

The Middle Ages and the Modern World (A004065)

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 2025-2026

A (semester 1)

Dutch

Gent

excursion

lecture

peer teaching

independent work

Lecturers in academic year 2025-2026

Fieremans, Niels

LW03

lecturer-in-charge

Dumolyn, Jan

LW03

co-lecturer

Offered in the following programmes in 2025-2026

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

5

A

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

5

A

[Master of Arts in History](#)

5

A

Teaching languages

Dutch

Keywords

Middle Ages, medievalism, reception history, instrumentalisation of the past, uses and abuses of the past, heritage and society

Position of the course

This course introduces students to medievalism, the study of how modern society has remembered, interpreted and appropriated the Middle Ages from the Renaissance to today.

Contents

By means of seminars, collective and individual readings, excursions and guest lectures, the course will discuss the following topics:

- The impact of historical events, cultural movements, ideological movements on scholarly and popular perceptions of medieval society and culture.

- The way medieval history and culture are mobilized in contemporary ideologies, popular culture, city-marketing and tourism.

- The way in which medieval heritage is dealt with, given meaning and made accessible.

- The survival of material relics, architecture, iconographic sources and other direct testimonies from the Middle Ages in contemporary society.

- Modern media and scholarly presentation techniques and their impact on the study of medieval society.

Initial competences

The module is intended for holders of a Bachelor degree in History or equivalent, as well as students who otherwise hold an understanding of the general developments in medieval and modern history and the related historiography.

Final competences

- 1 Have the ability to analyze new and complex historical insights from within the epistemology of history, societal conceptions, and ethical views.
- 2 Have a reflective and critical attitude that demonstrates historical scientific curiosity, pluralism and a positive attitude towards lifelong learning.
- 3 Have the ability to integrate cultural sensitivity and historical consciousness into a scientific work.
- 4 Have the ability to critically assess social issues and contemporary views and contextualize them historically in scientific work.
- 5 Have the ability to write about one's own historical scientific research in a justified, scientific report, thesis, or article.

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

Access to this course unit via an exam contract is unrestricted

Teaching methods

Excursion, Lecture, Independent work, Peer teaching

Extra information on the teaching methods

Seminars: discussions of specific case studies, introduced by the (guest) lecturers.

Microteaching: presentations by the students based on individual reading of relevant literature (individually or in small groups, depending on the total number of students).

Excursion(s) to specific heritage institutions, monuments, cities

Independent work as part of an individual assignment.

Study material

Type: Syllabus

Name: Vademecum

Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty

Optional: no

Available on Ufora : Yes

Online Available : Yes

Type: Slides

Name: Slides

Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty

Optional: no

Available on Ufora : Yes

Online Available : Yes

References

- *The Cambridge companion to Medievalism*, ed. by Louise D'Arcens, Cambridge University Press, 2016.
- Tommaso Di Carpegna Falconieri, *Médiéval et militant : penser le contemporain à travers le Moyen Âge*, Brepols, 2015.

Course content-related study coaching

Specific questions can be asked during the lecturers' office hours.

Ufora learning environment.

Assessment moments

end-of-term and continuous assessment

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

Oral assessment

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

Oral assessment

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

Participation: contribution to discussions and microteaching

Paper: assignment following own research interests

Oral exam

Calculation of the examination mark

Participation: 20%

Assignment: 30%

Exam: 50%

Both PE and NPE are compulsory. If one does not participate in the evaluation of one of these components, one cannot pass the entire course unit and the final grade, if higher than 7/20, will be reduced to the highest non-delibrable grade (7/20).

Facilities for Working Students

- Possible rescheduling of the examination to a different time in the same academic year
- Feedback can be given by email, telephone or during an appointment during or after office hours