Ancient Civilizations for the Contemporary World (Classe L-1)
Enrolled from academic year 2023/24

Degree classification - Denomination and code: L-1 Cultural heritage
Degree title: Dottore
Length of course: 3 years
Total number of credits required to complete programme: 180
Years of course currently available: 1st
Access procedures: Cap on student, student selection based on entrance test
Course code: C38

Characteristics of degree programme

General and specific learning objectives
The Bachelor's programme in Ancient Civilizations for the Contemporary World is a three-year programme, taught in English and jointly hosted by two Universities: University of Milan La Statale (the Department of Cultural Heritage and Environment as well as the Department of Literary Studies, Philology and Linguistics are involved) and University of Venice Ca' Foscari (Department of Asian and North African Studies, Department of Philosophy and Cultural Heritage, Department of Humanities).

The programme aims to provide a basic, solid knowledge and training in the management and promotion of the tangible and intangible Cultural Heritage of several civilizations of the past, which flourished in Europe, north Africa, Eastern and Western Asia.


The programme adopts an interdisciplinary approach, designed to explore the multi-faceted variety of ancient civilizations, with an emphasis on cultural intersections, contacts and tensions. This comparative approach will enable students to acquire basic know-how, breadth of vision and critical awareness, so as to address the current international debate on the relevance of studying ancient civilizations and its value for critically assessing the complexities of today's world.

Students can benefit from a wide range of expertise, research and teaching within both Universities, which are located in two exceptionally stimulating cities such as Milan and Venice. With their unique combination of tradition and innovation, past and present, ancient and modern, the two cities represent an ideal framework for studying Cultural Heritage and an exceptionally rich added value in terms of pedagogic experience.
Expected learning outcomes
Knowledge and understanding

Among the expected learning outcomes, primary importance is given to the acquisition of a basic knowledge and understanding of the different forms and languages of artistic and material production in diachrony and synchrony. Equally important is the history of the ancient civilizations covered in the programme, including the intangible aspects of their culture (literary production, philosophical thought, religious expressions, law and so on). Graduates are also expected to know and understand the fundamental practices inherent to the protection, enhancement and circulation of the Cultural Heritage as well as the theoretical cornerstones, methodological foundations and basic tools in the relevant disciplines. Students are also provided with a basic linguistic training in Ancient Greek and Latin. Each course usually includes the study of introductory elements and appropriate forms of in-depth analysis through case studies. The expected learning outcomes are achieved and assessed through multiple teaching/learning tools, such as lectures, seminars, workshops and group work. The overall assessment of knowledge and understanding is done through written or oral exams.

Ability to apply knowledge and understanding

The Bachelor's programme promotes a multidisciplinary approach, with a view to applying acquired knowledge and methodologies to different Cultural Heritage contexts. Through appropriate examples and case studies, graduates will learn how to: discuss and evaluate such issues as the different forms and languages of tangible and intangible Cultural Heritage as well as their relationship in synchrony and diachrony; analyze the cultural assets and put them in context, making use of appropriate technical terminology; read and contextualize the relevant sources (historical, philosophical, anthropological, religious, literary and legal) and apply the tools of historical-cultural investigation to various civilizations; effectively use the tools, methodologies and scientific literature used in the relevant disciplines as well as the tools of basic communication for diversified audiences. A problem-solving perspective in teaching/learning approaches will inform all courses, with a view to promoting the students active participation and helping them to apply their knowledge and understanding. An overarching goal will be to enhance such skills through internships in institutions, companies, public or private foundations that variously operate in the sector of Cultural Heritage.

Assessment will include written and oral exams as well as workshops and internships where students are expected to solve specific problems or deal with practical activities (e.g. archaeological excavation). An overall assessment of this ability is carried out through the supervised preparation and discussion of the concluding dissertation.

Making judgements, Communication, Learning Skills

Graduates are expected to know how to navigate different approaches and methodologies and how to identify consistent results; to grasp, interpret and historically contextualize the diversity and otherness of different civilizations without bias; to critically discuss the value and role of past civilizations to understand the present. Graduates will be aware of social and ethical responsibilities arising from the management of Cultural Heritage.

