

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

Dubois, Marie-Charlotte

LW03

staff member

Paeps, Philippe

LW03

staff member

Slotman, Dineke Riët

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 databases;
critical apparatus;
academic writing;
data management

Position of the course

This introductory course aims to teach students basic skills needed to critically read academic publications, conduct historical research, and communicate the results to academic and non-academic audiences.

There is strong interrelation with the courses Historical Practice I and Introduction to Historical Criticism.

The skills developed further underpin the various Methodological and Practice courses in the later years of the program, including the Bachelor's ("Historical Practice III") and the Master's thesis.

Contents

Skills:

- How to formulate good research problems with corresponding research questions
- How to develop good search strategies to find information
- How to critically read, analyze and summarize short academic publications
- How to communicate in writing in academically correct Dutch

Knowledge:

- Knowledge of and familiarity with major bibliographic resources (including library

catalogs), repertories and databases

- Knowledge of and familiarity with basic principles of an adequate critical apparatus (footnotes, survey of sources and bibliography)
- Familiarity with archives and academic libraries.
- Familiarity with basic principles of data management

Attitudes:

- Being constructively critical of the opinions and interpretations of others
- Substantiate own opinions with empirical observations and logical arguments

Initial competences

No specific prior knowledge is required.

The course assumes that students have acquired the general educational goals of cross-domain subjects in the third grade of secondary education, especially regarding "historical awareness," "learning competencies," and Dutch, French and English language skills.

Students are encouraged to assess their own level through a preparatory test.

Final competences

- 1 You know and have an understanding of different source types and literature
- 2 You know how archives and libraries function
- 3 You can request desired information from archives and libraries
- 4 You know the quality criteria that scientific problem statements and research questions must meet
- 5 You can correctly apply in your own work the quality criteria that scientific problem statements and research questions must meet
- 6 You know the selection criteria for the collection of sources and literature
- 7 You can correctly apply in your own work the selection criteria for the collection of sources and literature
- 8 You can prepare a critical apparatus both manually and with appropriate software
- 9 You know the scientific integrity criteria that historical research must meet
- 10 You can correctly apply in your own work the scientific integrity criteria that historical research must meet
- 11 You recognize and understand the key statements and arguments in scientific articles in Dutch, French and English.
- 12 You can communicate in writing, in your own work, in your own words, in academic Dutch and for a large audience the key statements and arguments in scientific articles in Dutch, French and English
- 13 You are constructively critical towards opinions and interpretations of others.
- 14 You always try to found your own opinions and interpretations with correct reading or observations of information, and with sound arguments.

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

The lectures are supported by PowerPoint and the digital learning platform.

Participation and interaction is encouraged through the use of interactive, digital tools.

During the work lectures and practical sessions, students carry out assignments, under the guidance of the lecturer, educational supervisor and assistants.

Lectures and seminars may be preceded or followed by additional assignments that students must complete independently (e.g., completing digital learning paths independently).

In addition, students complete larger individual and group assignments in which the core skills, including language skills, of this course are practiced.

To encourage meta-reflection on the assessment criteria, students evaluate each other's work through peer feedback.

Excursions are provided to an archive and to the university library.

Study material

Type: Syllabus

Name: Introduction to Historical Research

Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty

Optional: no

Language : Dutch

Available on Ufora : Yes

Type: Slides

Name: Powerpoints used in class

Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty

Optional: no

Language : Dutch

Oldest Usable Edition : 2024-2025

Available on Ufora : Yes

Type: Other

Name: Citation guide Department of History

Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty

Optional: no

Language : Dutch

Oldest Usable Edition : 2024-2025

Available on Ufora : Yes

Additional information: Guide with a citation style based on the Chicago Manual of Style. The guide has to be followed by students for all assignments in this course and is recommended for use also in the later years of the curriculum.

References

All necessary references and learning materials are provided via the electronic learning platform.

Course content-related study coaching

Intensive supervision by the educational supervisor and (teaching) assistants.

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

examination during the second examination period is possible in modified form

Extra information on the examination methods

Non-periodic

- Papers: discussion and analysis, individual and in group, of scholarly articles and AI generated summaries; for the second term, group assignments are replaced by one individual assignment
- Participation: participation in the working lectures, with submission of results at the end of the class; submission of intermediate assignments; participation in group assignments. The score of the first examination period is reused for the second.

Periodic:

- Written exam with open questions, in which knowledge, insight and skills are assessed. If unsuccessful, this exam may be retaken in second sitting.

Calculation of the examination mark

40% papers, 10% participation, 50% periodical

Facilities for Working Students

Accommodations:

- 1 Possibility of exemption from attendance with substitute assignment in consultation with the instructor
 - 2 Possibility of examination at another moment in the academic year
 - 3 Possibility of feedback by appointment during and after office hours
- For more information regarding flexible study:<http://www.flw.ugent.be/flexibelstuden>