

Ancient Literary Genres

Code: 104198
ECTS Credits: 6

2025/2026

Degree	Type	Year
Ancient Studies	FB	1
English and Classics Studies	OB	2

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Teachers

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Teaching groups languages

You can view this information at the [end](#) of this document.

Prerequisites

No previous knowledge required. However, it is a subject particularly aimed at people interested in the "literary fact", who enjoy reading and commenting on literature.

Objectives and Contextualisation

- This subject belongs to the field "Literature", which wants to draw attention to the importance of the literary text as an essential source of information to learn about the history and civilization of Greece and Rome.
- The aim of this subject is offering a general scope of Greek and Latin literature, based on the classification by genres of their works and authors.
- There will be a general and basic presentation of the topical and formal characteristics of the main literary genres in Antiquity, as well as offering, as far as possible, a diachronic vision of their evolution.

Competences

Ancient Studies

- Be able to express oneself orally and in writing in the specific language of history, archaeology and philology, both in one's own languages and a third language.
- Interpret texts written in Latin and Greek to understand the history and Classical civilisations.

- Interrelate linguistic, historical and archaeological knowledge of the ancient world with knowledge of other areas of the humanities, mainly ancient literature, philosophy and art.
- Students must be capable of communicating information, ideas, problems and solutions to both specialised and non-specialised audiences.
- Students must develop the necessary learning skills to undertake further training with a high degree of autonomy.

English and Classics Studies

- Interpret written texts in Latin and Greek to learn about classical history and civilizations.
- Interrelate linguistic and historical knowledge of the ancient world with knowledge of other fields of the humanities, mainly literature and archaeology.
- Recognize the most significant periods, traditions, trends, authors and works of Greek, Latin and English literatures in their historical and social context.
- Students must be capable of communicating information, ideas, problems and solutions to both specialised and non-specialised audiences.
- Students must develop the necessary learning skills in order to undertake further training with a high degree of autonomy.

Learning Outcomes

1. Analyse texts belonging to different genres, taking account of historical, social and cultural context.
2. Apply the basic theoretical concepts to the comprehension of narrative, poetic and dramatic texts.
3. Apply the different instruments of literary analysis to different types of works.
4. Autonomously searching, selecting and processing information both from structured sources (databases, bibliographies, specialized magazines) and from across the network.
5. Discern the singularities of Greek literary production in comparison with its Latin counterpart, and vice versa.
6. Effectively communicating and applying the argumentative and textual processes to formal and scientific texts.
7. Express oneself effectively by applying argumentative and textual procedures in formal and scientific texts.
8. Identify and explain the fundamental principles of the process of literary communication in each one of the genres.
9. identify the influence of the classical literary genres in texts of the post-classical European literary tradition.
10. Preparing an oral and written discourse in the corresponding language in a proper and organized way.
11. Present the formal and thematic characteristics of the works of literary creation of classical antiquity.
12. Recognise the definition and characteristics of the various literary genres based on metaliterary texts and identify their realisation in specific works.
13. Recognise the definition and the characteristics of the various literary genres on the basis of the metaliterary texts and identify their exemplification in particular works.

Content

Program

UNIT 1. Introduction to the literary genres of the Graeco-Roman Classical world: - Concept of literature in Classical Antiquity: conceptual, chronological and geographical limits. - The role of literature in the framework of Greek and Roman societies. - The literary genres in Classical Antiquity. - Classification criteria.

Poetic genres

UNIT 2. Epic. Didactic poetry and *epyllion*

UNIT 3. Lyric and elegiac poetry

UNIT 4. Bucolic poetry

UNIT 5. Epigram

UNIT 6. Satyre

Dramatic genres

UNIT 7. Tragedy and satyr play

UNIT 8. Comedy

Prose genres

UNIT 9. Historiography

UNIT 10. Oratory and rhetoric

UNIT 11: Fable and tale

UNIT 12. Novel

Students will have to do a coursework commenting on two passages from the dossier. The guidelines for this work and the passages will be indicated at the beginning of the course.

Activities and Methodology

Title	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes
Type: Directed			
Follow-up of the topics exposition and in-class texts' commentary	35	1.4	2, 1, 5, 10, 9, 13
Participation in in-class activities	5	0.2	2, 3, 1, 10, 11, 6, 8
Type: Supervised			
Orientation tutorials for the selection and preparation of the subject's assignment	5	0.2	4, 5, 10, 6
Reading and commenting on texts	25	1	2, 4, 1, 10, 11, 12
Type: Autonomous			
Assignment elaboration	31	1.24	2, 3, 4, 1, 5, 10, 11, 6, 9, 8, 13
Complementary texts reading (primary and secondary sources) and units study	45	1.8	4, 10

Classroom activities will be divided into two categories:

1. Reading and interpreting literary themes and topics. This activity will be carried out with the support of an anthology of Greek and Latin texts that will serve as a starting point for the explanation and the commentary of

the formal and thematic characteristics of each of the literary genres included in the course program. The anthology will be uploaded in Campus Virtual.

2. Participation in the classroom activities.

The accomplishment of the competences of the subject will be achieved largely with the autonomous work of each student, that will be oriented to:

1. The preparation of two text commentaries, which will be defended orally.
2. Complementary texts reading, both of classic authors as well as modern bibliography on the themes and works studied.

Given that numerous scientific studies show that reading on paper improves the understanding and memorization of the contents, while facilitating critical reflection, it is strongly recommended that all the materials available on the Virtual Campus are printed and that the activities and exercises are always work on paper. If, despite this recommendation, students prefer to use digital devices (tablets or computers), it must be clear that they cannot be used for anything other than learning activities. The use of mobile phones in class is not allowed.

