss theoretical literature on the anthropology of religion and on the religion of Etruria and Rome. The remaining meetings will be used for oral presentations in which students present their own interpretation of a pre-selected site. All participants subsequently write an essay on the subject of their oral presentation.

Form of tuition

Lectures, class room discussions and oral presentations with discussion and feedback from the instructors.

Type of assessment

Oral presentation, participation in class room discussions, final essay.

Course reading

Will be made available during the course.

Entry requirements

Students admitted to one of the following Master's programmes can take this course : Archaeology (all three programmes) or Classics and Ancient Civilizations (all three programmes)

Target group

Core course for Master students Specialisation 'Mediterranean material culture: issues of objects and people'; also accessible for Master students Ancient History, Classics and Ancient Civilizations.

The Pragmatics of Colloquial Latin

Course code	L_AAMAOHS016 ()
Period	Period 2+3
Credits	6.0
Language of tuition	English
Faculty	Faculteit der Letteren
Coordinator	dr. R. Risselada
Teaching staff	dr. R. Risselada
Teaching method(s)	Seminar
Level	400

Course objective

Students will be introduced to current views on so-called colloquial Latin as an umbrella term for various spoken, substandard and/or non-literary variants. They gain insight into processes of standardization and diachronic developments of Latin, with special attention to pragmatic and sociolinguistics aspects. They will be trained in corpus research, advanced academic presentation and critical debate.

Course content

In Latin linguistics we usually concentrate on aspects of Classical Latin, which was a highly formalized literary standard language. In this seminar we will focus attention on pragmatic properties of non-literary and substandard texts, which are more closely connected with actually spoken variants of Latin. We will also go into specific methodological problems involved in the research of these types of texts.

In the introductory lectures various aspects of spoken, substandard and/or non-literary variants of Latin are discussed, as well as recent literature on processes of standardization, orality, sociolinguistic aspects and diachronic developments, with special attention to discourse pragmatic aspects, such as word order, referential systems, and sentence complexity. In the second part we choose one of these issues as our central research topic, which the students are invited to apply to a variety of colloquial texts. The results are presented orally and in a written paper.

Form of tuition

Seminar (four weeks 2x2 hours p.w., one day oral presentations)

Type of assessment

Oral presentation and written paper.

Course reading

Studiemateriaal: syllabus (on blackboard)

Target group

Master students Classics and Ancient Civilizations

Remarks

This module is taught at the UvA by dr. Risselada (UvA subject code 172411316Y). Module registration at the UvA is required.

Thesis Classics and Ancient Civilizations

Course code	L_OAMAOHSSCR ()
Period	Ac. Year (September)
Credits	18.0
Language of tuition	Dutch
Faculty	Faculteit der Letteren
Coordinator	prof. dr. R.J. van der Spek
Level	400

Course objective

The aim is to carry out research into a specialized subject or theme taken from the field of Classics and Ancient Civilizations, leading to a written presentation of the results. This thesis will provide proof of the student's capability to conduct research according to academic standards and capacity to develop his or her own view of how to deal with primary data.

Course content

The subject and content of the thesis are defined in consultation with the supervisor. The student is required to contact one of the staffmembers whose field of research best fits the type of research to be carried out. A second supervisor will be approached afterwards.

Form of tuition

In a series of one to one sessions, the supervisor gives feedback to the student. As a first step, the student defines his or her research topic. When this is approved of by one of the staff members, it is determined which staff members will act as a supervisor and second examiner, respectively.

Type of assessment

The thesis will be assessed by two staff members, who will together mark the thesis. Important criteria are originality, argumentation, style of writing, adequate references to source material and secondary literature, and -if relevant- the use of illustrations.

Course reading

To be announced

Entry requirements

Bachelor degree (cf. admission rules)

Target group

MA students

Remarks

Start consultation of staffmembers in the first semester.

Transformations of the Medieval Rural World: Landscapes and Settlements

Course code	L_AAMAARC003 ()
Period	Period 2
Credits	6.0
Language of tuition	English
Faculty	Faculteit der Letteren
Coordinator	prof. dr. N.G.A.M. Roymans
Teaching method(s)	Seminar
Level	400

Course objective

After this course the student will

- be able to present a general overview of the history of habitation of the major regions in the Netherlands on the basis of archaeological sites
- have knowledge on the developments of the physical landscape of the Netherlands during the last two millennia
- have an insight into subsistence strategies from the late-Roman period into the early modern age
- be able to understand the regional variation in material culture as house plans, ceramics and the like
- be able to put the Dutch developments into a broader European perspective

Course content

Most archaeological research over the past decades in the Netherlands concerns settlements from the medieval period. This module focusses on these rural settlements, whereas another module is oriented towards the archaeology of towns. The developments of rural settlements displays a marked variation in western Europe as a whole and in the Netherlands in particular. Settlements were in a constant process of transformation with respect to their location, layout and material culture. One of the goals of this module is to get a grip on the regional differentiation within the Low Countries and to evaluate the causes of the variation. Because settlements cannot be studied apart from the landscapes in which they were situated, landscape dynamics form an important part of the module as well. We will also put the Dutch developments in a European context, by studying other regions in northwestern Europe.

Form of tuition

Formal lectures and seminars and an excursion

Type of assessment

Oral and written reports, final essay

Course reading

One of the books used is Johnson, M. 2007: Ideas of landscape, Oxford.
Other literature will be made available on the blackboard.

Entry requirements

Students admitted to one of the following Master's programmes can take this course : Archaeology (all three programmes) , History, Heritage Studies

Remarks

This module is taught at the UvA by dr. A.A.A. Verhoeven (UvA subject code 140412006). Module registration at the UvA is required.

Tutorial Ancient History and Ancient Studies

Course code	L_OAMAOHS004 ()
Period	Ac. Year (September), Period 1
Credits	6.0
Language of tuition	English
Faculty	Faculteit der Letteren
Coordinator	dr. J.J. Flinterman
Level	400