




5.00 credits

30.0 h

Q2

This biannual learning is being organized in 2026-2027

Teacher(s)	Somers Véronique ;
Language :	French > English-friendly
Place of the course	Louvain-la-Neuve
Prerequisites	None, but a knowledge of ancient Greek is useful.
Main themes	A study of the political, administrative and fiscal system of the Byzantine Empire, from the IVth to the XVth century. The course deals with the various dimensions of the history of the Byzantine State (political, administrative, fiscal, etc.). Particular attention will be paid to the written sources (legal documents, protocols and lists of precedences, literary texts).
Learning outcomes	At the end of this learning unit, the student is able to : master the elements of the functioning of the Byzantine State. In order to achieve this, he will have mastered the various working tools, and will also be able to carry out a personal research on the Byzantine institutions.
Evaluation methods	The exam is a reading of a Byzantine text (in translation): the student selects the life of an emperor in the Chronicle of Skylitzes (in translation) and is invited to identify the institutional elements referred to in the text. The details of the exam are presented during the first class. The exam can take place in French or in English.
Teaching methods	Lectures.
Content	The Byzantine state developed a particular form of organisation. During the eleven centuries of its existence (330 AD to 1453 AD), it underwent profound modifications, starting out with a system akin to the Roman empire to arrive at a medieval system. The course will illustrate this evolution by a study of several themes, such as the role of the emperors, the administration of the territories, the financial and fiscal systems, etc. References to Byzantine sources will enable to better understand the daily functioning of the Byzantine state and to appreciate its characteristics and evolution.
Inline resources	Documentation is available to the student on the Moodle site of the course: course map, bibliography, texts of several chapters, documents.
Bibliography	Textes et matériaux fournis par l'enseignant / Texts and documents provided by the teacher.
Other infos	No prerequisite. Knowledge of Greek is not necessary for this course.
Faculty or entity in charge	EHAC

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 [60] in Ancient Languages and Literatures : Oriental Studies	HORI2M1	5		
Master [120] in Ancient Languages and Literatures: Classics	CLAS2M	5		