GHENT UNIVERSITY

Course Specifications

Valid as from the academic year 2026-2027

Global Developments in Historical Perspective (A002630)

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

Credits 5.0 **Study time 150 h**

Course offerings in academic year 2027-2028

A (semester 2)	Dutch, English	Gent

Lecturers in academic year 2027-2028

Limberger, Michael	LW03	lecturer-in-charge
Guéné, Enid	LW03	co-lecturer

Offered in the following programmes in 2027-2028	**crdts**	**offering**
Bachelor of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures(main subject India)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures(main subject Japan)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in African Languages and Cultures	5	A
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
Elective Set History	5	A

Teaching languages

English, Dutch

Keywords

Global integration, history, religion, monotheism, empire, state formation, science, technology, modernisation, westernisation, imperialism, secularisation, Late Antiquity, Middle Ages, Early Modernity, Modernity

Position of the course

This advanced course aims to acquaint the students with the historical dimension of contemporary globalisation, which is defined as the increasing global integration within which structurally unequal power relations have come into being. We will especially undertake a critical analysis of the concept of 'modernity' and 'modernization'. The subject of this course follows up from the learning outcomes obtained through the course 'World History'.

Contents

This course offers a world historical perspective on the growing integration of the world. Throughout the course, a selection of global processes are defined, confirmed and/or contested as agents of continuity and change on a global level. Different angles (macro- & micro-historical, theoretical and empirical) will be adopted. The concept of modernity and the process of modernization is being reviewed diachronically and synchronically . This long-term approach enables to explain the contingency of the 'rise of the west', and the role of colonization in the process of modernization, making use of different case studies and a comparative approach of technological, economic and institutional factors.

Initial competences

- To have successfully completed the course 'Introduction to world history' or to have acquired the necessary skills by other means.
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Final competences

1 Having a substantial historical knowledge of the processes of globalisation and on the making of world economies and world-systems from the Middle Ages to the contemporary period.
2 Being able to situate current societal processes within this historical context.
3 Autonomously identifying elements of modernization and modernization theory in historical discourses.
4 Critically evaluating claims for the historic reality and robustness of these dimensions.
5 Comparing interpretations of a single process of globalisation in their respective strengths, weaknesses, and differences.

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

Lecture, Independent work

Extra information on the teaching methods

- Lectures
- Individual work: selection of articles and chapters available on Minerva.

Due to COVID-19 changes to your teaching methods can be implemented in case this is necessary.

Study material

Type: Slides

Name: Powerpoint Slides
Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty
Optional: no
Language : Dutch
Number of Slides : 400
Oldest Usable Edition : 2024-25
Available on Ufora : Yes

Type: Reader

Name: Reader
Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty
Optional: yes
Language : English
Number of Pages : 500
Oldest Usable Edition : 2024-25
Available on Ufora : Yes

References

Course content-related study coaching

Electronic support via Minerva (forums, e-mail)
Individual: by email-appointment, or during the lecturers' office hours.

Assessment moments

end-of-term assessment

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

Written assessment

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

Written assessment

Examination methods in case of permanent assessment

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment

not applicable

Extra information on the examination methods

Written exam with open questions on the subjects discussed in the lectures and in the reader.

Calculation of the examination mark

100 % periodical assessment (written exam).

Facilities for Working Students

1. Possible exemption from educational activities requiring student attendance after discussing it with the lecturer
2. Possible rescheduling of the examination to a different time in the same academic year
3. Feedback can be given by email, telephone or during an appointment during or after office hours

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