

Historical Anthropology: Middle Ages and Early Modern Period (A002713)

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	excursion seminar lecture
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Lecturers in academic year 2026-2027

Deploige, Jeroen	LW03	lecturer-in-charge
Van Bruaene, Anne-Laure	LW03	co-lecturer

Offered in the following programmes in 2026-2027

	crdts	offering
Master of Science in Teaching in Arts and Humanities (main subject Archaeology)	5	A
Master of Science in Teaching in Arts and Humanities (main subject History)	5	A
Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature (main subject Historical Perspectives)	5	A
Master of Arts in Art History, Musicology and Theatre Studies	5	A
Master of Arts in Historical Linguistics and Literature	5	A
Master of Arts in History	5	A

Teaching languages

Dutch

Keywords

Historical anthropology, cultural history

Position of the course

In this course unit, students gain insight into the integration of various humanities disciplines, and in particular (cultural) anthropological research questions and methods, into the cultural-historical study of the Middle Ages and the early modern period. The course unit is situated within the tradition of historical anthropology and the new cultural history as developed since the late 1980s.

Contents

Seminars that focus on key themes from historical anthropology and cultural history through case studies. These case studies place particular emphasis on the confrontation between interdisciplinary theoretical literature and empirical research. Some examples of topics that may be addressed include:

- group cultures
- cultural appropriation
- perceptions of death
- rituals
- leisure
- animals
- drinking
- gender
- religious violence
- emotions
- memory
- ...

Initial competences

The students have a solid basic knowledge of Western European history, acquired during their Bachelor's program.

Final competences

- 1 To have an advanced critical understanding of the historical conceptual framework, as well as of historical facts and interpretations.
- 2 To be able to apply knowledge and insights from related social and human sciences, anthropology in particular, to historical research and/or professional activities.
- 3 To be able to critically analyze, contextualize, and integrate historiographical debates within historical anthropology and cultural history into research.
- 4 To be able to make self-critical and value-aware judgments about historical issues and systematically approach problems from multiple perspectives (multiperspectivism).
- 5 To be able to correctly interpret and use historical sources and scholarly literature in Dutch and other languages—at least English and French.
- 6 To be aware of and to be able to critically reflect on the complexity of history, recognizing that every perspective on the past is bound by place and time and is never value-free.

Conditions for credit contract

Access to this course unit via a credit contract is determined after successful competences assessment

Conditions for exam contract

This course unit cannot be taken via an exam contract

Teaching methods

Seminar, Excursion, Lecture, Independent work

Extra information on the teaching methods

- Lecture, including guest lecture (no lecture recordings)
- Seminar: discussion of specific case studies
- Excursion to a historical site or museum
- Independent work: written preparation for seminars

Study material

Type: Slides

Name: Slides

Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty

Optional: no

Language : Dutch

Available on Ufora : Yes

Type: Reader

Name: Reader

Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty

Optional: no

Language : Other

Available on Ufora : Yes

Type: Handouts

Name: Sources

Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty

Optional: no

Language : Other

Available on Ufora : Yes

References

See reading list on Ufora

Course content-related study coaching

Ufora website, lecturers' office hours, feedback after the exam

Assessment moments

end-of-term and continuous assessment

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

Oral assessment

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

Oral assessment

Examination methods in case of permanent assessment

Assignment

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment

examination during the second examination period is possible

Extra information on the examination methods

- Continuous assessment: written preparation (1 A4 page) for the seminars
- End-of-term assessment: 2 open questions and 2 detailed questions

Calculation of the examination mark

Continuous assessment: weekly preparations: 20%

End-of-term assessment: exam: 80%

Facilities for Working Students

Facilities:

- 1 Attendance is required in order to successfully complete the course
- 2 Possibility to take the exam at an alternative time within the regular exam period
- 3 Possibility for feedback by appointment during and outside 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>