

## History of Belgium (A000256)

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

Credits 5.0 Study time 150 h

**Course offerings and teaching methods in academic year 2026-2027**

|                |       |      |         |
|----------------|-------|------|---------|
| A (semester 2) | Dutch | Gent | lecture |
| B (semester 2) | Dutch | Gent |         |

**Lecturers in academic year 2026-2027**

|                    |      |                    |
|--------------------|------|--------------------|
| Vandersmissen, Jan | LW03 | staff member       |
| Mestdagh, Eline    | LW03 | lecturer-in-charge |

**Offered in the following programmes in 2026-2027**

|   | crdts | offering |
|---|-------|----------|
| <a href="#">Bachelor of Arts in History</a>   | 5     | A        |
| <a href="#">Bachelor of Science in Communication Science</a>  | 5     | A        |
| <a href="#">Bachelor of Science in Public Administration and Management</a>   | 4     | B        |
| <a href="#">Bachelor of Science in Sociology</a>  | 5     | A        |
| <a href="#">Master of Science in Teaching in Languages (main subject African Languages and Cultures)</a>                        | 5     | A        |
| <a href="#">Master of Science in Teaching in Arts and Humanities (main subject Archaeology)</a>                                 | 5     | A        |
| <a href="#">Master of Science in Teaching in Arts and Humanities (main subject Art History, Musicology and Theatre Studies)</a> | 5     | A        |
| <a href="#">Master of Science in Teaching in Languages (main subject East European Languages and Cultures)</a>                  | 5     | A        |
| <a href="#">Master of Science in Teaching in Languages (main subject Oriental Languages and Cultures)</a>                       | 5     | A        |
| <a href="#">Linking Course Master of Arts in History</a>  | 5     | A        |
| <a href="#">Preparatory Course Master of Arts in History</a>  | 5     | A        |
| <a href="#">Elective Set History</a>  | 5     | A        |
| <a href="#">Elective Set Political Sciences</a>   | 5     | A        |

### Teaching languages

Dutch

### Keywords

History of Belgium in the context of the development of the Western World and with the internal cleavages of Belgian society as a starting point

### Position of the course

This basic course teaches students how contemporary Belgian society is the historical outcome of economic, social and political developments.

### Contents

In this course, Belgian history is taught chronologically and thematically starting from the traditional cleavages (socio-economic – religious/ideological – linguistic/regional). Students know the major social, political and institutional processes that are active in the socio-political history of Belgium since the end of the 18th century up to present and are able to place this within an international context. The interference of international developments (wars, colonization and decolonization, migration) in Belgian history are the occasion to elaborate on global history. The students are able to demonstrate how the three major fracture lines have determined Belgian history and how new fracture lines take shape from the 1960s on.

They are also able to apply this basic knowledge to current situations and debates via a case study on a specific topic from the Belgian past and the societal memory linked to it. Students process a 'historical dossier' regarding aspects of Belgian collective memory, connected to themes dealt with during the course. They also search and add other relevant materials to this dossier.

#### **Initial competences**

To have reached the final attainment levels of the subject 'history' in Flemish secondary education (or a comparable level)

#### **Final competences**

- 1 To have a frame of reference of Belgian history in an international perspective.
- 2 To be able to situate the main points of the social, political and institutional processes which have shaped the socio-political history of Belgium since the late 18th century in an international context.
- 3 To understand how the three main breaks (socio-economical, ideological, lingual-communal) have influenced Belgian history.
- 4 To have an insight into general developments within Belgian history.
- 5 To be able to link the knowledge of and insights into the history of Belgium to current events and trends.
- 6 Have advanced insight into the use of the historical terminological framework for analyzing and evaluating new and complex ideas.
- 7 Have insights into the history of the Low Countries and of Belgium in the international context.
- 8 To critically evaluate current social problems and ideas from a historical perspective.
- 9 Interpret current developments from a historical-comparative perspective.
- 10 To apply digital methods, tools and strategies during a research process (discover).

#### **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**

- Lectures with educational conversations which give a thematic and diachrone overview of Belgian history, combined with an in-depth elaboration on some themes in particular.
- Guided self-study on some themes in Belgian history, including collective memory and contemporary societal debates.

#### **Study material**

Type: Handbook

Name: Een geschiedenis van België

Indicative price: € 35

Optional: no

Language : Dutch

Author : Gita Deneckere, Bruno De Wever, Tom De Paepe

ISBN : 978-9-40146-130-6

Number of Pages : 400

Alternative : Els Witte, Jan Craeybeckx & Alain Meynen, Political history of Belgium: from 1830 onwards

Oldest Usable Edition : edition 2020 and later, Academia Press

Online Available : No

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 : regularly

Usability and Lifetime after the Study Programme : occasionally

**Type: Slides**

Name: course slides  
Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty  
Optional: no  
Language : Dutch  
Available on Ufora : Yes  
Online Available : No  
Available in the Library : No  
Available through Student Association : No

**Type: Reader**

Name: Collective memory file about a theme from the history of Belgium  
Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty  
Optional: no  
Language : Dutch  
Available on Ufora : Yes  
Online Available : No  
Available in the Library : No  
Available through Student Association : No  
Additional information: Documentation file containing a selection of academic texts, press articles and audiovisual material (documentary, podcast, etc.)

**References**

- E. Witte, J. Craeybeckx, A. Meynen, *Politieke geschiedenis van België van 1830 tot heden*. Antwerpen, Standaard, 2016 (8ste herziene uitgave of recenter).
- Theo Luykx en Marc Platel, *Politieke geschiedenis van België*, 1985 (2 delen)
- *Nieuwe Geschiedenis van België* (Tielt, 3dln., 2005-2009)
- Xavier Mabille, *Histoire politique de la Belgique: facteurs et acteurs de changement* (Brussel, 2011).
- Rik Coolsaet, *België en zijn buitenlandse politiek, 1830-2000* (Leuven, 2014).
- Marc Reynebeau, *De eeuw van België* (Tielt, 1999), *Een geschiedenis van België* (Tielt, 2003) en *De geschiedenis van België in woord en beeld* (Tielt, 2005).
- *Biographie Nationale* en *Nouvelle Biographie Nationale* (<http://www.academieroyale.be>).
- *Nationaal Biografisch Woordenboek* (<http://www.kvab.be/publicaties/nbw.htm>)

**Course content-related study coaching**

Tutor Jan Vandersmissen  
Contact and support via email and Teams.

**Assessment moments**

end-of-term assessment

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

Written assessment with open-ended questions

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

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**

Written exam with 4 open questions (on the basis of textbook, powerpoints, classes and historical memory dossier)

**Calculation of the examination mark**

Periodical (100%)

**Facilities for Working Students**

1. Possible rescheduling of the examination to a different time in the same academic year
2. Feedback can be given by email or during an appointment.
3. Classes are recorded and made available via the online learning platform

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