

## Historical Practice I - Middle Ages (A004024)

**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 (Year)

Dutch

Gent

group work

independent work

seminar

lecture

**Lecturers in academic year 2024-2025**

Everaert, Janna

LW03

staff member

Vanderputten, Steven

LW03

lecturer-in-charge

**Offered in the following programmes in 2024-2025**

[Bachelor of Arts in History](#)

**crdts**

5

**offering**

A

**Teaching languages**

Dutch

**Keywords**

Historical practice, exercise of history, Medieval history

**Position of the course**

This course aims to introduce students to the elementary principles of historical research into medieval society. Emphasis is laid on the development of an adequate thesis statement, assembling a representative bibliography, and presenting one's results in an adequate written form. The final objective is to teach the student specific research skills aimed at carrying out research independently and successfully.

**Contents**

The central theme of this course is '**Diversity and societal relevance of the religious life in the early and high Middle Ages**'.

During the **First Term** students learn where and how to find literature, how to define adequate research questions, how to compose a representative bibliography, how to make good reading notes, how to critically read a scholarly article, and how to work with and interpret medieval primary sources.

The classes of the **Second Term** mainly focus on the process of writing an individual research paper, for which the students choose a source fragment.

Students will be expected to carry out several assignments that will be calculated into the end score.

**Initial competences**

- To have an elementary insight into historical developments; to have reached the final attainment levels of the subject 'history' in Flemish secondary education (or a comparable level).
- To be able to write texts in clear and correct Dutch.
- To have sufficient (passive) working knowledge of French, English, and German.
- Knowledge of Latin is recommended but not required.

**Final competences**

- 1.6. Have insight into the methodology of history.
- 1.7. Have basic knowledge of the diverse sources and academic literature (also

in another language than Dutch) for use in historical research and the specialist skills requisite to reading and interpreting sources (also in another language than Dutch).

- 3 2.1. Have the ability to initiate problem-oriented historical research.
- 4 2.2. Have the ability to assess and employ the results of historical research (also in another language than Dutch) and to place them in the correct national and international historiographical context.
- 5 2.3. Have the ability to set up a simple historical research strategy in the form of a roadmap.
- 6 2.4. Have the ability to critically apply quantitative and qualitative methods and techniques.
- 7 2.5. Have the ability to indicate the most appropriate types of sources relative to a specific historical research question.
- 8 2.6. Have the ability to use scientific criteria to justify heuristic methods and bibliographical research in the field of history.
- 9 2.7. Have the ability to interpret, evaluate, and report on extant research (also in another language than Dutch) and on one's own initial research or research plans.
- 10 2.8. Be conscious of the importance of scientific integrity.
- 11 3.1. Have the ability to critically reflect upon the role of global perspectives, the dynamics of processes, and patterns in historical situations.
- 12 3.4. To have an inquiring attitude with an aptitude for historical critique and creativity, and with a positive attitude towards lifelong learning.
- 13 4.1. Have the ability to report in writing on current scientific discussions in historiography (also in another language than Dutch) using an adequate critical apparatus in a clearly structured, academically justified text, written in a clear and academically correct language.
- 14 4.2. Have the ability to participate actively in group discussions (also in another language than Dutch) and to communicate the results of historical research to both experts and peers in a clearly structured oral presentation, in a clear and academically correct language.
- 15 4.3. Have the ability to collaborate with colleagues on a project (also in another language than Dutch).
- 16 6.1. Have insight into the way in which historical scientific research works and is organized.
- 17 6.2. Have insight into how related human and social sciences function.
- 18 6.3. Have insight into how archives and heritage institutions work.

#### **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**

Group work, Seminar, Lecture, Independent work

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

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**

Type: Handbook

Name: Typologie en heuristiek van de bronnen voor de geschiedenis van de middeleeuwen, Gent, 2022.

Indicative price: € 20

Optional: no

Language : Dutch

Author : VANDERPUTTEN, S., HAEMERS, J., SOENS, T. en PUTTEVILS, J.

ISBN : 978-9-40148-670-5

Number of Pages : 216

Alternative : Online via lib.ugent.be.

Oldest Usable Edition : 2022

Online Available : Yes

Available in the Library : Yes

Available through Student Association : Yes  
Usability and Lifetime within the Course Unit : intensive  
Usability and Lifetime within the Study Programme : intensive  
Usability and Lifetime after the Study Programme : intensive

Type: Slides

Name: Powerpoint presentations  
Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty  
Optional: no  
Language : Dutch  
Number of Slides : 150  
Available on Ufora : Yes  
Online Available : No  
Available in the Library : No  
Available through Student Association : No  
Additional information: Number is indicative.

## References

Steven Vanderputten, Jelle Haemers, Tim Soens en Jeroen Puttevils, *Typologie en Heuristiek van de bronnen voor de geschiedenis van de middeleeuwen*, Gent, 2022.  
Steven Vanderputten, *Medieval Monasticisms: Forms and Experiences of the Monastic Life in the Latin West*, Berlijn, 2020.

## Course content-related study coaching

First semester: group assignments with permanent guidance, collective feedback, individual feedback after class and by appointment.  
Second semester: collective feedback, weekly office hours, individual feedback by appointment.

## Assessment moments

continuous assessment

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

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

## 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

## Calculation of the examination mark

100% non-periodical evaluation based on:

- Participation during class and intermediary compulsory assignments and presentations (40%).
- Final individual paper (60%)

The deadlines for both the smaller assignments and the paper have to be strictly respected. The paper, written in the second semester, is the most important assignment of the course, because it reflects all of the competences that have been acquired during the first semester via the lectures, seminars and small class assignments. For this reason, it is impossible to pass this course if the student has not received a pass grade for the paper assignment. If the student does not pass the paper, but receives a mathematical pass grade for the whole course (10/20 or more), this score will be automatically reduced to 9/20. If the student receives a pass grade for the paper, but fails (some of) the other assignments, he/she can still pass the course if the total score is a pass.

## Facilities for Working Students

Facilities:

- 1 Possible exemption from educational activities requiring student attendance; a task is imposed in substitution of the group tasks and the presentations
- 2 Possible rescheduling of the examination to a different time in the same academic year
- 3 Feedback can be given by email or by appointment

