

## Research Seminar: City History (A004046)

**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 2026-2027**

A (semester 1)

Dutch

Gent

independent work

lecture

seminar

**Lecturers in academic year 2026-2027**

Vrints, Antoon

LW03

lecturer-in-charge

Dumolyn, Jan

LW03

co-lecturer

Van Bruaene, Anne-Laure

LW03

co-lecturer

Zuiderhoek, Andries Johan

LW03

co-lecturer

**Offered in the following programmes in 2026-2027**

[Master of Science in Teaching in Arts and Humanities \(main subject History\)](#)

crdts 5

offering A

[Master of Arts in Art History, Musicology and Theatre Studies](#)

5

A

[Master of Arts in History](#)

5

A

**Teaching languages**

Dutch

**Keywords**

urban history, comparative history, urbanisation

**Position of the course**

In this comparative-historical research seminar, students gain familiarity with the methodology, concepts and topics of urban history throughout the periods of classical antiquity, the middle ages, the early modern era and modern times.

**Contents**

This is a research seminar that relates to ongoing research by staff and (where possible) to the topics of the students' MA theses.

- Introductory lecture(s), sometimes guest lectures by experts in the topic or theme
- Seminars based on (discussion of) research concerning the central theme of the course, and the students' own research.

**Initial competences**

The students meet the final attainment level of the UGent bachelor in history. In particular, they have a good prior knowledge of the socio-economic, political and cultural history of the historical periods concerned and are acquainted with the techniques of historical criticism.

**Final competences**

- 1 Have the ability to take a critical approach to the history of a particular period or subject.
- 2 Have the ability to employ historical scientific methodology in research or professional activities.
- 3 To have general insight into the field's literature (also in another language than Dutch), and the ability to use sources (also in another language than Dutch) in an original and creative way.
- 4 To have the ability to critically analyse and make original use of current national

and international scientific debates in the field of history (also in another language than Dutch).

- 5 Have the ability to write a relevant and coherent historical scientific research project.
- 6 Have the ability to independently select, correctly use and critically evaluate methods for qualitative and quantitative research.
- 7 Have the ability to design and implement one's own historical research in a creative manner.
- 8 Have the techniques requisite to independently collect, critique, and handle historical sources and literature (also in another language than Dutch), and to integrate them into a historical argument.
- 9 To have the ability to write down the results of one's own historical scientific research in a clearly structured, academically justified text, written in a clear and academically correct language
- 10 To have the ability to present the results of one's own historical research, to both experts and peers, in a clearly structured oral presentation, in a clear and academically correct language.
- 11 Have the ability to undertake independent historical research, and the ability to fit into a group conducting historical scientific research.

#### **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**

Seminar, Lecture, Independent work

#### **Study material**

Type: Other

Name: Individual discussion papers

Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty

Optional: no

Available on Ufora : Yes

#### **References**

Miko Flohr & Arjan Zuiderhoek (eds.), *A Companion to Cities in the Greco-Roman World*. Hoboken, NJ (Wiley Blackwell) 2024.

Peter Clark, *European Cities and Towns, 400-2000*. Oxford (OUP) 2009.

Peter Clark (ed.), *The Oxford Handbook of Cities in World History*. Oxford (OUP) 2013.

#### **Course content-related study coaching**

Interactive support via Ufora and individual supervision by electronic appointment from the academic staff.

#### **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

#### **Extra information on the examination methods**

During the course the students give an oral presentation (either individually or in small groups, depending on class-size) on a research topic connected to the theme of the research seminar. Each presentation is followed by a group discussion in class in which all students participate (based on weekly small preparatory assignments). Subsequently students individually write a research paper on a subtheme or element of the presentation, based on further research into the

scholarly literature and historical source materials.

**Calculation of the examination mark**

Oral presentation 30%, preparatory assignments and class participation 10%,  
individual research paper 60%

**Facilities for Working Students**

Facilities:

- 1 Possible exemption from educational activities requiring student attendance,  
with compensatory assignment
- 2 Feedback can be given by appointment during and after office hours, or via e-  
mail

Extra information:

For more information concerning flexible learning: contact the monitoring service  
of the faculty of Arts and philosophy