

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 2024-2025

A (semester 2)

Dutch

Gent

practical
seminar

Lecturers in academic year 2024-2025

Aerts, Koen

LW03

lecturer-in-charge

Offered in the following programmes in 2024-2025

[Bachelor of Arts in History](#)

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

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

crdts

offering

5

A

5

A

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

