GHENT UNIVERSITY

Course Specifications

Valid as from the academic year 2026-2027

Medieval Society and Culture: Critical Issues and Research Methods (A006711)

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 1)	Dutch	Gent

Lecturers in academic year 2026-2027

Dumolyn, Jan	LW03	lecturer-in-charge
Deploige, Jeroen	LW03	co-lecturer
Vanderputten, Steven	LW03	co-lecturer

Offered in the following programmes in 2026-2027	crdts	offering
Bachelor of Arts in History	5	A
Linking Course Master of Arts in History	5	A
Preparatory Course Master of Arts in History	5	A

Teaching languages

Dutch

Keywords

Historiographical debates in the religious, cultural, political-institutional and socio-economic history of the Middle Ages.
Source criticism, methodology and auxiliary sciences.

Position of the course

In this course, a number of historiographical debates from medieval history are systematically linked to the study of a corpus of original sources and the methodologies and the contextual knowledge necessary to further develop these debates on the basis of these sources.

Contents

The topics dealt with in the research seminar change on a yearly basis. A number of great debates in medieval history will be studied and analysed by means of case studies based onactual source material. For the academic year 2025-2026 three themes are programmed
1) Trends versus reforms in the medieval Church and in religious life
Lecturer: Steven Vanderputten
3) Culture and religion in the medieval city
Lecturer: Jeroen Deploige
3) Social groups and craft guilds in the medieval city.
Lecturer: Jan Dumolyn

Initial competences

The students have a good basic knowledge of medieval history and of historical research practice, acquired during the courses Historical Practice II: Middle Ages and Heuristics: Middle Ages.

Final competences

1 To be able to demonstrate advanced knowledge of the historiographical debates.
2 To be able to critically evaluate existing theories and creatively connect them to original sources.
3 To be able to independently track down and process literature and sources on the subject.
4 To be able to apply auxiliary sciences, qualitative and quantitative methods to

the source material.
5 To link back to the broader debates from the primary sources.
6 To explain the results of the research orally in an academic manner.

Conditions for credit contract

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

Conditions for exam contract

This course unit cannot be taken via an exam contract

Teaching methods

Seminar, Excursion, Lecture, Independent work

Extra information on the teaching methods

• Group work: preparing a specific topic
• Peer teaching: presentation of specific topic
• Seminar: discussion
There will be no recordings of the classes available.

Study material

Type: Slides

Name: Powerpoint slides
Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty
Optional: no
Language : Dutch
Number of Slides : 300
Oldest Usable Edition : 2024-25
Available on Ufora : Yes

Type: Reader

Name: Reader
Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty
Optional: no
Language : Dutch
Number of Pages : 600
Oldest Usable Edition : 2024-25
Available on Ufora : Yes
Additional information: Literature concerning the class topics and source material abnalyzed in class

References

For each of the topic references will be put at the disposal.

Course content-related study coaching

The tutor offers a reader with relevant texts and articles on Ufora. Apart from the reader there are also powerpoint presentations.

Assessment moments

end-of-term and continuous 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

Participation

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment

examination during the second examination period is possible

Extra information on the examination methods

Presentations, paper, open questions during the exam.

Calculation of the examination mark

50% oral presentations + 50% oral exam

Facilities for Working Students

1 Student attendance during educational activities is required

2 Possible rescheduling of the examination to a different time in the same academic year
3 Feedback can be given during an appointment during and after office hours