UCLouvain

lfial2150

2025

History of Humanism

5.00 credits	22.5 h	Q1

This biannual learning is being organized in 2025-2026

Teacher(s)	Ferrer-Bartomeu Jérémie (compensates Guiderdoni Agnès) ;Guiderdoni Agnès ;Smeesters Aline ;
Language :	French
Place of the course	Louvain-la-Neuve
Prerequisites	Prerequisite : basic knowledge of modern history.
Main themes	The lecture course is tailored to a diverse audience; we shall either examine essential themes (the book, the Reformation, the Great Discoveries, education, the return to Antiquity, etc.), or illustrious personalities (Petrarch, Poliziano, Erasmus, etc.), which will reveal different facets of humanism: a movement that sought to come to terms with the important transformations in what one knew about the world and the human being. The course will likewise show humanism's contribution to the different areas that now make up the Faculty of Philosophy, arts and Letters (history, philology, literature, art, etc.).
Learning outcomes	**At the end of this learning unit, the student is able to :** 1 Specifically, humanism designates the intellectual movement that restructured the image of the world and the conception of the human being in the Renaissance. The aim of the course is to study the elements that allowed and favored the emergence of such a movement, and to study the ways in which this movement attained a lasting influence.
Evaluation methods	A written exam (3 hours) with multiple-choice questions (1/3 of the score) and an open question about a document.
Teaching methods	The lecture will be given in turn by the two teachers. Several additional speakers will be invited to present some specialized issues.
Content	The notion of "humanism" will be put into question in the light of the most recent research, which enable a new definition and a new understanding of the field. After addressing some terminological issues (what is meant by "humanism" and "Renaissance"), the course will start with a chrono-geographical survey outlining the main stages of humanism in the leading European countries. Several modules will then focus on a range of concrete issues and important concepts attached to the definition of humanism: for example, humanisme and the use of Latin, humanist pedagory, religious issues, the development of exact sciences, humanist philology, Neo-Latin and vernacular literatures. Some specialised lecturers will also be invited.
Other infos	Various useful documents (PowerPoint presentations, additional reading, etc.) will be made available on Moodle throughout the term.
Faculty or entity in charge	FIAL

Programmes containing this learning unit (UE)

Program title	Acronym	Credits	Prerequisite	Learning outcomes
Master [120] in History of Art and Archaeology: Musicology	MUSI2M	5		
Master [120] in History	HIST2M	5		
Master [120] in Ancient and Modern Languages and Literatures	LAFR2M	5		
Master [120] in Ancient Languages and Literatures: Classics	CLAS2M	5		
Master [60] in History of Art and Archaeology: Musicology	MUSI2M1	5		
Master [120] in French and Romance Languages and Literatures : General	ROM2M	5		