

## Methodology of History: Palaeography with Close Reading (A001009)

Due to Covid 19, the education and evaluation methods may vary from the information displayed in the schedules and course details. Any changes will be communicated on Ufora.

<b>Course size</b>	<i>(nominal values; actual values may depend on programme)</i>			
<b>Credits</b> 5.0	<b>Study time</b> 150 h	<b>Contact hrs</b>	60.0 h	
<b>Course offerings and teaching methods in academic year 2022-2023</b>				
A (year)	Dutch	Gent	guided self-study	15.0 h
			lecture	15.0 h
			seminar: coached exercises	30.0 h

### Lecturers in academic year 2022-2023

Van Sumere, Caroline	LW03	staff member
De Paermentier, Els	LW03	lecturer-in-charge
Desplenter, Youri	LW07	co-lecturer
Roose, Alexander	LW07	co-lecturer
Van Acker, Marieke	LW06	co-lecturer
van der Haven, Kornee	LW07	co-lecturer

Offered in the following programmes in 2022-2023	crdts	offering
<a href="#">Bachelor of Arts in Archaeology</a>	5	A
<a href="#">Bachelor of Arts in Art History, Musicology and Theatre Studies</a>	5	A
<a href="#">Bachelor of Arts in History</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

### Teaching languages

Dutch

### Keywords

Palaeography, historical methodology, 'deciphering' of historical handwritten texts, 13th to 20th centuries

### Position of the course

This basic course offers an introduction to the 'deciphering' and understanding of handwritten documents in vernacular (Dutch and French) dating from the Middle Ages up to the 20th century. Special attention goes to the historical context of the selected sources. The course also teaches some basic rules for editing historical texts.

### Contents

The course mainly focuses on the deciphering and close reading of a set of about 20 sample texts written in various script types (posed and cursive handwritings). During the lessons, main attention goes to particular palaeographical challenges with regard to abbreviations, letter forms, punctuation, numerals and specific terminology. In each lesson one text fragment is read aloud in class. The remaining text part is to be transcribed individually at home by the students. Students who send their complete transcription to the teachers will receive the correct version in return. In addition to the texts treated in class, four to six compulsory transcription exercises are to be made.

The most ancient documents are linguistically analyzed and explained in a separate teaching

module (second term).

### **Initial competences**

Have a good knowledge of Dutch and French.

### **Final competences**

- 1 Have proficient knowledge of the terminological framework with regard to components of letters, types of abbreviations and numerals.
- 2 Have insight into the methodology of history.
- 3 Have a basic knowledge of the diversity of sources and academic literature (also in another language than Dutch) used in historical research and the specialist skills required to read and interpret sources (also in another language than Dutch).
  - Have basic knowledge of the evolution of writing in the Latin alphabet from the twelfth to the twentieth century;
  - Have basic knowledge of Middle French and Middle Dutch grammar and lexicon for analyzing and understanding historical vernacular texts.
- 4 Have the ability to set up a simple historical research strategy in the form of a roadmap. Have the ability to decipher handwritten documents in the vernacular (Dutch and French) independently. Have the ability to transcribe historical handwritten texts according to the rules of the Royal Historical Commission.
- 5 Have the ability to indicate the most appropriate types of sources relative to a specific historical research question.
- 6 Have the ability to use scientific criteria to justify heuristic methods and bibliographical research in the field of history.
- 7 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.
- 8 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.
- 9 Have the ability to work with one's colleagues on a project (also in another language than Dutch).
- 10 Have insight into how archives and heritage institutions work.

### **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**

Guided self-study, lecture, seminar: coached exercises

### **Extra information on the teaching methods**

- Interactive seminars taught separately to two groups of students (23 lessons)
  - Guided independent work: transcription of remaining text sections which were not treated in class, compulsory online tutorials with self-correction tool; additional online tutorials available to prepare the texts that will be discussed in class.
  - Theoretical lecture 'Palaeography' (1 lesson, first term)
  - Lectures 'Close reading' (12 lessons, second term)
- Because of COVID19, modified teaching forms can be rolled out if this proves necessary, more detailed information will then be provided by Ufora.

### **Learning materials and price**

All learning material is available on Ufora. No additional costs.

### **References**

### **Course content-related study coaching**

Students have permanent access to the teachers and assistant teachers by email or in person by appointment.

### **Evaluation methods**

end-of-term evaluation and continuous assessment

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

Written examination

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

Written examination

**Examination methods in case of permanent evaluation**

Participation

**Possibilities of retake in case of permanent evaluation**

not applicable

**Extra information on the examination methods**

**Periodical assessment (90%):** written examination, consists of questions related to the teaching module of 'Palaeography' (transcription of a text fragment treated in course and of an unseen text fragment) and questions related to the teaching module of 'Close reading' (questions related to Middle Dutch and Middle French texts treated in class).

**Non-periodical assessment (10%):** participation in course, completing the additional compulsory transcription exercises (four to six online tutorials)

**Calculation of the examination mark**

Periodical assessment: 90%

Non-periodical assessment: 10%

**Facilities for Working Students**

Facilities:

- 1 Possible exemption from educational activities requiring student attendance; an alternative task will be assigned
- 2 Possible rescheduling of the examination to a different time in the same academic year (in case of an overlapping in the exam schedule)
- 3 Feedback can be given by email or by appointment during office hours

Extra information:

Regular training and communication with the lecturers and assistants is indispensable. For all classes involving 'close reading' it is important to have good notes.

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