

Historiography of Art: Introduction (A005279)

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 2)

Dutch

Gent

independent work
lecture

Lecturers in academic year 2025-2026

Maes, Francis

LW17

lecturer-in-charge

Offered in the following programmes in 2025-2026

[Bachelor of Science in Psychology \(main subject Theoretical and Experimental Psychology\)](#)

crdts

5

offering

A

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

5

A

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

5

A

[Elective Set Art Studies](#)

5

A

Teaching languages

Dutch

Keywords

"Historiography of the arts" provides an introduction to the historical development of art history, musicology and theater studies and their methodologies and paradigms.

Position of the course

Historiography of the art sciences offers the student insight into the main theoretical debates, polemics and concepts of the field.

- The course makes connections between the evolution of the art sciences, musicology and theater sciences on the one hand, and social and humanistic disciplines on the other.
- The course highlights the similarities, differences and interactions between the various art forms and their scientific disciplines.
- The course instructs the student in the value and importance of meta-reflection and methodological insight in the study of art.
- This course points out the importance of meta-reflection and methodological insight into the various art historical disciplines.

The course makes a first connection between the content-oriented courses of the large art historical surveys of the first bachelor with the methodologically oriented courses of the second and third bachelors.

Contents

The following topics are discussed (the overview is not literally a lesson plan but an indication of the most important theories and debates).

- art literature in early modernity
- the emergence of art history and music history as academic disciplines
- connoisseurship and formalism
- iconography, iconology
- social history of the arts
- feminism, gender and Queer Art History
- Post-Colonial Theory, Identity politics and anthropological perspectives on art.

Initial competences

no specific starting competences required

Final competences

- 1 Knowledge of the most important tendencies and authors in the fields of art history, musicology and theater studies
- 2 To develop an understanding of the important art theoretical concepts, debates and methodologies
- 3 To develop the ability to read, interpret and apply art historical texts.
- 4 digital competences: faculty standard

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

Lecture, Independent work

Extra information on the teaching methods

lectures
independent work

Study material

Type: Handbook

Name: Hegel, Georg Wilhelm Friedrich. Over de Esthetiek. vertaald door Sybrandt van Keulen. Amsterdam: Boom, 2017

Indicative price: € 20

Optional: no

Language : Dutch

Author : Hegel, Georg Wilhelm Friedrich.

ISBN : 978-9-46105-714-3

Number of Pages : 135

Alternative : none

Oldest Usable Edition : 2012

Online Available : No

Available in the Library : No

Available through Student Association : Yes

Usability and Lifetime within the Course Unit : one-time

Usability and Lifetime within the Study Programme : one-time

Usability and Lifetime after the Study Programme : not

Type: Handbook

Name: Arnold, Dana. Art History. A Very Short Introduction. Oxford University Press

Indicative price: € 20

Optional: yes

Language : English

Author : Dana Arnold

ISBN : 978-0-19883-180-8

Number of Pages : 142

Alternative : none

Oldest Usable Edition : 2020

Online Available : No

Available in the Library : No

Available through Student Association : Yes

Usability and Lifetime within the Course Unit : regularly

Usability and Lifetime within the Study Programme : regularly

Usability and Lifetime after the Study Programme : regularly

References

- Christopher S. Wood, *A History of Art History* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2019).
- Michael Podro, *The Critical Historians of Art* (New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 1984).
- Robert S. Nelson, Richard Schiff (eds.), *Critical Terms for Art History* (Chicago: The

University of Chicago Press, 2003).

- Elizabeth Mansfield (ed.), *Art History and its Institutions. Foundations of a Discipline* (London: Routledge, 2002).
- Michael Hatt, Charlotte Klonk, *Art History: A Critical Introduction to its Methods* (Manchester: Manchester University Press, 2006).

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Course content-related study coaching

Assessment moments

end-of-term 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

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment

not applicable

Calculation of the examination mark

100% end-of-term

Facilities for Working Students

- 1 Possible exemption from educational activities requiring student attendance.
- 2 A deferred examination will be organised on 1 fixed date.