UCLouvain

lfial2552

2026

History of Ancient Sciences Seminar

5.00 credits	22.5 h	Q2

This biannual learning is being organized in 2026-2027

Language :	French
Place of the course	Louvain-la-Neuve
Prerequisites	/
Main themes	Study of the development of some specific sciences (Arithmetic, Geometry, Geography, Astronomy, Medicine, etc.) in Ancient Egypt, Babylonian and Greco-Roman civilisations.
Learning outcomes	**At the end of this learning unit, the student is able to :** 1 At the end of this course of lectures, the student must understand how the modern concept of science was made up from the Egyptian, Babylonian and Ancient Greek civilisations.
Evaluation methods	June and/or September session: written exam. The exam covers broad questions (e.g., transversal to the course), which will show the ability of providing a synthesis and analyzing ancient and modern resources, given with their translation, in relation with the main concepts of the History of Sciences in the Antiquity. The exam will take place "in presential" during the session. This implies that no AI can be used to answer the questions.
Teaching methods	Lectures given with slides, based on the analysis of ancient resources (in translation) and more recent interpretations, in relation with the main topics of the History of sciences in the Antiquity.
Content	Diachronically, from High Antiquity to the 4th century CE, we will show the development of the sciences in Egyptian, Babylonian and Greco-Roman cultures, through the study of key notions and the main theories that emerged and influenced later periods. Various fields will be addressed more specifically: arithmetic, with the first forms of written calculation; geometry with ancient problem solving; astronomy, with the emergence of the geocentric and heliocentric models; medicine, with the theory of the four humours; and biology, with the theory of the great chain of being. These presentations will provide an opportunity to explore a number of geographical areas and spaces (libraries, etc.) that proved decisive in the development of science.
Inline resources	Online documentation on Moodle
Bibliography	Références données au fil du cours.
Faculty or entity in charge	FIAL

Programmes containing this learning unit (UE)

Program title	Acronym	Credits	Prerequisite	Learning outcomes
Master [120] in Ancient Languages and Literatures: Oriental Studies	HORI2M	5		
Master [120] in History	HIST2M	5		
Master [120] in Ancient and Modern Languages and Literatures	LAFR2M	5		
Certificat universitaire en langue, littérature et civilisation latines	ELAT9CE	5		
Master [60] in Ancient Languages and Literatures : Oriental Studies	HORI2M1	5		
Master [120] in Ancient Languages and Literatures: Classics	CLAS2M	5		