

COURSE OUTLINE

(1) GENERAL

SCHOOL	SCHOOL OF PHILOSOPHY		
ACADEMIC UNIT	DEPARTMENT OF PHILOLOGY		
LEVEL OF STUDIES	UNDERGRADUATE		
COURSE CODE	BYFF397	SEMESTER	5th semester onwards
COURSE TITLE	Epistolographical networks in the Palaeologan Period		
INDEPENDENT TEACHING ACTIVITIES <i>if credits are awarded for separate components of the course, e.g. lectures, laboratory exercises, etc. If the credits are awarded for the whole of the course, give the weekly teaching hours and the total credits</i>		WEEKLY TEACHING HOURS	CREDITS
Lectures and presentations		3	10
<i>Add rows if necessary. The organisation of teaching and the teaching methods used are described in detail at (d).</i>			
COURSE TYPE <i>general background, special background, specialised general knowledge, skills development</i>	Special field, development of proficiency		
PREREQUISITE COURSES:	BYFF100 «Introduction to Byzantine Literature», plus the preparatory course on Ancient Greek (AEFF 015), and BYFF101 or BYFF102		
LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION and EXAMINATIONS:	GREEK (in English for Erasmus students)		
IS THE COURSE OFFERED TO ERASMUS STUDENTS	YES		
COURSE WEBSITE (URL)	https://elearn.uoc.gr https://sso.uoc.gr/login		

(2) LEARNING OUTCOMES

<p>Learning outcomes <i>The course learning outcomes, specific knowledge, skills and competences of an appropriate level, which the students will acquire with the successful completion of the course are described.</i></p> <p><i>Consult Appendix A</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Description of the level of learning outcomes for each qualifications cycle, according to the Qualifications Framework of the European Higher Education Area</i> • <i>Descriptors for Levels 6, 7 & 8 of the European Qualifications Framework for Lifelong Learning and Appendix B</i> • <i>Guidelines for writing Learning Outcomes</i>
<p>In the current seminar we will focus on the rich epistolographic literature of the Palaeologan period, through the many extant collections of letters, primarily thus aiming to acquaint the reader with the genre in question, and the particular flourishing of it in the 13th and 14th centuries. Students who will take a place in the seminar, will get familiar with the basic features and the theory of this very popular literary genre in Byzantium, they will study the most important letter collections in the late Byzantine period, other than they will mainly be asked to portray the literary as well as the real communication between the epistolographers, as it is revealed through the epistles that they exchanged and the networks that were developed amongst them.</p>

General Competences

Taking into consideration the general competences that the degree-holder must acquire (as these appear in the Diploma Supplement and appear below), at which of the following does the course aim?

Search for, analysis and synthesis of data and information, with the use of the necessary technology	Project planning and management
Adapting to new situations	Respect for difference and multiculturalism
Decision-making	Respect for the natural environment
Working independently	Showing social, professional and ethical responsibility and sensitivity to gender issues
Team work	Criticism and self-criticism
Working in an international environment	Production of free, creative and inductive thinking
Working in an interdisciplinary environment
Production of new research ideas	Others...

- Search, analyzing, composition of data and information, by using all the required technological support
- Independent work
- Production of new research ideas
- Practice on criticism and self-criticism
- Promotion of free, creative and inferential way of thinking

(3) SYLLABUS

The axes of this class will focus on the basic features of epistolography and the particular groups of epistolographers in the period under discussion, as follows:

1. Introductory discussion: the history and the theory of the epistolographical genre.
2. Epistolographers as models of writing through the Byzantine period and changing trends in Byzantine epistolography.
3. Epistolography in the Palaeologan period. The most important figures and their letter collections. Minor letter collections.
4. The most important networks and the educational/literary circles whence epistles were exchanged.
5. The basic subjects of discussion and the thematics in letter collections of the period.
6. Nikephoros Blemmydes, the patriarch Gregory II of Cyprus, Maximos Planoudes, the patriarch Athanasios I, Manuel Moschopoulos.
7. Constantinos Acropolites, Nikephoros Choumnos, Theodore Metochites, Michael Gabras, Nikephoros Gregoras.
8. Theoleptos of Philadelpheia, Irene Eulogia Choumnaina, Gregory Akindynos.
9. Theodoros Hyrtakenos, George Lekapenos, Mathaeos of Ephesos, John Chortasmenos.
10. Demetrios Kydones, Joseph Bryennios, the emperor Manuel II Palaeologos, Manuel Kalekas, Michael Apostoles.
11. Conclusions on networks and communication via epistles in the Palaeologan period.

