

History of the Middle Ages (A000977)

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 excursion
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Lecturers in academic year 2026-2027

Deploige, Jeroen	LW03	lecturer-in-charge
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Offered in the following programmes in 2026-2027

	crdts	offering
Bachelor of Arts in Art History, Musicology and Theatre Studies	5	A
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
Elective Set History	5	A

Teaching languages

Dutch

Keywords

Middle Ages, history

Position of the course

This introductory course aims to provide insight into the historical developments that took place in Europe and surrounding regions between approximately 400 and 1500, and to highlight the significance of these developments for the further course of history up to the present day.

Contents

Overview of the history of Europe and surrounding regions during the Middle Ages. The course focuses primarily on the broad outlines and major developments in medieval history, rather than on detailed factual knowledge. Emphasis is placed on the interaction between political, institutional, economic, social, religious, and cultural factors, and on the question of how the Western European Middle Ages—and the West's encounters with both the Byzantine Empire and the Islamic world—contributed to Europe's role in the increasing globalization of later periods. Each theme covered is introduced through a recognizable medieval reference in the present-day cityscape of Ghent. From this concrete and familiar point of departure, the topic is expanded to explore the wider European medieval context. The contemporary relevance of the Middle Ages is also addressed through discussions based on recent news articles.

Initial competences

Final attainment level of history education in Flemish Secondary schools

Final competences

- 1 To have knowledge of and a critical understanding of historical conceptual frameworks, as well as of historical facts and explanations.
- 2 To possess a thorough frame of reference for the medieval history of Europe and its surrounding regions (Byzantine Empire, world of Islam etc.).
- 3 To have knowledge of and insight into long-term developments within various thematic domains of medieval history, including social-economic, cultural,

ecological, and political 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

Excursion, Lecture

Extra information on the teaching methods

- Lectures (recordings temporarily available for working students, students with overlaps in their course schedule and for students who are absent for medical reasons)
- Excursion: visit to the City Museum or city walk
- Independent work: relating the medieval history of Ghent to the course

Study material

Type: Handbook

Name: Wim Blockmans, Peter Hoppenbrouwers, Eeuwen des onderscheids. Een geschiedenis van middeleeuws Europa (Amsterdam: Bert Bakker, 2016 - 8ste editie)

Indicative price: € 55

Optional: no

Language : Dutch

ISBN : 978-9-04465-634-3

Number of Pages : 688

Alternative : Wim Blockmans, Peter Hoppenbrouwers, Introduction to Medieval Europe, 300-1500 (London/New York: Routledge, 2023 – 4de editie)

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

Additional information: Students who have to retake the course and still possess the 8th fully revised 2016 edition of the Dutch-language textbook (or a later edition) may continue to use this version (provided they pay attention during class to any minor differences).

Type: Slides

Name: slides

Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty

Optional: no

Type: Excursion

Name: Visit STAM

Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty

Optional: no

References

Course content-related study coaching

Contact hours with the lecturer, sample exam, feedback after the exam.

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

not applicable

Extra information on the examination methods

Assessment moment

Periodical: exam (100%).

Assessment Form

Written exam with open questions.

Calculation of the examination mark

Facilities for Working Students

Facilities:

- 1 Absence is permitted. Supporting course materials are provided (slides, temporarily available lecture recordings).
- 2 Possibility to take the exam at a different time within the regular examination period.
- 3 Possibility of receiving feedback by appointment during and outside office hours.

Extra information:

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