

### COURSE UNIT DESCRIPTION

Course unit title	Research field, branch, code	Faculty	Department, Institute
Ancient (Greek and Roman) historical writing: history and theory	Philology, Linguistics, H004	Philology	Department of Classical Philology

Study cycle	3 <sup>rd</sup> (doctoral)
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Mode of delivery	ECTS credits	Type of the course unit	Language of instruction
Contact (lectures, workshops, tutorials)	8		
Individual or in a group			

#### Annotation of the course content

The origins of Western historiography: the specificity of Greek historical thinking, the links between history, oral tradition, and genres of Greek literature, the influence of Oriental culture (the Assyrian "chronicles of the kings", etc). From mythical to historical time: the 'containment' of the past and the formation of the prose narrative; the rise of the historian. Tradition and authorship in historiographical discourse; intertextuality and its relation to ancient historic. The concept of history in Greek and Roman historiography. The main historiosophic models (Herodotus, Thucydides, Xenophon, Polybius) and the methodology of historical research. The emergence of the personality as the subject of history. Historiography and politics: the search for identity and strategies of domination. History as text: narrative strategies (choice of subject and selection of material, the 'narrator' and his audience, choice of stylistic models of historical interpretation), relationship with ancient literary theory (Aristotle, Dionysius of Halicarnassus, etc.) and historiographical polemics (Plutarch, Lucian).

The main genres of ancient historiography (genealogies, *periegesis*, historical biography, memoirs, chronicles, local history, Greek history, universal history, political monographs, etc.). The canon of ancient historiography (Herodotus, Thucydides, Xenophon, Timaeus, Polybius, Diodorus, the historians of Alexander's campaigns (Arianus, Quintus Curtius Rufus, etc.), Plutarch, Gaius Julius Caesar, Gaius Suetonius Tranquillus, Gaius Salustius Crispus, Publius Cornelius Tacitus, Livy, etc.). The relationship of Roman historiography to the Greek historiographical tradition. The influence of the ancient historiographical tradition on the historiography of the Middle Ages, the Renaissance and the Enlightenment.

#### Reading

S. Hornblower, ed., 2004: *Greek historiography*. Oxford: Clarendon Press.

G. S. Shrimpon, 1997: *History and memory in Ancient Greece*. Oxford: Clarendon Press.

P. A. Brunt, 1997: *Studies in Greek history and thought*. Oxford: Clarendon Press.

A. Cameron, ed., 1989: *History as text: the writing of Ancient history*. London.

R. Mellor, 1999: *The Roman historians*. Routledge.

G. Parmeggiani, ed., 2014: *Between Thucydides and Polybius. The Golden Age of Greek historiography*. Harvard University Press.

A. Lianeri, ed., 2011: *The Western time of Ancient history: historiographical encounters with the Greek and Roman Past*. Cambridge: University Press.

A. Momigliano, 1972: „Time in Ancient historiography“, *History and Theory* 6(6): *History*



Approved by decision of Doctoral Committee (date, record No) January 13, 2023. Protocol No. (7.17 E) 15600-KT-16.

Chair of Committee Prof. Dr Meilutė Ramonienė