

Research Seminar: Economic and Ecological History (A005533)

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

Credits 5.0

Study time 150 h

Course offerings in academic year 2023-2024

A (semester 1)

Dutch, English

Gent

Lecturers in academic year 2023-2024

Declercq, Robrecht

LW03

lecturer-in-charge

Offered in the following programmes in 2023-2024

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

crdts

5

offering

A

[Master of Arts in History](#)

5

A

[Exchange Programme History](#)

5

A

Teaching languages

English, Dutch

Keywords

Economic history, history of the environment, climate, capitalism, ecological history, history of food

Position of the course

In this seminar, students are immersed in the concepts, methods and trends in the area of socio-economic and environmental history

Contents

Module 1 Sustainability in historical perspective.

The concept of sustainability is recently gaining a lot of attention, and is dominating contemporary discussions about work, economics, climate and the relationship between humans and nature more broadly. The concept of sustainability, however, is also entering the historical sciences. In this module we explore, using historic and scientific literature, the value of this concept for historical research. We discuss literature that aims to define the concept, but we also look at applications in historical research.

The concept of sustainability maybe recently coined, but we also have attention for notions and thinking about sustainability (such as self-reproduction of social, economic and environmental systems) in a more distant past. Can we identify sustainability and sustainable systems on the level of historical actors and draw lessons from their experiences? Sustainability is a concept suited to analyses on different levels, such as the micro (peasant communities, eco-systems), but also on the level of global history.

The analysis and usage of the concept of sustainability will be done through a series of discussion lectures. In the lectures, the working method is bottom-up: we create or own definition of sustainability and distill lessons from historical cases. Based on this course material, students are to develop a case-study themselves and present it in class.

OR

Module 2. Parallel-trajectory 'Production and distribution of foodstuffs in Classical Antiquity' (part of the International MA program in Food History).

This module on the production and distribution of foodstuffs in Greco-Roman Antiquity offers a parallel-trajectory within the research seminar EED. It is part of the curriculum of the International MA program in Food History organized in co-operation with the history departments of the universities of Brussels (VUB), Bologna, Tours and Leiden (see http://research.vub.ac.be/sites/default/files/uploads/FOST/masterkaart_lw_food_history_gvd_versie.pdf). The module is therefore open to students enrolled in the Food History MA, but also to UGent students, who

can, if they wish, follow this module instead of the regular EED module to gain their credits for the EED research seminar. The module concentrates on the history of food production and distribution during classical antiquity. Introductory lectures will be followed by seminar sessions in which students will give oral presentations on subtopics related to the overall theme, based on assigned readings complemented by their own research. There will also be small preparatory assignments to be completed by each student in preparation for the individual sessions. Students will complete the module by writing an individual research paper on a subtopic related to the overall theme of the module and to their presentations. This is an English-language module.

Initial competences

Bachelor in history.

Final competences

- 1 To participate critically and independently in debates on the topics dealt with in the research seminar.
- 2 To demonstrate advanced knowledge and insight into these research areas.
- 3 To make a critical and historically sound judgement about the problems covered in this seminar, especially in terms of interdisciplinary approaches.
- 4 To be able to trace and process sources and literature on this topic on an individual basis.
- 5 To be able to critically evaluate and existing theories and creatively apply them on a subject covered in the research seminar.
- 6 To be able to critically reflect and report on this course in the shape of a paper.

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, Independent work, Peer teaching

Extra information on the teaching methods

Workshop: discussion and processing of literature in group

Research project: processing of concepts and application unto case-study, learning to apply concepts

Independent work: processing of literatuur (preceding workshops)

Microteaching: short presentations of students (literature + discussion of case-studies). Follow up of organic course by students.

Lectures: introductory and concluding lectures, explaining course material, in interaction with students

Learning materials and price

Reading material, texts and powerpoints are made available through Ufora

References

Course content-related study coaching

There will be guidance during seminars. Additional information can be obtained during office hours and on Minerva.

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, Assignment

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

(Approved)

Calculation of the examination mark

Permanent: 50% in total, of which 40% based upon an assessment of interactive participation during class and input (presentation) 10 % during the seminars.

Periodical: 50%, of which paper (30 %) and oral examination of paper (20%) and course content

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 can be given by email or during an appointment during and after office hours

Extra information:

Always contact the lecturer

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