

Sociopolitical History (A004068)

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 (semester 1)

Dutch

Gent

independent work
seminar
lecture

Lecturers in academic year 2024-2025

Vrints, Antoon

LW03

lecturer-in-charge

Roelens, Jonas

LW03

co-lecturer

Offered in the following programmes in 2024-2025

[Bachelor of Arts in History](#)

crdts

5

offering

A

[Elective Set History](#)

5

A

Teaching languages

Dutch

Keywords

Social and political history, crime, criminalization, conflict regulation, violence, pacification, state formation, monopoly on violence

Position of the course

This advanced course unit succeeds the chronological introductory course units (History of Classical Antiquity, The Middle Ages, Early Modern Period, Modern and Contemporary history). It wants to enable students to develop an insight into political and social developments in Europe, from the Antiquity to today. Societal patterns are analysed in a comparative perspective from a temporal as well as a spatial point of view.

- To have an insight in the nature and in the impact of processes and structures within a longterm perspective in Europe.
- To value the matchmaking between historiography and other human or social sciences.
- To deal with changes, insecurity, ambiguity and scientific polemic in a correct way

Contents

The theme of this course is the sociopolitical history of crime in Europe from Antiquity tot the present. It consists off an historical approach of the perceptions, institutions and practises in the broad field of penal policy, crime and crime control. What kinds of behaviour were criminalized and which not? What kinds of behaviors were criminalized and which are not? What shape did processes of criminalization take? Who determined criminalization processes, which groups they did they aimed at and how did these groups? What do these questions reveal about social structures and processes of change?

Crime is used as an access to investigate the structure of the bonds between individuals /groups within various contexts (social dimension), the basis of power relations (political dimension) and the change over time of social bonds and power relations (historical dimension).

Annually, several varying themes are treated. This concerns issues such as the history of violence in long term perspective, the evolution of conflict settlement from informal to formal strategies, crime in urban and rural areas, crime and gender...

Initial competences

To have successfully completed the courses History of the Classical Antiquity, History of the Middle Ages, Early Modern History and History of the Modern and Contemporary Period, or to

have acquired the necessary skills by other means.

Final competences

- 1 Have proficient knowledge of the historical terminological framework, the most important historical facts, and historical explanations.
- 2 Have a referential framework for various periods: the Ancien Near East, classical antiquity, the middle ages, the early modern period, and modern and contemporary history.
- 3 Have basic knowledge of models from the social and historical sciences including sociology, philosophy, literary sciences, law, political sciences, communication sciences, and economics.
- 4 Be able to initiate problem-oriented historical research.
- 5 Have the ability to assess, employ, and place the result of historical research within the correct national and international historiographical context.
- 6 To be able to interpret, evaluate, and report on existant research (also in another language than Dutch) and on one's own initial research or research plans.
- 7 Be conscious of the importance of scientific integrity.
- 8 Have the ability to critically reflect upon the role of the global perspective, the dynamics of processes, and recurrences in historical situations.
- 9 Be able to approach a problem from multiple perspectives – multiperspectivism.
- 10 To 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.
- 11 Have the ability to critically assess social issues and contemporary views and contextualize them historically.
- 12 Have the ability to interpret contemporary developments from a historical-comparative perspective.
- 13 Be able to demonstrate cultural sensitivity, respect for diversity and the ability to reflect on continuity and change from a long-term perspective.
- 14 To 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.

Conditions for credit contract

Access to this course unit via a credit contract is determined after successful competences assessment

Conditions for exam contract

Access to this course unit via an exam contract is unrestricted

Teaching methods

Seminar, Lecture, Independent work

Extra information on the teaching methods

Lecture, independent work, online discussion group, seminar

Study material

Type: Slides

Name: slides

Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty

Optional: no

Type: Reader

Name: reader

Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty

Optional: no

References

Course content-related study coaching

Possibility of asking questions during course and in the online discussion group ; the lecturer is available via e-mail; support via Minerva; feedback after exams.

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

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment

examination during the second examination period is possible

Extra information on the examination methods

Students post each week before the course a question on the basis of preparatory reading on the discussion a question. At the end of the semester, students will submit an individual paper aimed at exploring a theme in an independent way. The paper will be discussed during the oral examination and is the starting point of a number of open questions based on the teaching material.

Calculation of the examination mark

Periodical evaluation: 70 %, non-periodical evaluation:30 %.

Students who do not take part in the assessment of one or more parts of the course evaluation or obtain a mark of less than 10/20 for one of its parts cannot pass the course evaluation. Should the average mark be higher than 10/20, the final mark will be reduced to the highest non-pass mark (= 9).

Facilities for Working Students

1. Possible exemption from educational activities requiring student attendance
 2. The examination cannot be rescheduled
 3. Feedback can be given by email, telephone or during an appointment during office hours
- For more information concerning flexible learning: contact the monitoring service of the faculty of Arts and philosophy