

## Writing, Government and Administration in the Middle Ages and the Early Modern Period (A005373)

**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 2)

Dutch

Gent

lecture

seminar

peer teaching

excursion

### Lecturers in academic year 2024-2025

Vandersmissen, Jan

LW03

staff member

De Paermentier, Els

LW03

lecturer-in-charge

Van Herck, Sytze

LW03

co-lecturer

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

[Bachelor of Arts in History](#)

5

A

[Linking Course Master of Arts in History](#)

5

A

[Preparatory Course Master of Arts in History](#)

5

A

### Teaching languages

Dutch

### Keywords

Administrative-governmental (or: documentary) writing practices, auxiliary sciences, Middle Ages, Early Modern Period

### Position of the course

This course offers an overview of the development of documentary writing processes in Europe during the Middle Ages and Early Modern Period. Students will gain insight into the terminology and methodologies used to study medieval and early modern history, in particular the auxiliary sciences of diplomatics, technical chronology (e.g. conversion methods) and sigillography (sphragistics). At the end of the course students will be able to interpret and give critical comment on both the external features and characteristics relative to the content of documentary sources. Finally they will be able to determine whether or not these features correspond to the norms of the time they reportedly stem from (critical authentication).

### Contents

Documentary writing practices; pragmatic literacy, (digital) diplomatics (study of charters), technical chronology (e.g. conversion methods), and sigillography (sphragistics); creation of medieval archives and archival management, digital applications and tools developed and used to study documentary sources.

### Initial competences

Knowledge of Latin can be useful but is not compulsory - alternative source texts in vernacular language will also be used.

### Final competences

1 Have proficient knowledge of historical conceptual frameworks (also in another language than Dutch), and of the most important historical facts, and historical explanations.

- 2 Have insight into the epistemology and academic practice of historiography.
- 3 Have a referential framework for various historical periods: the middle ages, the early modern period.
- 4 Have insight into the methodology of history.
- 5 Have a basic knowledge of the diversity of sources and academic literature (also in another language than Dutch) used in historical research and the specialist skills required to read and interpret sources (also in another language than Dutch).
- 6 Have the ability to initiate problem-oriented historical research.
- 7 Have the ability to assess and employ the results of historical research (also in another language than Dutch) and to place them in the correct national and international historiographical context.
- 8 Have the ability to critically apply quantitative and qualitative methods and techniques.
- 9 Have the ability to indicate the most appropriate types of sources relative to a specific historical research question.
- 10 Have the ability to use scientific criteria to justify heuristic methods and bibliographical research in the field of history.
- 11 Have the ability to critically follow evolutions in historiography (also in another language than Dutch), and to further develop one's own skills in this.
- 12 Have the ability to approach a problem from multiple perspectives – multiperspectivism.
- 13 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.
- 14 Have the ability to work with one's colleagues on a project (also in another language than Dutch).
- 15 Have the ability to interpret contemporary developments from a historical-comparative perspective.
- 16 Have insight into the way in which historical scientific research functions and is organized.
- 17 Have insight into how related human and social sciences function.
- 18 Have insight into how archives and heritage institutions work.
- 19 Digital competence: Have general insight into the way in which the digital turn has influenced the typology, origins, dissemination, (re)use, manipulation and findability/searchability of digitized source material.
- 20 Digital competence: Be familiar with the basic concepts and the inter- and transdisciplinary possibilities of Digital Humanities.

#### **Conditions for credit contract**

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

#### **Conditions for exam contract**

This course unit cannot be taken via an exam contract

#### **Teaching methods**

Seminar, Excursion, Lecture, Peer teaching

#### **Extra information on the teaching methods**

- (theoretical) lectures
- lectures with plenary exercises
- tutorial
- microteaching
- excursion

#### **Study material**

Type: Syllabus

Name: Writing, Government and Administration in the Middle Ages and Early Modern Period

Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty

Optional: no

Language : Dutch

Number of Pages : 150

Available on Ufora : Yes

Online Available : Yes

Available in the Library : No  
Available through Student Association : No  
Additional information: Only a selection of theoretical chapters must be studied for the exam.

Type: Slides

Name: Writing, Government and Administration in the Middle Ages and Early Modern Period  
Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty  
Optional: no  
Language : Dutch  
Number of Slides : 250  
Available on Ufora : Yes  
Online Available : Yes  
Available in the Library : No  
Available through Student Association : No  
Additional information: The slides serve as a guideline and visual support for the syllabus.

Type: Reader

Name: Thematic selection of articles  
Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty  
Optional: no  
Language : English  
Number of Pages : 60  
Available on Ufora : Yes  
Online Available : Yes  
Available in the Library : Yes  
Available through Student Association : No  
Additional information: Selection of the reader may vary for each academic year.

## References

- O. Guyotjeannin, J. Pycke, B.-M. Tock, *Diplomatique médiévale* (Turnhout, 1993).
- M. M. Cárceles Ortí, *Vocabulaire international de la Diplomatie* (Valencia, 1997).

## Course content-related study coaching

Via Ufora, e-mail and in person after appointment

## Assessment moments

end-of-term and continuous assessment

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

Oral assessment, Written assessment

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

Oral assessment, Written 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

### Written and oral exam (80%)

- written examination: exercises related to the teaching modules of 'Chronology' and 'Diplomatics'
- oral examination (with written preparation time): questions related to the theoretical teaching modules and the reader

### Participation, presentation and group work (20%)

- participation during classes, participation in class discussions
- oral presentations (supported by a powerpoint presentation) relative to a specific subtheme, archival group work

## Calculation of the examination mark

**Periodical assessment (80%):** Written and oral examination

**Non-periodical assessment (20%):** Participation, presentation and group work  
Students must take all forms of examination.

## Facilities for Working Students

Facilities:

- 1 Possible exemption from educational activities requiring student attendance, allocation of a substitute task
- 2 Possible rescheduling of the examination to a different time in the same academic year
- 3 Feedback can be given by email or during an appointment during office hours

Extra information:

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