

Low Countries Studies (A005539)

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

Credits 3.0 **Study time 90 h**

Course offerings and teaching methods in academic year 2026-2027

A (semester 2) English Gent lecture

Lecturers in academic year 2026-2027

De Reu, Martine	LW60	staff member
Van Hoof, Lieve	LW03	lecturer-in-charge

Offered in the following programmes in 2026-2027

	crdts	offering
European Master of Science in Clinical Linguistics	3	A
European Master of Science in Nuclear Fusion and Engineering Physics	3	A
Micro-credential Low Countries Studies	3	A
Exchange Programme History	3	A
Postgraduate Certificate Dutch as a Foreign Language and Applied Communication(main subject Level of Dutch: CEFR B2)	3	A
Postgraduate Certificate Dutch as a Foreign Language and Applied Communication(main subject Level of Dutch: CEFR C1)	3	A

Teaching languages

English

Keywords

Low Countries, culture, identity, history, art history, ethics, economy

Position of the course

This general introductory course aims to provide an insight into the history and current society of the Low Countries (Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxembourg) in all its facets. In addition to this, the course aims to stimulate students to reflect on their own cultural identity in relation to the identities within the society of the Low Countries.

Contents

Twelve lectures deal with just as many aspects of the historical, social, economic, political and cultural situation of the Low Countries in the present and the past. The specific topics are announced each year on the course website (<https://www.ugent.be/lw/lcs/en/programme>).

Initial competences

No specific prior knowledge required.

Final competences

- 1 The student has advanced knowledge of various aspects of the historical, social, economic, political and cultural situation of the Low Countries, past and present.
- 2 The student is able to critically process relevant (historical) scientific information in the field of various aspects of the historical, social, economic, political and cultural situation of the Low Countries in the present and the past. He/she can reflect on it, synthesize the results, report and communicate on the findings.
- 3 The student recognizes the influence of his/her own ideas and presuppositions on the analysis of historical, social, economic, political and cultural situations of a (possibly temporary) host country.
- 4 The student is receptive to the value of diversity in multicultural contexts.

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

Extra information on the teaching methods

Lectures: deal with various aspects of the historical, social, economic, political and cultural situation of the Low Countries, past and present.

Group work: after each lecture there is an (oral) group discussion. In addition, students post at least nine times a reflection on a lecture in the discussion forum within the online learning environment Ufora and interact with each other.

Lecture recordings are made available only to students with special status and working students, upon presentation of a certificate issued by their university for the current academic year.

Study material

Type: Slides

Name: Powerpoint Presentation

Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty

Optional: no

Language : English

Available on Ufora : Yes

Type: Reader

Name: Artikels ter beschikking gesteld op Ufora

Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty

Optional: no

Language : English

Available on Ufora : Yes

References

Course content-related study coaching

Assessment moments

end-of-term and continuous assessment

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

Written assessment with multiple-choice questions, Written assessment with open-ended questions

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

Written assessment with multiple-choice questions, Written assessment with open-ended questions

Examination methods in case of permanent assessment

Participation

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment

examination during the second examination period is not possible

Extra information on the examination methods

Assessment moment:

Permanent (50%) and periodical (50%)

Assessment form:

Periodical assessment: written exam with multiple choice questions and open-ended questions.

The answer space for the open-ended questions is limited. These open-ended questions contain general overview questions (summary reproduction), comparison questions and / or application questions. The multiple choice questions assess knowledge about concepts, facts and chronology.

Permanent evaluation: after at least 9 of the 12 lectures, students post a short reflection (approximately 300 words) in the appropriate discussion forum.

Calculation of the examination mark

Contributions to the online discussion forum: 50%
Multiple choice questions and open-ended questions: 50%