GHENT UNIVERSITY

Course Specifications

Valid as from the academic year 2026-2027

Research Seminar: Early Modern History (A004043)

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 1)	Dutch	Gent

Lecturers in academic year 2027-2028

Vermeir, René	LW03	lecturer-in-charge
Lievens, Brent	LW03	staff member

Offered in the following programmes in 2027-2028	**crdts**	**offering**
Master of Science in Teaching in Arts and Humanities (main subject History)	5	A
Master of Arts in History	5	A

Teaching languages

Dutch

Keywords

Socioeconomic history of the early modern period; cultural history of the early modern period; political-institutional history of the early modern period.

Position of the course

This course focuses on the importance of the critical study of early modern history. Students are trained to critically evaluate early modern sources, methods and concepts and to set up and conduct relevant research in this field.

Contents

The theme of the seminar varies annually in response to current research issues. After a series of thematic and interactive lessons, in which the scope of the topic will be illustrated and the main historiographical contributions analysed, the students will examine some of the main sources themselves. They will orally present the results of their research to their peers, discuss these and prepare a term paper. A more detailed description will be available via Ufora in September.

Initial competences

The students meet the final attainment level of the UGent bachelor in history. In particular they have a basic prior knowledge of early modern history.

Final competences

1 To have the ability to use advanced insights into historical conceptual frameworks (also in another language than Dutch) to analyse and evaluate new and complex ideas.
2 To have the ability to take a critical approach to the history of a particular period or subject.
3 To have the ability to originally use and deepen basic knowledge of neighbouring sciences in research and/or professional activities.
4 To have the ability to employ historical scientific methodology in research or professional activities.
5 To have general insight into the field's literature (also in another language than Dutch), and the ability to use sources (also in another language than Dutch) in an original and creative way.
6 To be able to set up historical research.
7 To have the ability to critically analyse and make original use of current national and international scientific debates in the field of history (also in another

language than Dutch).
8 To have the ability to write a relevant and coherent historical scientific research project.
9 To have the ability to independently select, correctly use and critically evaluate methods for qualitative and quantitative research.
10 To have the ability to creatively design and implement one's own historical research.
11 To possess the techniques required to independently collect, criticise, and process historical sources and literature (also in another language than Dutch), and to integrate these in a historical argument.
12 To be able to give a nuanced interpretation and correct presentation of the results of one's own research in the form of a report, thesis or article.
13 To systematically act with scientific integrity.
14 To have the ability to independently recognize the dynamics, processes and recurrences in complex historical situations.
15 To have the ability to critically reflect upon the limits of one's own skills, thoughts, and actions.
16 To be able to approach a problem systematically from multiple perspectives – multiperspectivism.
17 To have the ability to write down the results of one's own historical scientific research in a clearly structured, academically justified text, written in a clear and academically correct language.
18 To have the ability to present the results of one's own historical research, to both experts and peers, in a clearly structured oral presentation, in a clear and academically correct language.
19 To have the ability to communicate (also in another language than Dutch), collaborate and act in an inspiring, advisory or authoritative manner, depending on the situation.
20 To have the ability to undertake independent historical research, and the ability to fit into a group conducting historical scientific research.
21 To have the ability to adjust to specialist interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary professional situations.

Conditions for credit contract

Access to this course unit via a credit contract is unrestricted: the student takes into consideration the conditions mentioned in 'Starting Competences'

Conditions for exam contract

This course unit cannot be taken via an exam contract

Teaching methods

Seminar, Independent work

Extra information on the teaching methods

Lessons are a combination of thematic discussions and research practice. In the thematic discussions we reflect on secundary literature, and discuss historiographical concepts, research methods and primary sources. Subsequently students write a research paper, engaging critically with both secundary literature and primary sources. The students present their results orally to their peers, and discuss these.
No recordings will be made of these classes, as this is a seminar.

Study material

None

References

Course content-related study coaching

Ufora, individual feedback and advice.

Assessment moments

continuous assessment

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

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

Examination methods in case of permanent assessment

Participation, Peer and/or self assessment, Assignment

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment

examination during the second examination period is possible

Extra information on the examination methods

Period independent:
- Participation
- Research paper
- Oral presentation

Calculation of the examination mark

- Participation (attendance and contribution to discussions) 10%
- Other assignements 20%
- Research paper 60%
- Oral presentation 10%

NB The research paper needs to be scored at least a 10 out of 20 for the course to be passed.

Facilities for Working Students

Facilities:

1 Possible exemption from educational activities requiring student attendance
NB: this is *only* possible if discussed with the lecturer *prior* to the start of the course.

2 Feedback can be given during an appointment during or after office hours