

## Book History (A004501)

**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)	English	Gent	lecture seminar
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**Lecturers in academic year 2024-2025**

van der Haven, Kornee	LW07	lecturer-in-charge
Desplenter, Youri	LW07	co-lecturer

**Offered in the following programmes in 2024-2025**

	<b>crdts</b>	<b>offering</b>
<a href="#">Master of Science in Teaching in Arts and Humanities (main subject History)</a>	5	A
<a href="#">Master of Arts in Art History, Musicology and Theatre Studies</a>	5	A
<a href="#">Master of Arts in Historical Linguistics and Literature</a>	5	A
<a href="#">Master of Arts in History</a>	5	A
<a href="#">Exchange Programme Critical Perspectives on Culture</a>	5	A
<a href="#">Exchange Programme Cultures and Languages in Context</a>	5	A
<a href="#">Exchange Programme History</a>	5	A
<a href="#">Exchange Programme Medieval Studies and Auxiliary Sciences</a>	5	A
<a href="#">Elective Set Critical Perspectives on Culture</a>	5	A

**Teaching languages**

English

**Keywords**

manuscript, printing, book, Middle Ages, early modern period, codicology, analytical bibliography

**Position of the course**

This basic course aims at introducing the students to the history of books until 1800 and the description of manuscripts and early printing, as a methodological auxiliary discipline for the study of cultural artefacts from classical antiquity, Middle Ages and the early modern period. In the last couple of decades, insight into the material context in which texts and images are embedded has become a condition for their right placement in cultural history.

**Contents**

Initiation to codicology: materials, composition and lay out, writing, decoration, binding, history of the manuscript;  
Initiation to the study of early printing: printing technique, materials, collation, binding. Methods and guidelines for the description; consequences of printing for the arrangement of information and development of new writing and reading techniques.

**Initial competences**

None

**Final competences**

- 1 show a sound knowledge of the way in which manuscripts and early printed books were manufactured
- 2 being able to analyse and to describe manuscripts in a professional codicological manner

- 3 being able to analyse and to describe early printed books in a professional manner
- 4 being able to apply knowledge of the material aspects of manuscripts and early printed books in catalography;
- 5 being able to apply knowledge of the material aspects of manuscripts and early printed books to scientific research on (literary) history
- 6 being able to apply knowledge of the consequences of printing for the arrangement of information and development of new writing and reading techniques
- 7 being able to apply knowledge of the material aspects of manuscripts and early printed books in publications of a more general nature, e.g. in exhibition catalogues

#### **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**

This course unit cannot be taken via an exam contract

#### **Teaching methods**

Seminar, Lecture

#### **Study material**

None

#### **References**

- R. Clemens & T. Graham, *Introduction to Manuscript Studies* (Ithaca: Cornell UP, 2008)
- Bibliopolis: A History of the Printed Book in the Netherlands* (Zwolle: Waanders, 2003)
- STCV – Bibliography of the Hand Pressed Book, Short Title Catalogue Vlaanderen, Manual*, see: [manual.stcv.be](http://manual.stcv.be)
- Walter J. Ong, *Orality and Literacy. The Technologizing of the World* (Methuan, London/New York, 1982)
- J.J. Pearce, *A workbook of analytical & descriptive bibliography* (London: Bingley, 1970)
- Sigfrid H. Steinberg, John Trevitt, *Five hundred years of printing* (4<sup>th</sup> ed., London: British Library, 1996)

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

The lecturer supervises and supports the student in his theoretical and practical assimilation of the subject matter.

#### **Assessment moments**

end-of-term and continuous assessment

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

Written assessment

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

Written assessment

#### **Examination methods in case of permanent assessment**

Assignment

#### **Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment**

examination during the second examination period is possible

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

*Assessment moment and form:* Periodical: written exam about the topics dealt with in the seminar (3/4). Non-periodical (paper): two assignments related to the bibliographical discription of a medieval manuscript and an early modern printed book (1/4).

#### **Calculation of the examination mark**

The written exam counts for 75% of the total, the paper for 25%.

If the student is absent without a valuable reason at or does not take part in (a part of) the assessment moments, then he or she can not pass and will, if his or her

total would be more than 8/20, get a final score of max. 7/20.

A passed score for the permanent evaluation can be transferred to the second examination period.

#### **Facilities for Working Students**

1. Possible exemption from educational activities requiring student attendance; a task is imposed in substitution after discussion with the lecturer
2. Possible rescheduling of the examination to a different time in the same academic year
3. Feedback can be given during an appointment during and after office hours