Annotation: Within the schedule set by the centre or degree programme, 15 minutes of one class will be reserved for students to evaluate their lecturers and their courses or modules through questionnaires.

Assessment

Continuous Assessment Activities

Title	Weighting	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes
Attendance and active participation in the classroom	10%	0	0	10, 11, 7, 6, 9
Reading test	10%	1	0.04	2, 3, 1, 5, 10, 11, 6, 9, 8, 12, 13
Two text commentaries	10%	0	0	2, 3, 4, 1, 5, 10, 11, 6, 9, 8, 13
1st exam	35%	1.5	0.06	2, 3, 1, 5, 10, 11, 7, 6, 9, 8, 13, 12
2nd exam	35%	1.5	0.06	2, 3, 1, 5, 10, 11, 6, 9, 8, 13

This subject contemplates a double mode of evaluation:

1) Continuous evaluation:

Continuous evaluation is a process that must allow students to know their academic progress throughout the course. The evaluation activities that will be taken into account are :

1. Two theoretical and practical tests, each of which will have a weight of 35% on the final mark 13 April and 15 June.
2. Two text commentaries on two passages included in the dossier, with a weight of 10% on the final mark. 17 June.
3. A test on a compulsory reading of a classic work (Miles gloriosus by Plautus), which will be worth 10% of the final mark. 8 April.
4. Attendance and participation in the activities proposed in class, which will be worth 10% of the final grade.

2) Single evaluation: The single evaluation will take into account the following activities:

1. Two theoretical and practical tests, each of which will have a weight of 40% on the final mark.
2. Two text commentaries on two passages included in the dossier, with a weight of 10% on the final mark.
3. A test on a compulsory reading of a classic work (to be determined), which will be worth 10% of the final mark.

Plagiarism

In the event of a student committing any irregularity that may lead to a signature, the student will be given a zero for this activity, regardless of any disciplinary process that may take place. In the assessment activities of the same subject, the student will be given a zero as the final grade for this subject.

Not assessable

Students will receive the grade of "Not assessable" as long as they have not

Procedure for the review of qualifications

Each time a mark is published, the teachers will communicate to the student

Reassessment process

- In order to be entitled to participate in the reassessment activities, the student must have been previously evaluated in a set of activities whose weight equals to a minimum of 2/3 of the total score.
- To be able to participate in the reassessment process the student must have obtained a minimum mark of 3.5 on the average grade of the subject.
- In case of not having passed the set (and if it reaches a minimum of 3.5 points), there will be a reassessment of one of the two theoretical and practical tests.

This subject allows the use of AI technologies exclusively for support tasks such as bibliographic searches, text correction or translations. The student must clearly (i) identify which parts have been generated using AI technology; (ii) specify the tools used; and (iii) include if necessary a critical reflection on how these have influenced the process and final outcome of the activity. Lack of transparency regarding the use of AI in the assessed activity will be considered academic dishonesty; the corresponding grade may be lowered, or the work may even be awarded a zero. In cases of greater infringement, more serious action may be taken.

Bibliography

Ancient Greek Literature main Handbooks

EASTERLING, Patricia E.; KNOX, Bernard M. W. (eds.) (1990). *Historia de la literatura clásica (Cambridge University) I: Literatura Griega*. Madrid: Gredos.

LÓPEZ FÉREZ, José Antonio (ed.) (1988). *Historia de la literatura griega*. Madrid: Cátedra.

SIGNES CODOÑER, Juan (2019). *Breve guía de la literatura griega desde Hesíodo hasta Pletón*. Madrid: Cátedra.

Studies on ancient Greek literary genres

BUDELMANN, Felix (ed.) (2009). *The Cambridge Companion to Greek Lyric*. Cambridge; New York: Cambridge University Press.

FOLEY, John M. (ed.) (2005). *A Companion to Ancient Epic*. Oxford: Blackwell.

LÓPEZ EIRE, Antonio (1994). *Los orígenes de la oratoria y la historiografía en la Grecia clásica*. Zaragoza: Universidad de Zaragoza.

MCDONALD, Marianne; WALTON, Michael (eds.) (2007). *The Cambridge Companion to Greek and Roman Theatre*. Cambridge; New York: Cambridge University Press.

WHITMARSH, Tim (2007). *The Cambridge companion to the Greek and Roman novel*. Cambridge; New York: Cambridge University Press.

Ancient Latin Literature main Handbooks

CODOÑER, Carmen (ed.) (1997). *Historia de la literatura latina*, Madrid: Cátedra.

CONTE, Gian Biagio (2019, 3a ed.). *Letteratura latina*, 2 vols, Firenze: Le Monnier università. (Available in English a previous edition of 1987: *Latin Literature: A History*, Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1999).

HARRISON, Stephen (ed.) (2005). *A Companion to Latin Literature*, Malden, MA: Blackwell. (available online)

VON ALBRECHT, Michael (1997). *Historia de la literatura romana*, 2 vols. Herder: Barcelona.

Software

No specific software required.

Groups and Languages

Please note that this information is provisional until 30 November 2025. You can check it through this [link](#). To consult the language you will need to enter the CODE of the subject.

Name	Group	Language	Semester	Turn
(PAUL) Classroom practices	1	Catalan	second semester	morning-mixed
(TE) Theory	1	Catalan	second semester	morning-mixed