GHENT UNIVERSITY

Course Specifications

Valid as from the academic year 2023-2024

Historical Practice I: Early Modern History (A004025)

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	independent work
			lecture

Lecturers in academic year 2024-2025

Collijs, Martijn	LW03	staff member
Everaert, Janna	LW03	staff member
Vanden Broecke, Steven	LW03	lecturer-in-charge

Offered in the following programmes in 2024-2025	**crdts**	**offering**
Bachelor of Arts in History	5	A

Teaching languages

Dutch

Keywords

Historical practice, seminar, early modern period

Position of the course

Organization of this course in the academic year 2021-2 is **contingent on** the allocation of educational support to this course.
This is a practical course which aims to introduce the students to basic research skills for the study of Early Modern History (ca. 1450-1750). Special attention is paid to the following: (1) Understanding the specific aims of historical research; (2) Understanding the diverse strategies through which historical literature attains these goals; (3) Understanding the role of interpretation, research questions and models in setting up historical research; (4) Mastering basic terminology of historical research; (5) Mastering efficient reading and note-taking practices in relation to historical literature; (6) Mastering efficient heuristic strategies for historical literature, and use of library collections; (7) Learning how to formulate a research question; (8) Learning how to answer a research question through historical research on primary sources; (9) Learning how to report research results in a logically structured and clearly articulated research paper.

Contents

- We focus on a specific theme in early modern history (c. 1400-1800 CE), to be announced at the beginning of the academic year. The instructor provides a basic set of research instruments.
- Each student completes a number of intermediate assignments and writes a final paper, in which the aforementioned aspects of historical research are practised.

Initial competences

- Having an elementary knowledge of historical developments
- Having a working passive knowledge of Dutch, English, French
- Having sufficient skills for writing clear and correct Dutch, English, or French (grammar, syntax, vocabularium)

Final competences

1 Having a basic knowledge of the diversity of sources and scientific literature for a specific historical research topic.
2 Being able to clearly and correctly synthesise the results of existing historical research in a *status quaestionis*.

3 Being able to work out a basic historical argument in a *story board*.
4 Being able to formulate a sufficiently limited research question concerning a specific historical topic.
5 Being able to build a correct and sufficiently relevant bibliography by means of a satisfactory heuristic strategy.
6 Mastering the different parts of a research paper, as well as their specific functions and sub-parts.
7 Being able to guarantee the credibility of a research paper through footnotes and a matching bibliography.

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

Lecture, Practical, Independent work

Extra information on the teaching methods

in-class plenary exercises 15h
in-class practical exercises 15h
autonomous exercises 20h
tutored autonomous study 20h
research project 80h

Study material

None

References

Course content-related study coaching

The Dept. of History provides teaching assistance.

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 in modified form

Extra information on the examination methods

If the student obtains a fail grade for an assignment, a resubmission can be done to obtain a pass.
No oral or written exam. Final grades are calculated on the basis of intermediate assignments, class participation, and quality of the final paper.

Calculation of the examination mark

100% permanent evaluation on the basis of:
-intermediate assignments (40%): mandatory participation to the in-class sessions and feedback sessions
-scientifically argued research paper (60%)
Students must complete all assignments in order to pass for this course. Deadlines are strictly observed. The final paper is the most important assignment: this is why one cannot pass for this course without passing for the final paper. If a student obtains a fail grade for the final paper but an overall pass grade for the course, the latter grade is automatically reduced to 9/20.

Facilities for Working Students

It is possible to:
-be excused from mandatory participation in in-class sessions by the teacher
-obtain feedback via email and after appointment

-submit assignments on alternative dates