

Heuristics: Modern and Contemporary History (A004016)

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 2023-2024

A (semester 1)

Dutch

Gent

lecture

seminar

group work

independent work

Lecturers in academic year 2023-2024

Verbeke, Davy

LW03

staff member

Velle, Karel

LW03

lecturer-in-charge

Offered in the following programmes in 2023-2024

[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

19th-20th century, archives, Belgian society, actors, information sources and the places where these sources are found

Position of the course

With this educational part we want to contribute to increasing the general scientific competences of students.

This is a basic introductory course and wants to enable students to:

- acquire in-depth knowledge of actors of society, information sources and their location within the Belgian context since 1789;
- be able to collect relevant data (analogue and digital) and to develop a research strategy regarding topics and fields of issues related to contemporary history and this both analogous and digital;
- learn to assess and value methodological problems, uncertainty and the limits of knowledge;

Contents

The content of the curriculum consists of an as extensive as possible typological overview of:

- 1 the institutions of contemporary history, their relations and the context in which they acted and carried out duties;
- 2 the available analogue, digitized and born-digital information sources (independent of their form, structure or content) and their location.

Initial competences

To have successfully completed the course "Introduction to Historical Research (or Historical Practise 1: general introduction to practicing history) and "Historical Practice 1: Excercise", or to have acquired the necessary skills by other means.

Final competences

- 1 To be able to independently do research with respect to the Contemporary times and to develop an efficient research strategy.
- 2 To be able to critically reflect on the aspects of a given research subject and to identify, name, evaluate and elucidate the diversity of aspects of issues and topics within their

historical context.

- 3 Be able to link aspects of societal issues to actors of society.
- 4 To be able to draw up a reasoned typology of the information producers and of analogue, digitized and born-digital sources of the Contemporary Times and their location
- 5 To be able to set up a simple research strategy (step by step plan).
- 6 To be able to identify simple methodological issues and challenges.
- 7 To apply digital methods, tools and strategies during a research process (discover, source criticism).

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

Group work, Seminar, Lecture, Independent work

Extra information on the teaching methods

- lectures (ex cathedra);
- one lecture that discloses the make-up and demonstrates the usage of the central learning instrument 'The Green Bible' (lecture: plenary exercises)
- solving cases and issues by the lecturer or together that are related to the taught subject matters (lecture: plenary exercises + seminar);
- archival source workshops during which students study given source types and at the end of which they give a brief presentation for their peers (group work + microteaching)
- discussing current historical research issues (seminar);
- feedback in class about reading carried out individually (guided self-study);
- collective solving of example final exams (lecture: plenary exercises + seminar)

Learning materials and price

The manual P. Van den Eeckhout en G. Vanthemsche (red.), *Bronnen voor de studie van het hedendaagse België, 19de-20ste eeuw*, Brussel, Koninklijke Commissie voor Geschiedenis, 2017, 3de uitgebreide uitgave ('Groene Bijbel').

Estimated total price: 30,00 euros.

References

Websites and other digital sources mentioned.

Course content-related study coaching

coaching during the lessons or by e-mail, consultation by appointment; supervision during the exercises

Assessment moments

end-of-term assessment

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

Written assessment with open-ended questions

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

Written assessment with open-ended questions

Examination methods in case of permanent assessment

Participation

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment

not applicable

Extra information on the examination methods

Periodical assessment moment (100%)

Written exam. This is an open book exam. The first part consists of about 10 closed questions and is in line with the intended competences. Students are tested on knowledge several information producers, sources, the places where they are to be found and the usability for historical research. In the second part, the students have to demonstrate their insight into the course matter. Students are expected to be able to give the following elements of a given research subject: the diverse aspects of the subject, the organisations and persons which have possibly created information on these aspects, the sources of information and the places they are to be found and finally the possible methodological problems posed by the research.

Calculation of the examination mark

100% periodical examination (open book)

Facilities for Working Students

Facilities:

- 1 Student attendance during educational activities is required
- 2 Possible rescheduling of the examination to a different time in the same academic year
- 3 Feedback can be given during an appointment after 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>