

Introduction to Historical Research (A004006)

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 1)

Dutch

Gent

seminar

independent work

lecture

excursion

practical

Lecturers in academic year 2024-2025

Belaen, Johan

LW03

staff member

N., N.

staff member

Slotman, Dineke Riët

LW03

staff member

Vandersmissen, Jan

LW03

staff member

Verboven, Koenraad

LW03

lecturer-in-charge

Offered in the following programmes in 2024-2025

[Bachelor of Arts in History](#)

crdts 5

offering A

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

5

A

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

5

A

Teaching languages

Dutch

Keywords

Introduction to historical research; bibliographies and databanks; critical apparatus; academic writing.

Position of the course

This introductory course is intended to familiarize students with the basic skills necessary for independent historical research. This class interacts closely with the Practical History I courses (from among which each student must select one). The skills developed lay the groundwork for the various Practical History courses and, ultimately, the master's thesis.

Contents

- Learning how to develop a good research question
- Learning how to develop a good search strategy via the use of printed and online bibliographies, repertories and databanks
- Learning how to develop an adequate critical apparatus (footnotes, source overview, and bibliography)
- Learning about scientific communication (reading and writing)
- Becoming familiar with archives and research libraries

Initial competences

No specific prior knowledge is required. However, the students may be asked to take a preparatory exam in order to determine their own level.

Final competences

- 1 Be able to formulate a research question
- 2 Be able to collect sources and literature in a scientifically valid fashion
- 3 Be able to put together a critical apparatus

4 Be able to write – in competent Dutch – abstracts and short reviews of scientific articles in Dutch and English

5 Know how archives and libraries function and be able to use them to obtain the right information

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, Excursion, Lecture, Practical, Independent work

Extra information on the teaching methods

Lectures supported with Power Points and the Digital Platform.

Assignments to complete during and after the lectures, both in groups and individually. A portion of the assignments will be carried out in the PC classroom. The assignments will be closely supervised and guided by the instructors and teaching assistants in a practical setting.

Excursion to an archive and/or library.

Independent work to improve writing skills.

Because of COVID19, modified teaching forms can be rolled out if this proves necessary, more detailed information will then be provided by Ufora.

Study material

None

References

See the Digital Platform, which is continually being updated.

Course content-related study coaching

Intensive supervision by teaching assistants, with support from *Taalonthaal*.

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, Assignment

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment

not applicable

Extra information on the examination methods

Permanent: small assignments that in total will account for half of the final grade. Participation in the offered activities is included. The grade from the first exam period will be carried over into the second exam period. This means that there is no second chance for this partim.

Periodical: written exam in which knowledge, insight and skills are tested. In case of failure, the exam may be sat again in the second exam period.

Calculation of the examination mark

50% permanent, 50% periodic

Facilities for Working Students

Accommodations:

1. Possibility of attendance exemption, with replacement assignments in consultation with the lecturer
2. Possibility of completing exams at a different time within the academic calendar
3. Possibility of receiving feedback via appointment during or outside of office hours