

## Oral History (A004003)

**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 2025-2026

A (semester 2)

Dutch

Gent

practical  
seminar

### Lecturers in academic year 2025-2026

Stichelbaut, Vital

LW03

staff member

Aerts, Koen

LW03

lecturer-in-charge

Wouters, Nico

LW03

co-lecturer

### Offered in the following programmes in 2025-2026

[Bachelor of Arts in History](#)

**crdts**

**offering**

5

A

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

5

A

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

5

A

### Teaching languages

Dutch

### Keywords

Historical methodology

Qualitative methodology

Autobiographical memory

Collective memory

### Position of the course

Oral history is method of historical research using autobiographical memory of eyewitnesses as historical source.

### Contents

The first part of the course provides a theoretical introduction to the method. The genesis and development of oral history is discussed, as well as the strengths and weaknesses of the method. The functioning of individual and collective memory in relation to a historical research question is discussed. Furthermore, an overview of the fields of application is given.

The second part of the course is a practical application of the method to a specific case that relates to current historical research. Students are expected to study the case, to find and interview respondents with a certain profile, and to transcribe and disclose the interview.

In a critical reflection on their own experience with oral history, students link the first to the second part.

### Initial competences

### Final competences

- 1 To have insight into the methodology of history, in casu oral history
- 2 To have basic knowledge about the diversity of sources and scientific literature used for historical research, and to master the specific skills to read and interpret sources.
- 3 To critically apply quantitative and qualitative methods and techniques.
- 4 To appreciate the importance of scientific integrity.
- 5 To contextualize and interpret historical research and one's own historical

actions within a social framework.

- 6 To interpret contemporary developments from a historical-comparative perspective.
- 7 To display cultural sensitivity, respect for diversity, and the ability to reflect about continuity and change in a long-term perspective.
- 8 To have insight into the workings of archives and heritage institutions.

#### **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**

Seminar, Practical

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

Methodology instructed in lectures, seminars and practical classes is applied in independent work

#### **Study material**

Type: Other

Name: Travel costs

Indicative price: € 10

Optional: no

Language : Dutch

Additional information: Interview with one respondent

#### **References**

Thompson with Joanna Bornat. *The Voice of the Past : Oral History*. 4rd ed. Oxford: Oxford university press, 2017.

Perks, Robert & Thomson, Alistair. *Oral History Reader*. 3rd. ed. Taylor & Francis, 2015.

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

During the consultation hours of the teachers or after appointment. Can also be done via MS-Teams or by phone

#### **Assessment moments**

continuous assessment

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

Assignment

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

Assignment

#### **Examination methods in case of permanent assessment**

Assignment

#### **Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment**

not applicable

#### **Extra information on the examination methods**

The paper consists of a report and critical reflection on the preparation, conducting and accessing interviews and integrating oral sources into a historical research project + the results of participation in the project itself (including interviews, transcripts).

#### **Calculation of the examination mark**

assignment: 100%

#### **Facilities for Working Students**

Feedback on demand

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