Furthermore, graduates will acquire specific communication skills, such as the ability of effectively interacting with the general public and various institutions in the world of Cultural Heritage; the ability of communicating with specialized operators in a clear and convincing way; the ability of explaining clearly, in written and oral form, the knowledge and methodologies they have learnt.

Moreover, graduates are expected to show a good command of their learning skills in order to further pursue their studies with a satisfactory degree of autonomy and to develop an interdisciplinary, collaborative approach. They will also possess the ability of developing questions in a clear and articulated way in order to expand and enrich their knowledge and competences.

All these skills and abilities are assessed through written or oral exams as well as through the supervised preparation and discussion of the concluding dissertation.

Professional profile and employment opportunities

The Bachelor's programme prepares graduates to find employment as Cultural Operator in charge of multifarious services such as: Responsible for the management and/or implementation of reception services at archaeological sites, museums, exhibitions, cultural associations, foundations, or similar bodies and institutions; Collaborator in the cataloging of cultural heritage in foundations, cultural associations, auction houses, or similar bodies and institutions; Assistant Curator to organize exhibitions and cultural events; Excavation Technician, Excavation Assistant and similar; Technician of museums and similar.

A curricular internship involving a specific initial training may result in further jobs such as: Collaborator of cultural volunteering networks; Art Handler in charge of Fine Arts custom operations; Fine Art Specialist in a logistics company. Furthermore, graduates will be able to find employment as Cultural Communicator and Popularizer or Consultant for the entertainment industry with a historical-cultural setting.

Finally, subject to further qualifying post-graduate training, graduate will be able to find employment as tourist guides.

Initial knowledge required

In order to be admitted to the Bachelor's programme in Ancient Civilizations for the Contemporary World, prospective students must hold an upper secondary school diploma or equivalent qualification obtained abroad after at least 12 years of schooling. More generally, an adequate educational background is required to understand the historical, cultural and methodological framework of the programme's subjects. Comprehension skills of a non-specialist literary text (in English) is
also required. A special syllabus clearly indicates a few bibliographical items that provide all relevant information to pass the admission test.

A sound knowledge of English (level B2 of the European reference framework) is also required to make the best of the programme.

Pursuant to Art. 2 of Italian Law 264/1999, the enrolment in the Bachelor's programme has a cap on student numbers. This is to ensure the feasibility of compulsory internships in organizations and companies (as required by the programme and its learning objectives) and the availability of computer workstations with suitable classroom assistance (as required by the blended teaching and learning of programme: see below).

The maximum number of students is set at 100 included a number of spots (max 10) that will be reserved for non-EU candidates residing abroad. Based on available resources, the relevant Academic bodies will determine the number of students that can enroll annually.

The admission test assesses the basic knowledge and skills required to enroll in the programme namely a general understanding of historical, cultural and methodological facts as well as a basic comprehension of a literary text (in English). Candidates should correctly answer at least 50% of the questions in each of the two areas (namely, general knowledge and reading comprehension). Students may be admitted with a lower percentage of questions in either or even in both areas, but will then have to address their shortcomings through specific training (s.c. OFA = Obblighi Formativi Aggiuntivi). This means they will have to either attend courses/workshops or prepare and pass another test within the first year of enrollment. If they fail to do so, they will not be allowed to take second-year exams. Further information on the OFA are available online at https://ancient-civilization.cdl.unimi.it.

The admission test for EU candidates comes in two sessions: the first session, in May 2023, is reserved to students attending their last year of secondary school; the second session, open to all candidates, will take place in September 2023. The selection procedure for non-EU candidates residing abroad will take place in the first session (May 2023) and will be open both to students in their last year of secondary school, and to those who already received their diploma.

English OFA

To fruitfully participate in the Bachelor's programme, students must be proficient in English at a B2 level under the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR). This proficiency level may be certified as follows:

- through a language certificate, earned within three years prior to the date of submission, at a B2 level or higher. For the list of language certificates recognized by the University, please review: https://www.unimi.it/en/node/297/ . The certificate may be uploaded while completing the enrolment procedure or at a later time through the portal http://studente.unimi.it/uploadCertificazioniLingue ;
- through a secondary school diploma with English as teaching Language. The diploma must be uploaded while completing the enrolment procedure;
- through a Placement Test, to be passed by the end of October 2023. The test is delivered online by the Language Centre of the University of Milan (SLAM). Students who fail the test will be required to take a SLAM course. The Placement Test is mandatory for all students who do not hold a valid certificate or a secondary school diploma with English as teaching language. Students who do not pass the Placement Test by October 2023 and students who, after a maximum six attempts, fail to pass the SLAM end-of-course test must obtain a recognized certificate in order to register and be allowed to sit any exam included in the programme. It cannot be overemphasized that meeting the English OFA is a mandatory condition to sit any exams included in the programme.

