

Methodology of History: Palaeography with Close Reading (A001009)

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 2023-2024

A (Year)

Dutch

Gent

lecture

independent work

seminar

Lecturers in academic year 2023-2024

Van Sumere, Caroline

LW03

staff member

De Paermentier, Els

LW03

lecturer-in-charge

Roose, Alexander

LW07

co-lecturer

Uyttersprot, Veerle

LW07

co-lecturer

Van Acker, Marieke

LW06

co-lecturer

van der Haven, Kornee

LW07

co-lecturer

Offered in the following programmes in 2023-2024

crdts

offering

[Bachelor of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures\(main subject Arabic and Islamic Studies\)](#)

5

A

[Bachelor of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures\(main subject China \(China Track\)\)](#)

5

A

[Bachelor of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures\(main subject China \(UGent Track\)\)](#)

5

A

[Bachelor of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures\(main subject India\)](#)

5

A

[Bachelor of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures\(main subject Japan\)](#)

5

A

[Bachelor of Arts in African Languages and Cultures](#)

5

A

[Bachelor of Arts in Archaeology](#)

5

A

[Bachelor of Arts in Art History, Musicology and Theatre Studies](#)

5

A

[Bachelor of Arts in East European Languages and Cultures](#)

5

A

[Bachelor of Arts in History](#)

5

A

[Bachelor of Arts in Moral Sciences](#)

5

A

[Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy](#)

5

A

[Linking Course Master of Arts in History](#)

5

A

[Preparatory Course Master of Arts in History](#)

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

Seminar, Lecture, Independent work

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.

Assessment moments

end-of-term and continuous 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

Participation

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment

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