GHENT UNIVERSITY

Historical Criticism (A000186)

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

   Credits 3.0   **Study time** **90 h**

Course offerings and teaching methods in academic year 2023-2024

A (semester 1)	Dutch	Gent	lecture

Lecturers in academic year 2023-2024

Van Sumere, Caroline	LWO3	staff member
Dumolyn, Jan	LWO3	lecturer-in-charge

Offered in the following programmes in 2023-2024	**crdts**	**offering**
Bachelor of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures(main subject Arabic and Islamic Studies)	3	A
Bachelor of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures(main subject China (China Track))	3	A
Bachelor of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures(main subject China (UGent Track))	3	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Dutch - English)	3	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Dutch - French)	3	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Dutch - German)	3	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Dutch - Greek)	3	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Dutch - Italian)	3	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Dutch - Latin)	3	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Dutch - Spanish)	3	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Dutch - Swedish)	3	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject English - German)	3	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject English - Greek)	3	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject English - Italian)	3	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject English - Latin)	3	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject English - Spanish)	3	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject English - Swedish)	3	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject French - English)	3	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject French - German)	3	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject French - Greek)	3	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject French - Italian)	3	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject French - Latin)	3	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject French - Spanish)	3	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject French - Swedish)	3	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject German - Greek)	3	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject German - Italian)	3	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject German - Spanish)	3	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject German - Swedish)	3	A
Bachelor of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures(main subject India)	3	A
Bachelor of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures(main subject Japan)	3	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Latin - Greek)	3	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Latin - Italian)	3	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Latin - Spanish)	3	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Latin - Swedish)	3	A
Bachelor of Arts in African Languages and Cultures	3	A

(Approved)

Bachelor of Arts in Archaeology	3	A
Bachelor of Arts in Art History, Musicology and Theatre Studies	3	A
Bachelor of Arts in East European Languages and Cultures	3	A
Bachelor of Arts in History	3	A
Bachelor of Arts in Moral Sciences	3	A
Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy	3	A
Bachelor of Science in Political Science	3	A
Bachelor of Science in Sociology	3	A
Linking Course Master of Arts in Gender and Diversity	3	A
Linking Course Master of Arts in History	3	A
Preparatory Course Master of Arts in East European Languages and Cultures	3	A

Teaching languages

Dutch

Keywords

Handling sources critically, history

Position of the course

This general introductory course wants to provide insight into the subsequent stages of historical research: what is a source? How can one judge the authenticity of a source? How to handle contradicting sources concerning the same phenomenon? Finally, this course gives an overview of historical synthesis and historiography.

Contents

The course presents a method to deal critically with the flow of information which confronts the present day consumer of information, it also illustrates in which way a similar situation was at stake at different moments in the past. How to search for sources, how to deal critically with them, and above all: how to react if sources contradict each other? How to proceed from a confrontation of contradicting sources concerning the same phenomenon, to an almost certain interpretation, as close as possible to reality? In the process the motives which led to the line of reconstructed events receive as much attention. In a second part, the course focuses on the historical synthesis, the way in which past generations have constructed their past. The development of history as a autonomous science is also dealt with: in which way did ideology, politics and philosophy shape the image of the past? All theories are illustrated with practical examples. The course in itself has a honourable history and has now presents a methodological approach not only for obvious reasons of great importance to historians, but also to other fields of study among humanities and social sciences.

Initial competences

- To have an elementary insight in historical developments.
- To have a standard language knowledge (Dutch, French, English, German).

Final competences

1 To manage contradictions in both sources and information in general scientifically.
2 To recognise different visions on history as grown through different historical periods.
3 To handle sources critically.
4 To evaluate and contextualise historical research.
5 To distinguish the way in which historical schools have tackled the range of motives to explain human action throughout history.

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

Access to this course unit via an exam contract is unrestricted

Teaching methods

Lecture

Extra information on the teaching methods

Forced by the number of students (till 2003-04 yearly ca. 1800 students): lectures, students however have the possibility to ask questions (in written form, during and after class, through email). Practical examples are integrated in the courses, so called cases.

Learning materials and price

Handbook: '*Historici en hun métier. Een inleiding tot de historische kritiek*', fourth revised edition was published in 2015 by Academia press, Gent. To be completed with notes taken by the students during course and electronically offered illustrations, concerning the examples (these can change each year in function of topical events). Cost: 24.00 €

References

See: leermateriaal (handbook).

Course content-related study coaching

For practical problems and questions concerning the content of the course, students can refer to both the faculty's student assistant and the teacher. Feedback after exams is done in cooperation with drs. Caroline Van Sumere, assistant from the department history.

Assessment moments

end-of-term assessment

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

Written assessment with multiple-choice questions, Written assessment with open-ended questions

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

Written assessment with multiple-choice questions, Written assessment with open-ended questions

Examination methods in case of permanent assessment

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment

not applicable

Extra information on the examination methods

Assessment moment
Periodical (100%).
Assessment form
Written. The exam wants to evaluate different abilities: knowledge of theory (multiple choice questions concerning the handbook); capability to synthesize (open question concerning one of the cases dealt with in the course); insight (open question concerning an unknown text). Shortly before the last lesson, a try-out examination is organised, students therefore are confronted before the real examination with the kind of questions asked, on the faculty's website examples of questions are to be found.

Calculation of the examination mark

Half of the credits (10 out of 20) to be acquired via the multiple choice questions ; second half via the 'open' questions (5 out of 20 for the question linked to the case ; 5 out of 20 for the free question concerning an unseen text.

Facilities for Working Students

Facilities:
1 Possible exemption from educational activities requiring student attendance; a task is imposed in substitution
2 Possible rescheduling of the examination to a different time in the same academic year
3 Feedback can be given during an appointment during or after office hours
For more information contact the monitoring service of the faculty of Arts and philosophy: https://www.ugent.be/lw/nl/student/studiestudentenbegeleiding/trajectbegeleiding.htm