

## 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**

Everaert, Janna

LW03

staff member

Vanden Broecke, 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, seminar, early modern period

**Position of the 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, vocabulary)

**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**

Type: Slides

Name: Slides for each teaching session

Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty

Optional: no

Type: Reader

Name: Extensive online and in-library collection of basic research tools

Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty

Optional: no

Type: Handouts

Name: Frequent hand-outs

Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty

Optional: no

Additional information: Sample student assignments; sample primary and secondary sources

#### **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

(Approved)

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