GHENT UNIVERSITY

Course Specifications

From the academic year 2021-2022 up to and including the academic year

Birth, Marriage and Death: Lifecycles from Antiquity until Today (A005374)

Course size *(nominal values; actual values may depend on programme)*

Credits 5.0	**Study time 150 h**	**Contact hrs**	30.0h

Course offerings and teaching methods in academic year 2022-2023

A (semester 1)	Dutch	Gent	lecture	15.0h
			seminar: coached exercises	15.0h

Lecturers in academic year 2022-2023

Devos, Isabelle	LW03	lecturer-in-charge
Oppeneer, Thierry	LW03	co-lecturer

Offered in the following programmes in 2022-2023	**crdts**	**offering**
Master of Science in Teaching in Arts and Humanities (main subject History)	5	A
Master of Arts in History	5	A

Teaching languages

Dutch

Keywords

History of the family, kin networks, population developments, migration, mortality, marriage and fertility behaviour

Position of the course

This is an advanced specialization course in the MA History programme. It builds on the Historical Practice courses and the methodological courses in the BA History programme. It supports MA theses in the broader domain of socio-economic history and ties in with other elective courses in this domain.

Contents

The aim of the course is to familiarize students with the key variables and appropriate sources and methods of historical demographic research from antiquity to the present and to provide them through critical analyses with insights into long-term demographic developments.
The course consists of two parts.
The first part consists of lectures. These comprise: 1) an introduction to the purpose of historical demography and the sources and methods used in it; 2) state of the art of recent research on marriages and households, fertility, mortality and migration. In each case, practical applications are discussed in which the basic principles and methodology of historical demography are discussed in more detail.
The second part consists of seminars. In these, students in small groups examine one imposed subject per class and develop a appropriate research design (hypotheses, sources, methods, possible pitfalls). They do this on the basis of material made available in advance and on the basis of the knowledge acquired during the lectures. Each group submits a report after the seminar.

Initial competences

Students have a good basic knowledge of social and economic history as taught in the BA History programme.

Final competences

1 to identify and discuss the determinants and mechanisms of demographic developments;
2 to be familiar with the main historical-demographic sources and techniques, including databases and digital tools;

3 to apply demographic theories and methods to historical research in a correct scientific way;
4 to be able to apply the principles digital source criticism to historical-demographic models;
5 to use model life tables and fragmentary sources to reconstruct possible life tables and demographic indicators for historical societies;
6 to understand the impact of societal changes on demographic developments and vice versa;
7 to discuss historical demographic subject in an academically correct way;
8 to report about a discussion on historical demographic subjects in an academically correct way.

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

Group work, Lecture, Self-reliant study activities, Seminar: coached exercises

Extra information on the teaching methods

For an explanation of the didactic work forms see the glossary in the 'Education and Examination Code' of Ghent University (https://www.ugent.be/student/nl/studeren/regelgeving); see also above the section 'content'.

Learning materials and price

Study materials are freely avalaible via Ufora.

References

Course content-related study coaching

The seminars are highly interactive.

Assessment moments

end-of-term and continuous assessment

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

Written examination

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

Written examination

Examination methods in case of permanent assessment

Report, Participation, Assignment

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment

examination during the second examination period is possible in modified form

Extra information on the examination methods

Non-periodic assessments are based on participation in the classes and written reports of the discussions during the seminars.
During resits non-period assessment is replaced by a paper.

Calculation of the examination mark

Periodic (exam): 60%
Non-periodic assessments: 40%
Participation is accounted for as an impact on the non-periodic evaluation in the following way:
- Participation in all the seminars = score for non-periodic evaluation x 1
- Unauthorised absence in all the seminars = score non-periodic evaluation x 0
- Unauthorised absence for some but not all seminars = score non-periodic evaluation x % presence

Facilities for Working Students

Facilities:
1 Possible exemption from certain educational activities requiring student attendance

2 Possible rescheduling of the examination to a different time in the same academic year
3 Feedback can be given during an appointment during or after office hours

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