(4) TEACHING and LEARNING METHODS - EVALUATION

DELIVERY <i>Face-to-face, Distance learning, etc.</i>	In class
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<p>USE OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY <i>Use of ICT in teaching, laboratory education, communication with students</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teaching material (files, slides, presentations, editions, studies, monographs and articles), plus contact via the platform used for the seminar • Contact via email 											
<p>TEACHING METHODS <i>The manner and methods of teaching are described in detail. Lectures, seminars, laboratory practice, fieldwork, study and analysis of bibliography, tutorials, placements, clinical practice, art workshop, interactive teaching, educational visits, project, essay writing, artistic creativity, etc.</i></p> <p><i>The student's study hours for each learning activity are given as well as the hours of non-directed study according to the principles of the ECTS</i></p>	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="630 359 954 390">Activity</th> <th data-bbox="963 359 1286 390">Semester workload</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="630 396 954 428">Lectures</td> <td data-bbox="963 396 1286 428">39</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="630 434 954 518">Independent study and preparation for presenting relevant research</td> <td data-bbox="963 434 1286 518">105</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="630 525 954 556">Final written piece of work</td> <td data-bbox="963 525 1286 556">106</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="630 590 954 684">Total (25 working hours per credit)</td> <td data-bbox="963 590 1286 684">250</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Activity	Semester workload	Lectures	39	Independent study and preparation for presenting relevant research	105	Final written piece of work	106	Total (25 working hours per credit)	250
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<p>STUDENT PERFORMANCE EVALUATION <i>Description of the evaluation procedure</i></p> <p><i>Language of evaluation, methods of evaluation, summative or conclusive, multiple choice questionnaires, short-answer questions, open-ended questions, problem solving, written work, essay/report, oral examination, public presentation, laboratory work, clinical examination of patient, art interpretation, other</i></p> <p><i>Specifically-defined evaluation criteria are given, and if and where they are accessible to students.</i></p>	<p>Students will be rated through their participation-presence during the seminar, each week of the semester. They will contribute in the presentation of the general subject by presenting to their fellow-students a specific part of the examined material, reporting thus for the progress of their own work. Apart from the three hours week meetings, additional tutorials will support the specific treatment of each subject, while at the same time they will give the chance for clarifying specific questions for each student. After the end of the 13 weeks of the semester, students can send their final written piece of work until the end of the second week of the exams period.</p>											

(5) ATTACHED BIBLIOGRAPHY

<p>Introductory studies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - H. Hunger, <i>Βυζαντινή Λογοτεχνία. Η λόγια κοσμική γραμματεία τῶν Βυζαντινῶν</i>, v. A', Athens 1991, 301-357 (the chapter <i>Επιστολογραφία</i>) - Elizabeth M. Jeffreys-Al. Kazhdan, the entry 'Epistolography', in A. P. Kazhdan (ed.), <i>The Oxford Dictionary of Byzantium</i>, New York-Oxford 1991, v. 1, 718-720 - Margaret Mullett, the article 'Epistolography', in Elizabeth Jeffreys, J. Haldon & R. Cormack (ed.), <i>The Oxford Handbook of Byzantine Studies</i>, Oxford-New York 2008, 882-93 - Eustratios N. Papaioannou, the article 'Letter-writing', in P. Stephenson (ed.), <i>The Byzantine World</i>,

London 2010, 188-199

- N. B. Τωμαδάκης, *Βυζαντινή Έπιστολογραφία*, Athens ³1969

- Al. Riehle (ed.), *A Companion to Byzantine Epistolography*, Leiden-Boston 2020

- Al. Riehle, Epistolography, Social Exchange and Intellectual Discourse (1261-1453), in Sofia Kotzabassi (ed.), *A Companion to the Intellectual Life of the Palaeologan Period*, Leiden 2022, 211-251

Συλλογές επιστολών (επιλογή):

- Angela Constantinides (ed.), Hero, *A Woman's Quest for Spiritual Guidance: the correspondence of Princess Irene Eulogia Choumnaina Palaiologina*, Brookline, Mass. 1986

- Angela Constantinides Hero (ed.), *The Life and Letters of Theoleptos of Philadelphia*, Brookline, Mass. 1994

- G. T. Dennis (ed.), *The Letters of Manuel II Palaeologus*, Washington D.C. 1977

- A. Karpozilos (ed.), *The Letters of Theodoros Hyrtakenos. Greek Text, Translation, and Commentary*, Athens, 2017.

- P. L. Leone (ed.), *Maximi Monachi Planudis Epistulae*, Amsterdam 2001

- R. J. Loenertz (ed.), *Demetrius Cydones (Kydones), Correspondence*, τ. 1-2, Citta del Vaticano 1956-60

- D. Reinsch (ed.), *Die Briefe des Matthaïos von Ephesos im Codex Vindobonensis theol gr. 174*, Βερολίνο 1974

- Al. Riehle (ed.), *Die Briefsammlungen des Nikephoros Chumnos. Einleitung, Edition, Übersetzung*, Berlin-Boston 2023

- A.-M. Talbot (ed.), *The Correspondence of Athanasius I, Patriarch of Constantinople. Letters to the emperor Andronicus II, members of the imperial family, and officials*, Washington D.C. 1975