

Economic History of the Modern and Contemporary Period (A006714)

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

Credits 5.0

Study time 150 h

Course offerings in academic year 2026-2027

A (semester 2)

Dutch

Gent

Lecturers in academic year 2026-2027

Ryckbosch, Wouter

LW03

lecturer-in-charge

Offered in the following programmes in 2026-2027

[Bachelor of Arts in History](#)

crdts

5

offering

A

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

5

A

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

5

A

Teaching languages

Dutch

Keywords

Economic History

Position of the course

This course unit is a core subject within the module Modern and Contemporary History in the third year of the Bachelor's program in History. Its aim is to familiarize students with the major economic transformations since the onset of the Industrial Revolution at the end of the eighteenth century. The various interpretations of the nature of these developments, their causes, and their global consequences are explored in this course unit.

Contents

In this course unit, we examine the key historical and economic debates concerning the development of global capitalism and economic growth from around 1750 to the present.

Through empirical case studies, historical interpretative frameworks, social science concepts, and economic models, we highlight the major developments and debates in and about the economic history of the past 250 years from multiple perspectives.

Topics covered include, among others: economic growth and capitalism, industrialization and mechanization, science and technology, slavery and (un)free labor, government regulation and free market trade, risk and financial crisis, consumption and everyday economics, neoliberalism and deregulation, and the relationship between economy and ecology.

Initial competences

No specific knowledge required.

Final competences

- 1 Possess foundational knowledge of the key terms, concepts, and models used in the study of modern and contemporary economic history.
- 2 Understand the economic developments since the First Industrial Revolution across different parts of the world.
- 3 Be able to critically reflect on the major debates in modern and contemporary economic history.
- 4 Have insight into the various models of economic development and be able to

assess them critically.

5 Be capable of interpreting contemporary developments from a historical-comparative perspective.

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

Access to this course unit via an exam contract is unrestricted

Teaching methods

Lecture, Independent work

Study material

Type: Slides

Name: Lecture presentations

Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty

Optional: no

Available on Ufora : Yes

Online Available : Yes

Available in the Library : No

Available through Student Association : No

Type: Reader

Name: Reader Economic History of the Modern and Contemporary Period

Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty

Optional: no

Language : English

Number of Pages : 110

Available on Ufora : Yes

Online Available : Yes

Available in the Library : Yes

References

Reader

Course content-related study coaching

- Support through Ufora
- Office hours of lecturer
- Feedback after exams

Assessment moments

end-of-term and continuous assessment

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

Written assessment

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

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 not possible

Calculation of the examination mark

90% of the total grade on the written exam; 10% of the total grade on participation (presence in class, active participation during lectures, preparation of the reading).

Facilities for Working Students

- Absence is allowed provided that a replacement task is submitted.
- Lectures will not be recorded but sufficient online learning material will be provided.
- It is possible to take the exam at a different time within the regular exam period.
- Possibility to receive feedback at another time: by appointment.

