GHENT UNIVERSITY

Course Specifications

Valid as from the academic year 2026-2027

Heuristics: Medieval History (A006732)

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

Vanderputten, Steven	LW03	lecturer-in-charge
Everaert, Janna	LW03	staff member

Offered in the following programmes in 2027-2028	**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

Historical practice, heuristics, Middle Ages

Position of the course

This advanced course wants to offer a survey of the applications of the written word in Western Europe during the medieval period. This includes a discussion of the typology, the (ideological, institutional, social...) context of creation, context of use, and context of preservation of written sources, all of which need to be studied from the perspective of broader societal and cultural developments.

Contents

- Thorough survey of the typology of written sources of the medieval period.
- Discussion of the evolution of literate behaviour in medieval society based on specialized literature.
- Discussion of contexts of creation, use, and preservation of documents by means of examples.

Initial competences

Have successfully completed the course "Introduction to Historical Research" or an equivalent course. For Erasmus students, or students who want to follow this course as a preparatory course, the lecturer is able to ascertain that they have acquired the requisite skills in another manner.
During interactive classes students will work with primary sources in Latin or in one of the medieval vernacular languages. **Although knowlege of Latin is strongly recommended, a translation in a modern West-European language (Dutch, French, or English) will be provided for each text discussed. Students are expected to master these modern languages to an extent that is sufficient to independently read and analyse these sources.**

Final competences

1 Have basic knowledge of the diverse sources and scientific literature for use in historical research and the specialist skills requisite to reading and interpreting sources.
2 Have the ability to place the result of historical research within the correct historiographical context, and initiate new research.

3 Have the ability to outline a simple strategy for historical research in the form of a step-by-step plan.
4 Have the ability to critically apply quantitative and qualitative methods and techniques.
5 Have the ability to use scientific criteria to substantiate a heuristic method and historical bibliographical research.
6 Have the ability to indicate the most appropriate types of sources relative to a specific historical research question.
7 Have the ability to contextualize historical research and one's own actions, and interpret them within a societal reference framework.
8 Have an inquiring attitude with a love of historical critique and creativity, and with a positive attitude towards lifelong learning.
9 Have the ability to summarize ongoing scientific discussions in the historiography using adequate critical apparatus.
10 Have the ability to work with one's colleagues on a project.
11 Have the ability to communicate the results of historical research with both experts and laypersons, either orally or in writing.
12 Have insight into the way in which historical scientific research works and is organized.
13 Have insight into how related human and social sciences work.
14 To have the ability to report in writing on current scientific discussions in historiography (also in another language than Dutch) using an adequate critical apparatus in a clearly structured, academically justified text, written in a clear and academically correct language.
15 To have the ability to participate actively in group discussions (also in another language than Dutch) and to communicate the results of historical research to both experts and peers in a clearly structured oral presentation, in a clear and academically correct language.
16 To have the ability to collaborate with colleagues on a project (also in another language than Dutch).

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

Lecture

Extra information on the teaching methods

Lectures, interactive classes, knowledge clips. The organization of this course and the on/offline ratio will be announced through UFORA.
No recordings will be made available for this course.

Study material

Type: Handbook

Name: Typologie en heuristiek van de bronnen voor de geschiedenis van de middeleeuwen, Gent, 2022.
Indicative price: € 20
Optional: no
Language : Dutch
Author : VANDERPUTTEN, S., HAEMERS, J., SOENS, T. en PUTTEVILS, J.,
ISBN : 978-9-40148-670-5
Number of Pages : 216
Oldest Usable Edition : 2022
Online Available : Yes
Available in the Library : Yes
Available through Student Association : Yes
Usability and Lifetime within the Course Unit : intensive
Usability and Lifetime within the Study Programme : intensive
Usability and Lifetime after the Study Programme : regularly

Type: Slides

Name: Powerpoint presentations
Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty
Optional: no
Language : Dutch
Number of Slides : 150
Oldest Usable Edition : 2024
Available on Ufora : Yes
Online Available : No
Available in the Library : No
Available through Student Association : No
Additional information: The stated number of slides is indicative and non binding.

Type: Excursion

Name: Excursion to the manuscripts room.
Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty
Optional: no

References

- GENICOT, L. and NOËL, R., *Typologie des sources du Moyen Age occidental*, Turnhout, 1972
- VAN CAENEGEM, R.C., *Introduction aux sources de l'histoire médiévale*, Turnhout, 1998.
- GOETZ, H.W., Proseminar Geschichte. Mittelalter (Uni-Taschenbücher M), Stuttgart, 2006.
- VANDERPUTTEN, S., HAEMERS, J., SOENS, T., and PUTTEVILS, J., Typologie en heuristiek van de bronnen voor de geschiedenis van de middeleeuwen, Gent, 2026.

Course content-related study coaching

During classes and through UFORA.

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

examination during the second examination period is possible

Extra information on the examination methods

Written exam.

Calculation of the examination mark

End-of-term assessment: exam (100%)

Facilities for Working Students

Facilities:

1 Possible rescheduling of the examination to a different time in the same academic year
2 Feedback can be given by email, telephone or during an appointment during office hours

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