Compulsory attendance

Course attendance is highly recommended. Attendance of Workshops and Internships is compulsory.

Internship criteria

Internships and Workshops

Starting from the second year, the programme includes 6 ECTS for compulsory Internships and from 6 to 9 ECTS for workshops (including 3 ECTS of teaching workshop: Theories, techniques, tools for cultural communication). Information is available at https://ancient-civilization.cdl.unimi.it.

Degree programme final exams

The final exam consists in writing an essay on a topic previously agreed with a Faculty lecturer or on a specific project carried out during internship activities (under the supervision of a Faculty lecturer). The essay will be evaluated by a two-member committee. Admission is subject to the acquisition of at least 174 ECTS.

Notes

The Bachelor's programme in Ancient Civilizations for the Contemporary World is a three-year course.

Study and internships abroad

The Bachelor’s programme in Ancient Civilizations for the Contemporary World strongly supports international mobility by providing students with the opportunity to spend study and internship periods abroad. University of Milan supports international mobility through the International Agreements and Projects Office for teaching and training and of the International Mobility and International Promotion Office.
The agreements entered into by the University with over 300 universities from the 27 EU member countries under the European Erasmus+ programme allow regularly enrolled students to carry out part of their studies at one of the partner universities or to undertake internships at companies, training and research centres or other organizations.

Similar international mobility opportunities are provided outside the EU through specific agreements with a number of prestigious institutions.

Students will also have access to an extensive catalogue of online courses offered by partner universities of the 4EU+ alliance of which University of Milan is a member.

University of Venice supports international mobility through the ADiSS International Relations Office. Students benefit from the international mobility opportunities offered by Ca’ Foscari University of Venice (https://www.unive.it/pag/12577), such as:

- Erasmus+ KA 131 Programme offers the opportunity to spend a study period (from 2 to 12 months) at one of the partner universities, who have signed an agreement with Ca’ Foscari;
- Erasmus+ program KA 171 - International Credit Mobility (ICM) allows the implementation of mobility projects for study and internship outside Europe;
- Overseas programme aims to maintain Scientific and Cultural Cooperation Agreements with non-European universities for the mobility of students;
- SEMP - Swiss European Mobility Programme promotes students mobility funded by the Swiss National Agency;
- Visiting Students Programme allows students to study abroad outside the frame of the above mentioned mobility programs.

**How to participate in Erasmus mobility programs**

Students access mobility programmes through a public selection procedure. Selection committees will evaluate their Academic career, their proposed Study Plan abroad, their foreign language proficiency, and the reasons behind their application.

As for the Erasmus+ Programme Selection, the European Union contributes to cover the mobility costs of scholarship holders. University funding may further contribute to cover the costs incurred by disadvantaged students.

Students who pass selection for mobility programmes can take advantage of the intensive foreign language courses offered annually by the University Linguistic Center SLAM of University of Milan.

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### 1st COURSE YEAR Core/compulsory courses/activities common

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Learning activity</th>
<th>Ects</th>
<th>Sector</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Archaeology of Western Asia: Ancient civilizations of Mesopotamia, the Levant and the Eastern Mediterranean</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>L-OR/05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greek and Roman History</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>(6) L-ANT/02, (6) L-ANT/03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intellectual History of the Ancient Near East: the Origin of Accounting Systems in Comparative Perspective</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>L-OR/01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Introduction to pharaonic Egypt: mind and memory of an ancient civilization</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>L-OR/02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public and Community Archaeology and Digital Cultural Heritage</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>L-ANT/10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Bhagavad Gita: the Gospel of India</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>L-OR/17</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total compulsory credits: 54

### Elective courses

**1° COURSE YEAR: Students must obtain 6 CFU in one of the following subject**

- Archaeology of the Silk Road
  - available from a.a. 2024/25
  - Ects: 6
  - Sector: L-OR/16
- Classical Mythology and its Media
  - available from a.a. 2024/25
  - Ects: 6
  - Sector: M-STO/06
- Classical Wisdom in Arabic Garb
  - available from a.a. 2024/25
  - Ects: 6
  - Sector: L-OR/12

