Université catholique de Louvain

LHIST2210 2010-2011

Codicology

5.0 credits15.0 h2qThis biannualcourse is taught on
years 2010-2011,
2012-2013, ...2012-2013, ...

Teacher(s) :	Pijcke Jacques ;
Language :	Français
Place of the course	Louvain-la-Neuve
Main themes :	The first part of the course is theoretical : it involves the examination of different stages in the composition of a code : written supports - composition of copy-books - folding the leaves - page setting - stitching and ruling - transcription methods - the copyist 's working tools- decoration and binding. Thus the course is more interested in the study of the container than the contents. With the help of facsimiles, we shall try to show the particularities a researcher may encounter in a codex while doing a codicological description. The course seeks to show the links existing between the material stages in the fabrication of a manuscript and the transmission of the texts conserved therein : the manuscript is by its essence the cultural witness to its epoch. The second part of the course is practical. Each student is asked to describe a manuscript of his choosing and to put the theoretical information that was presented during the first part of the course to work.
Aims :	By the end of instruction, students should be able to : - understand the codex as an archeological witness to our cultural past; - reconstitute the various stages in the composition of a medieval book; - point out the material indices helping us find a manuscript's origin and sometimes date it. The contribution of this Teaching Unit to the development and command of the skills and learning outcomes of the programme(s) can be accessed at the end of this sheet, in the section entitled "Programmes/courses offering this Teaching Unit".
Content :	The first part is theoretical : it consist of the examination of the codex fabrication stages (scipture supports, quires composition, pricking and ruling systems, layout, transcription methods, scribe tools, decoration and binding. The course is more focused on the material aspect than on the content. We try to show with facsimile the possible particularities of a codex dicovered during the description. We try then to establish the existing relationships between the material apects and the transmission of the conserved texts : a manuscript is by definition a cultural testimony of its period. The second part is practical. Each student must describe a manuscript of his choice with the help of all therotecical information received during the first part of the course".
Other infos :	Evaluation : One half of the evaluation bears on knowledge of theoretical fundamentals taught in the course. Codicological description of a manuscript is considered a practical exercise and constitutes the second part of the evaluation. Teaching materials : Student notes. Didactic material (videodiscs, material from the period, parchment, ruled copy-books, quill pens, elements of decoration, etc.) serve to illustrate each course. Students are invited to use as their reference manual : Introduction à la codicologie , de J. LEMAIRE (Publications de l'Institut d'Etudes Médiévales. Textes, études, congrès, 9). Louvain-la-Neuve, 1989.
Cycle and year of study :	 Master [120] in Information and Communication Science and Technology Master [60] in History Certificat universitaire en langue, littérature et civilisation latines Master [120] in History Master [120] in Ancient Languages and Literatures: Classics Master [120] in Ancient Languages and Literatures: Oriental Studies
Faculty or entity in charge:	HIST