GHENT UNIVERSITY

# Course Specifications

Valid as from the academic year 2026-2027

## Crossovers in Medieval and Early Modern Studies (A006774)

**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 (Year) | Dutch, English | Gent |

**Lecturers in academic year 2027-2028**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| van der Haven, Kornee | LW07 | lecturer-in-charge |
| Bricker, Andrew | LW07 | co-lecturer |
| Delrue, Valentine | LW03 | co-lecturer |
| Desplenter, Youri | LW07 | co-lecturer |
| Dumolyn, Jan | LW03 | co-lecturer |
| Jonckheere, Koenraad | LW17 | co-lecturer |
| Merrill, Elizabeth | TW01 | co-lecturer |
| Mondini, Sara | LW21 | co-lecturer |
| Van Oostveldt, Bram | LW17 | co-lecturer |

| **Offered in the following programmes in 2027-2028** | **crdts** | **offering** |
|---|---|---|
| Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Historical Perspectives) | 5 | A |

**Teaching languages**

English, Dutch

**Keywords**

Medieval Period; Early Modern Period; Interdisciplinarity; Independent primary source research

**Position of the course**

This course aims to further deepen students' methodological and theoretical knowledge and skills in the study of the Middle Ages and the early modern period by establishing cross-connections between different disciplines within this research field and the theoretical frameworks introduced by the lecturers.

**Contents**

Through a series of lectures and seminars, the course offers students insight into recent research trends, approaches, and theoretical concepts applied in the study of the Middle Ages and the early modern period. Students are introduced to a range of disciplines within this field, including literary and linguistic studies, history, theatre studies, cultural history, art history, philosophy, and art history. A shared theme in the lecture series (such as emotions, materiality, landscape, or performance) helps students compare different approaches and develop a cross-over between at least two disciplines. The course is designed to familiarise students with interdisciplinary research practices within the research groups represented by the lecturers, in particular GEMS and the Henri Pirenne Institute. In 2026-2027 the topic is: Materiality, Material Culture and Materialist Approaches.

**Initial competences**

1 Familiar with the methodological principles within one of the disciplines involved (literary studies, linguistics, architecture, (cultural) history, art history, theatre studies, regional studies).

2 Ability to formulate a research question and approach within one of the disciplines involved (literary studies, linguistics, architecture, (cultural) history, art history, theatre studies, regional studies).

3 Ability to conduct independent research into (historical) sources.

**Final competences**

1 Ability to clearly demonstrate advanced knowledge and understanding of the interdisciplinary approach within the research field of medieval and early modern studies.
2 Ability to combine at least two disciplines within medieval and early modern studies when conducting their own source-based research.
3 Ability to integrate methodological and theoretical insights from at least two involved disciplines
4 Ability to engage in an academic dialogue with specialists from at least two different disciplines, integrating their feedback through an interdisciplinary approach.

**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, Lecture, Independent work

**Extra information on the teaching methods**

In the first semester, students are introduced through a series of lectures to the various disciplines involved in the study of the medieval and early modern periods. During seminars, students work under the guidance of the lecturers on the theoretical and methodological frameworks presented in the lectures and seminars, using concrete case studies. The final three weeks of the first semester are devoted to self-study. In consultation with the lecturer-in-charge, students select a case study, such as a poem, an archival document, a musical score, an architectural drawing, a script, or a painting, to which an interdisciplinary approach is applied based on at least two disciplines, including discipline of their bachelor's programme.
This research itself is carried out through self-study and in consultation with at least two lecturers, each representing one of the selected disciplines, at the first half of the second semester. The final outcome is presented during two workshops after the Easter break in the form of an oral presentation, with feedback from lecturers and fellow students.
There will be no recordings of the lextures or seminars.

**Study material**

Type: Reader

Name: Reader
Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty
Optional: no
Online Available : Yes

**References**

-

**Course content-related study coaching**

During lectures, students may pose questions to the lecturers, whereas in seminars guidance is provided either in group settings or on an individual basis. During the period of independent study, students may consult two lecturers for individual feedback.

**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, Presentation, Assignment

**Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment**

examination during the second examination period is possible in modified form

**Extra information on the examination methods**

During the workshops after the Easter break, students present an example of a primary source analysed from the perspective of at least two of the disciplines involved in the course. During the workshop, each student provides feedback on the work of at least two other students. The written preparation for the presentation consists of a description of the source and a short explanation of 1,000 words outlining the chosen interdisciplinary approach and the outcomes of the research. After the presentation, this written preparation is revised and expanded into a more extensive reflection of approximately five pages (1,500 words) on the research conducted and the interdisciplinary approach adopted. Together with a portfolio in which the student describes the steps taken in the research process, this extended reflection is assessed as part of the written assignment, after which an oral examination takes place

**Calculation of the examination mark**

Written assignment 30%, oral examination 40%, participation (feedback on fellow students' work) 10%, oral presentation 20%.
Retake: written assignment 50% and oral examination 50%.

**Facilities for Working Students**

1. Student attendance is required for the classes during which students are expected to give an oral presentation. For the other casses, exemptions are possible via an extra reading list and at least two written assignments.
2. Possible rescheduling of the final examination (oral exam) to a different time in the same academic year, but only after handing in the written assignments and giving the oral presentation.
3. Alternative time for feedback