

Historical Practice II: Global History (A005660)

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 (Year)	Dutch	Gent	seminar	0.0h
			lecture	0.0h
			independent work	0.0h

Lecturers in academic year 2024-2025

De Coene, Pieter	LW03	staff member
Coghe, Samuël	LW03	lecturer-in-charge
Guéné, Enid	LW03	co-lecturer

Offered in the following programmes in 2024-2025

	crdts	offering
Bachelor of Arts in History	5	A
Preparatory Course Master of Arts in History	5	A

Teaching languages

Dutch

Keywords

Historical research in a transnational and global perspective; exercises based on historical sources and secondary literature; social, economic and environmental history, history of science and medicine, history of agriculture and nutrition, world and global history.

Position of the course

This course analyses socio-economic, ecological and scientific processes in Global History through the lens of changes in agriculture (production processes, gendered/racialized labour relations, ecological impact, scientific developments, trade in and consumption of agricultural commodities) taking place across the globe (and often in colonial contexts) between the 16th and 21st century. The course not only aims to introduce historiographical concepts and debates in global agricultural history, but also and most importantly to teach students research skills in the areas of colonial and global history in general. They will learn to

- (1) define their own research question;
- (2) choose appropriate research methods and strategies to answer that question;
- (3) search and select the literature and sources needed to do so; and
- (4) write a paper based on their own research.

Contents

The course runs over two semesters. In the first semester, students will be introduced to key themes and perspectives in the global history of agriculture (including animal husbandry) from the 16th to the 21st century. We will, among other things, analyse the global circulation of agricultural crops/livestock, knowledge and practices; different forms of agricultural production and (free/unfree, gendered) labour; the role of (colonial) states, international organizations and enterprises in agricultural development; the ecological impact of agricultural change; the transformation of agricultural produce into (globally/locally/regionally traded) commodities; and changing consumption patterns, including the health aspects of food. While students will learn to see these processes from a global and longue durée perspective, particular attention

will be paid to Central Africa under Belgian colonial rule as a place and period in which the global ramifications and local forms of many of these processes can be observed. Starting in November and running through the second semester, students will develop their own research paper on a particular course-related theme based on primary sources, most notably archival sources. This will be done step by step, with appropriate supervision and guidance.

Initial competences

Having successfully completed the course "Introduction to Historical Research" and a "Historical Practice I" class, or their equivalent.

Final competences

- 1 To have insight into the methodology of history.
- 2 To have basic knowledge about the diversity of sources and academic literature (in various languages) used for historical research and the specific skills to read and interpret sources/academic literature.
- 3 To initiate problem-oriented historical research.
- 4 To put the results of historical research in the correct national and international historiographical context, and to assess and use these results.
- 5 To design a basic historical research strategy in the form of a roadmap.
- 6 To critically apply quantitative and qualitative research methods and techniques.
- 7 To indicate the most appropriate source types for solving a specific historical question.
- 8 To use scientific criteria to motivate the use of a heuristic method and bibliographical research.
- 9 To interpret, evaluate and report on existing research and one's own research design.
- 10 To understand the importance of academic integrity.
- 11 To critically reflect on the role of global processes and power dynamics in history.
- 12 To contextualize and interpret historical research (including one's own) within a social framework.
- 13 To report in writing, with an adequate critical apparatus (and also in another language than Dutch) on ongoing historiographical debates.
- 14 To orally communicate (also in another language than Dutch) on the results of historical research with both experts and non-experts.
- 15 To assess contemporary social problems and views in a critical way from a global historical perspective.
- 16 To reflect on continuity and change from a long-term perspective.
- 17 To display cultural sensitivity and respect for diversity.
- 18 To understand how historical academic research functions and is organised, which includes understanding how archives and heritage institutions work.
- 19 To have an investigative and lifelong learning attitude with a sense of historical criticism and creativity.

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

Extra information on the teaching methods

Changes in teaching methods can be rolled out if necessary. More detailed information will be provided through UFORA.

Study material

Type: Syllabus

Name: Syllabus
Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty
Optional: no
Language : English
Available on Ufora : Yes

Type: Slides

Name: Powerpoint Presentations
Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty
Optional: no
Language : Dutch
Available on Ufora : Yes

Type: Excursion

Name: Visit of the National Archives in Brussels
Indicative price: € 20
Optional: no
Additional information: 15 € (youth ticket) to 21,60 € (normal ticket) for train from Gent to Brussels and back. The visit of the National Archives itself is free of charge.

References

Course content-related study coaching

Support by means of course materials and documents available on Ufora. Regular individual or group feedback during the different stages of this course.

Assessment moments

continuous assessment

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

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

Examination methods in case of permanent assessment

Participation, Assignment

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment

not applicable

Extra information on the examination methods

Continuous assessment based on participation during class and feedback moments, interim assignments and a final paper.

Calculation of the examination mark

Continuous assessment: 20% of the final mark is allocated to participation and interim assignments; 80% is allocated to the final paper.

Facilities for Working Students

1. Class attendance is mandatory and will be included in the calculation of the final score
2. Lectures will not be recorded but sufficient online learning material will be provided
3. Possibility to receive feedback at another moment and/or via videocall.

Extra information:

Working students should contact the lecturer(s) and the monitoring service of the Faculty of Arts and Philosophy. For more information concerning flexible learning: <https://www.ugent.be/student/nl/administratie/flexibel-studeren>