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### 2nd COURSE YEAR (available as of academic year 2024/25) Core/compulsory courses/activities common

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Learning activity</th>
<th>Ects</th>
<th>Sector</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cultural Anthropology</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>M-DEA/01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greek and Roman Art and Archaeology in the Mediterranean World</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>L-ANT/07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>History of Coins</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>L-ANT/04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Introduction to Greek Literature</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>L-FIL-LET/02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Introduction to Latin Literature</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>L-FIL-LET/04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teaching workshop: Theories, techniques, tools for cultural communication</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total compulsory credits: 42

### Elective courses

**2° COURSE YEAR: Students must obtain 12 CFU (6+6) in one of the following subject (if not already taken)**

- Archaeology of the Silk Road
  - available from a.a. 2024/25
  - Ects: 6
  - Sector: L-OR/16
- Classical Mythology and its Media
  - available from a.a. 2024/25
  - Ects: 6
  - Sector: M-STO/06
Starting from the second year, the programme includes 6 ECTS for compulsory Internships and from 3 to 6 ECTS for Training Workshops (including 3 ECTS of compulsory Workshop ‘Theories, Techniques and Tools for Cultural Communication’ see above).

Information is available at https://ancient-civilization.cdl.unimi.it

3rd COURSE YEAR (available as of academic year 2025/26) Core/compulsory courses/activities common

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Learning activity</th>
<th>Ects</th>
<th>Sector</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Art and Law</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>IUS/01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>History of Chinese and Japanese Art</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>L-OR/20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>History of Indian Art</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>L-OR/16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Introduction to Italian Literature</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>L-FIL-LET/10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total compulsory credits 30

Elective courses

3° COURSE YEAR: Students must obtain 6 CFU in one of the following subject (if not already taken)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Learning activity</th>
<th>Ects</th>
<th>Sector</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Archaeology of the Silk Road</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>L-OR/16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Classical Mythology and its Media</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>M-STO/06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Classical Wisdom in Arabic Garb</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>L-OR/12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elements of Christian Culture</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>L-FIL-LET/06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>History of Classical Tradition in European Art</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>L-ART/04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>History of Pre-Modern Science and Technology</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>M-STO/05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interculturality and exchange in Medieval Latin Literature</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>L-FIL-LET/08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Introduction to Byzantine Civilization</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>L-FIL-LET/07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Introduction to Chinese Thought</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>L-OR/21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Introduction to Japanese Culture and Literature</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>L-OR/22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Introduction to Sanskrit Culture and Literature</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>L-OR/18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Origins of Western Philosophy</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>M-FIL/06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prehistory of the Aegean and Eastern Mediterranean</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>L-FIL-LET/01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Jews: History, Culture and Religion</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>M-STO/06</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Further elective courses

Students can earn 12 credits for elective activities to be chosen among those offered by this degree programme or by other degree programmes of both Universities. If a student decides to earn elective credits, partly or in full, through courses taught in a foreign language, such language cannot be the same as the student’s own mother tongue. Students have to comply with all other obligations provided for by the academic rules of the degree programme, as laid down in art. 3.

In the context of the Bachelor’s programme in Ancient Civilizations for the Contemporary World, all students can obtain 3 ECTS by taking an exam in Additional Language Skills. Students must obtain these ECTS in a language other than their own. Students without an Italian degree or diploma must obtain 3 credits by reaching a level of proficiency in the Italian language at level A2 within the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR). This level can be assessed by the end of the degree course in one of the following ways:

- by submitting the language certificate achieved no more than three years prior to the submission, at level A2 or higher (for a list of recognized language certificates: https://www.unimi.it/en/node/349/).
- through a language test organized by SLAM, which can be taken at the beginning of every semester.

Students who fail to reach level A1 will have to attend a 60-hour Italian course organized by SLAM and to pass the final test during the 1 semester of the second year, in order to earn 3 ECTS credits of Additional Language Skills: Italian.

Additional Language Skills: Italian (3 ECTS) 3 ND
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>End of course requirements</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total compulsory credits</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>