

Research Seminar: World History (A005254)

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)

English

Gent

group work

lecture

seminar

Lecturers in academic year 2025-2026

Barré, Louise

LW03

lecturer-in-charge

Offered in the following programmes in 2025-2026

Master of Science in Teaching in Arts and Humanities (main subject History)

crdts

offering

5

A

Master of Arts in Global Studies

5

A

Master of Arts in History

5

A

Exchange Programme Global Studies and World Societies

5

A

Exchange Programme History

5

A

Teaching languages

English

Keywords

History, Africa, methodology, primary sources, processes of globalization, theories of globalization

Position of the course

This year's topic explores the history of Africa from a global perspective. Students will develop the skills to critically examine economic, social, cultural, and environmental changes on a global scale, while remaining attentive to the historical specificities of particular regions and the complexities of cross-cultural studies. The course provides an opportunity to strengthen methodological approaches to working with both primary and secondary sources, while engaging with dynamic intellectual debates in the field of African and global history. By the end of the course, students will be able to apply these skills to other regions and address broader questions concerning the production of knowledge and its close relationship to different forms of power.

Contents

The first part of the course will consist of thematic seminars focused on five key vehicles of globalization: commodities, non-humans, beliefs, sciences, and ideas. Each seminar will require students to complete two mandatory readings in advance, along with a primary source in some cases. The second part of the course will take a regional approach, concentrating on the Sahara, East Africa, and the Atlantic. Each session will include a group discussion based on the required readings, a short lecture, and a segment on methodological approaches.

Initial competences

Bachelor degree

Final competences

- 1 To have the ability to take a critical approach to the history of a particular period or subject.
- 2 To 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 be able to set up historical research.
- 5 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).
- 6 To have the ability to write a relevant and coherent historical scientific research project.
- 7 To have the ability to independently select, correctly use and critically evaluate methods for qualitative and quantitative research.
- 8 To have the ability to creatively design and implement one's own historical research.
- 9 To possess the techniques required to independently collect, criticise, and process historical sources and literature (also in another language than Dutch), and to integrate these in a historical argument.
- 10 To be able to give a nuanced interpretation and correct presentation of the results of one's own research in the form of a report, thesis or article.
- 11 To have the ability to critically reflect upon the limits of one's own skills, thoughts, and actions.
- 12 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
- 13 To have the ability to communicate (also in another language than Dutch), collaborate and act in an inspiring, advisory or authoritative manner, depending on the situation.
- 14 To 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

Access to this course unit via an exam contract is unrestricted

Teaching methods

Group work, Seminar, Lecture

Extra information on the teaching methods

Classes, group work, independent work, group work.

Only lectures given by the lecturer will be recorded and accessible online by ufora.

However, students always have access to PowerPoint slides which introduce the following week's themes and readings.

Study material

Type: Syllabus

Name: Syllabus

Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty

Optional: no

Number of Pages : 2

Available on Ufora : Yes

Type: Reader

Name: Readings (articles and book chapters)

Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty

Optional: no

Available on Ufora : Yes

References

Frederick Cooper, "What is the Concept of Globalization Good For? An African Historian's Perspective" *African Affairs*, 2001, n°399, 189-213.

Omar Gueye, "African History and Global History: Revisiting Paradigms", in Sven Beckert and Dominic Sachsenmaier (eds), *Global History, Globally: Research and Practice around the World*, London, Bloomsbury, 2018, pp. 83-107.

(Proposal)

Course content-related study coaching

Via Ufora, email

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, Peer and/or self assessment, Assignment

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment

examination during the second examination period is possible

Extra information on the examination methods

Participation and reports 50%, final paper 30%, oral exam 20%

Calculation of the examination mark

Periodic evaluation: 20% (oral exam)

Non periodic evaluation: 80% (papers, participation etc.)

Nota Bene:

When a student does not take part in one or more parts of the evaluation, it is not possible to pass the course. If the final score is higher than 7/20, it will be reduced to the highest non-delinquent grade (7/20).

When a student receives a score of less than 10/20 for one of the course components, it is not possible to pass the entirety of the course unit. If the final grade would have been 10/20 or higher, this grade will be reduced to the highest non-passing grade (i.e. 9/20).

Facilities for Working Students

Facilities:

- 1 Student attendance during educational activities is required
- 2 Possible rescheduling of the examination to a different time in the same academic year
- 3 Feedback, both final and interim (the latter of which is optional), can be given by email or face-to-face by appointment. There is the possibility of submitting an essay draft prior to final submission, which will not count towards the final grade.

Extra information:

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