GHENT UNIVERSITY

Course Specifications

Valid as from the academic year 2026-2027

Theories of Cultural History (A002079)

Course size *(nominal values; actual values may depend on programme)*

Credits 5.0 **Study time 150 h**

Course offerings in academic year 2026-2027

A (semester 2)	Dutch	Gent

Lecturers in academic year 2026-2027

Roose, Alexander	LW07	lecturer-in-charge

Offered in the following programmes in 2026-2027	crdts	offering
Master of Science in Teaching in Arts and Humanities (main subject History)	5	A
Master of Science in Teaching in Social Sciences(main subject Sociology)	5	A
Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Historical Perspectives)	5	A
Master of Arts in Art History, Musicology and Theatre Studies	5	A
Master of Arts in Historical Linguistics and Literature	5	A
Master of Arts in History	5	A
Master of Science in Sociology	5	A
Elective Set Critical Perspectives on Culture	5	A

Teaching languages

Dutch

Keywords

Cultural history, the early modern period, philosophy of culture

Position of the course

This course will offer a survey of twentieth-century forms of cultural-historical research and of the concepts and methodological principles supporting such research. The central focus will be on the early modern period (16th-17th centuries). The student will become acquainted with the work of a number of important thinkers who over the past decades have come to the foreground as important sources of inspiration, as well as with the specific work-method that has become institutionalised by the work of each of them.

Contents

In this course we will thoroughly familiarize ourselves with the work of a number of prominent thinkers who in their writings have dealt with the early modern period. The most important thinkers that will be dealt with are: Jakob Burckhardt, Jules Michelet, Johan Huizinga, Aby Warburg, Norbert Elias, Michel de Certeau, Hans Blumenberg, Carlo Ginzburg, N. Zemon Davis, Stephen Greenblatt, Timothy Brook.

Initial competences

The student is familiar with the principles of cultural-historical research and has also acquired insight in the specific analysis of art works and in their historical function within a cultural context.

Final competences

1 to be familiar with the work of a number of prominent historians of culture
2 to be able to compare different visions on the early modern period
3 to be able to analyse and fathom a cultural-historian analysis
4 to be able to relate the period under scrutiny with the historical moment in which it is being studied
5 to be conversant with a number of crucial concepts and explanatory models

Conditions for credit contract

Access to this course unit via a credit contract is determined after successful competences assessment

Conditions for exam contract

Access to this course unit via an exam contract is unrestricted

Teaching methods

Seminar, Lecture, Independent work

Extra information on the teaching methods

No lecture recordings are available for this course.

Study material

None

References

Cf. syllabus

Course content-related study coaching

Seminars with opportunity to ask questions and with moments of discussion.

Assessment moments

end-of-term assessment

Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the first examination period

Oral assessment

Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the second examination period

Oral assessment

Examination methods in case of permanent assessment

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment

not applicable

Extra information on the examination methods

Oral exam, based on a written paper.

Calculation of the examination mark

100% periodic evaluation

Facilities for Working Students

1. Possible exemption from educational activities requiring student attendance
2. Possible rescheduling of the examination to a different time in the same academic year
3. Alternative time for feedback is possible

For more information concerning flexible learning: contact the monitoring service of the faculty of Arts and philosophy