INTERUNIVERSITARY MASTER’S COURSE

LATIN EPIGRAPHY ON LOCATION

Royal Netherlands Institute Rome

February 27– March 8, 2015

Spring 2015, VU University Amsterdam will organise again, in close cooperation with the Royal Netherlands Institute in Rome and the Research school OIKOS, a hands-on course Latin epigraphy on location intended for MA students, ReMA students and PhDs working in the areas of Ancient History, Classics and Ancient Civilisations, Classical or Roman Archaeology, and Roman law. The course will take place in Rome from February 27 until March 8, preceded by two days of introductory classes in Amsterdam on February 12 and 13. The course offers an intensive introduction into Latin epigraphy from the Republican period up until Late Antiquity and is aimed at the acquisition and application of practical research skills in epigraphic research. The approach and focus of this course is strongly interdisciplinary with attention being paid to philological, socio-linguistic, literary, archaeological, and juridical aspects of epigraphic texts. In addition, explicit attention will be paid to the theoretical and methodological aspects of epigraphic research.

Course set up
The main part of the course is set up as a ten days’ intensive seminar which takes place at the Royal Netherlands Institute in Rome. The organisation of the course is in the hands of Dr. A.M.J. Derks (VU University Amsterdam, Archaeology) and Prof. dr. B.H. Stolte (KNIR / RUG, Faculty of Law). The language of the course will be English (unless all participants will have Dutch as their mother tongue).

The course comprises individual study and research (under supervision) in the library of the KNIR (and some neighbouring foreign institutes), alternated with lectures, and museum and site visits. On the programme are visits to the epigraphic collections of the Museo Nazionale Romano and the Musei Capitolini, a city walk along monuments with in situ preserved ancient inscriptions, and excursions to the excavations of the Roman necropolis under Saint Peter’s as well as to Ostia. The course hopes to give you insight in the research potential of epigraphic sources regarding topics as diverse as identity and the treatment of the dead, family relationships and Roman law of succession, the organization of the administration of
the Roman empire, patronage and professional colleges, content and organization of private
and public cults. During the lectures these topics will be dealt with as much as possible
through examples that we will see on the museum and site visits. For comparison also
epigraphic texts from outside Rome and Italy will be drawn in.
For the individual work each student will be assigned one or more texts (on stone or bronze)
kept in a museum or preserved in situ on an archaeological site in Rome or Ostia. By working
on your assignment you will learn to read an epigraphic text, to produce a transcription and
translation, as well as to write a short epigraphic commentary: in short you learn everything
necessary in order to be able to produce a text edition of an inscription that complies with
the conventions in the discipline. For the commentary you will be allowed to emphasise
philological, literary, archaeological or juridical aspects, according to your competences and
field of specialization.
The course’s final day will be spent on presentations and discussions of the results from the
assignments. Comments from fellow students as well as from the teaching staff need to be
taken into account in the final written report which the participants are expected to submit
no later than three weeks after conclusion of the course in Rome.

The course will start in Amsterdam with introductory lectures on the history and
organisation of the field, and a brief overview of different categories of Latin inscriptions,
alternated by small exercises which aim at a first acquaintance with the most important
corpora of Latin inscriptions in print and in digital data bases. This introduction will take
place on February 12 and 13, 2015 in the Main Building of VU University Amsterdam. In
anticipation of these introductory classes you will be asked to read a number of short
articles and chapters from edited volumes.

Target group, entry requirements and study load
The course is intended for MA students (MA and research MA) as well as PhD students who
are at the beginning of their doctorate research. The course can be taken as part of the MA
programme at the own university, as part of the OIKOS education programme and/or as part
of the MasterLanguage course for classicists (see www.masterlanguage.nl). The target group
of the course are students in Ancient History, Classics, Archaeology and Law, but others who
take a special interest in Latin epigraphy and meet the entry requirements are invited to
register as well. Part of the registration is a motivation letter in which you make clear why
you would like to take this course, what your own research is about, and what level of
command of Latin you have. While no specific knowledge of epigraphy is necessary, all
participants should at least have knowledge of Latin at the level of the Dutch VWO exam.
Each student will be assigned an epigraphic text the difficulty of which is in accordance with
his/her abilities in reading Latin; in this way the course hopes to achieve that the different
categories of participants will all learn to use epigraphic sources for their own research.

The course can take up to fifteen students. In case more candidates register, a selection will
be made whereby students from Classics who take the complete MasterLanguage course (10
ects), members of the OIKOS research school, and students from the six Dutch universities
participating in the Netherlands Institute at Rome have priority (in that order). In addition,
the motivation letter may be used as a means for selection.
The study load is the equivalent of **6 ects** (168 hours) and comprises ten full days of study in Rome and Amsterdam and some extra time for reading course materials in advance of the course as well as for writing up and editing the paper of the individual assignment after the final meeting. In consultation with the teaching staff the study load can be enlarged on an individual basis. For Masterlanguage students an additional tutorial of **4 ects** (112 hours) is available, allowing them to complete the course with a required total of **10 ects**.

**Costs**
For all participants accommodation in Rome will be arranged, either at the Royal Netherlands Institute itself or in a budget hotel elsewhere in Rome. To cover the costs of this accommodation, bursaries will be made available by the Royal Netherlands Institute, Masterlanguage, and OIKOS Research School in Classical Studies. Moreover, Masterlanguage students who successfully complete the course will be fully reimbursed for their travel costs to and from Rome (flight). Other participants who successfully complete the course may expect a partial reimbursement of travel costs. Entrance to museums and sites which we will visit as part of the course will be free. **Local transport** is at one’s own expense as are **meals and refreshments**. There is a good cooking facility in the Royal Netherlands Institute free to use for all participants.

**Registration**
- If you are interested in taking this course, you are kindly requested to register as soon as possible but in any case before **December 15, 2014** by using the standard registration form (aanmeldingsformulier KNIR-cursus) available from the website of the Royal Netherlands Institute: [www.knir.it/nl](http://www.knir.it/nl).
- Please mention the level of command of Latin (VWO exam, BA Classics, MA Classics) under “Eventuele bijzonderheden”.
- To complete your registration you will be asked to upload the **cijferlijst** of the BA programme and a letter of motivation.

**Any remaining questions? Please get in touch with:**

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<th>Dr. A.M.J. Derks</th>
<th>Prof. Dr. B.H. Stolte</th>
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<td><strong>Universitair Docent, VU Amsterdam</strong>&lt;br&gt;Faculteit Letteren,&lt;br&gt;De Boelelaan 1105&lt;br&gt;NL – 1081 HV Amsterdam&lt;br&gt;Tel.: 020-598 6438&lt;br&gt;Email: <a href="mailto:a.m.j.derks@vu.nl">a.m.j.derks@vu.nl</a></td>
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