GHENT UNIVERSITY

Course Specifications

Valid as from the academic year 2025-2026

Digital Heritage, Public and History (A006719)

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

Debrulle, Rein	LW03	staff member
Ducatteeuw, Vincent	LW03	staff member
Foket, Lise	LW03	staff member
Vercruysse, Bas	LW03	staff member
Verbruggen, Christophe	LW03	lecturer-in-charge
Danniau, Fien	LW03	co-lecturer

Offered in the following programmes in 2026-2027	crdts	offering
Bachelor of Arts in History	5	A
Master of Science in Teaching in Arts and Humanities (main subject History)	5	A
Master of Arts in History	5	A
Postgraduate Certificate Heritage and Society	5	A

Teaching languages

Dutch

Keywords

Digital humanities, digital heritage, digitization, metadata, Linked Open Data, participation, data visualization software, digital storytelling, preservation.

Position of the course

Course Description:

This course provides students with a holistic understanding of the digital research and valorization cycle. Students will be guided through various stages, including: finding, collecting, preserving, modeling, cleaning, enriching, automating, analyzing, visualizing, and disseminating historical sources and cultural heritage collections, both analog and born-digital material. The course combines technical skills with academic research, exploring how digital tools and techniques contribute to contemporary historiography and heritage studies. The case work and public history translation into a digital product (such as an exhibition, podcast, website, or serious game) is carried out in collaboration with cultural heritage partners.

Learning Objectives:

- Handle historical sources and technological tools in a scientifically rigorous manner.
- Gain insight into the functioning of libraries, archives, and other scientific preservation institutions.
- Understand how the digital turn has affected the nature, origin, dissemination, (re)use, manipulation, and discoverability of digitized or born-digital sources and cultural heritage.
- Create your own digital versions of analog or digital research objects through (audio)visual or audio recordings, transcription, data recognition, or data conversion.
- Use digital methods to collect and manage analog or digital research objects in a structured way.
- Design a data model that structures (relationships between) properties of

research objects and operationalize this model in the form of a database.
- Use digital tools to improve the quality of digital research objects or datasets.
- Digitally enrich research objects with information such as annotations or metadata.
- Recognize repetitive tasks that can be automated and find and apply digital tools to perform these tasks.
- Understand the principles of digital visualization methods and use them to conduct analyses and present digital collections or research results.
- Publish research data, digital collections, or research results for a specific audience.
- Use digital methods to collaborate on a project during one or more stages of a research process.
- Communicate historical content to a specific audience using appropriate media.
- Reflect independently on the societal impact, needs, and ethical dimensions of the digital turn, including copyright issues.
- Integrate cultural sensitivity, respect for diversity, and historical awareness into scientific work.

Contents

After an introductory lecture, the course covers the successive steps in the lifecycle of digital data. Each class includes theoretical concepts, practices, and software/tools. Students will work with concrete tools and software packages:
- Digital recording, preservation, and access to sources: metadata, standards such as IIIF, linked open data, and data management (e.g., Tropy).
- Heritage collections as data: data collection and data cleaning (e.g., OpenRefine).
- Collections for the public: visualization and presentation (e.g., Tableau, Madoc, Omeka S).
- Reflection on the digital transformation and the availability of online tools.

Initial competences

No specific competencies required.

Final competences

1 Understand the methodology of history.
2 Have basic knowledge of the diversity of sources and scientific literature for historical research and the specific expertise required to read and interpret sources.
3 Critically apply quantitative and qualitative methods and techniques
4 Identify the most appropriate source types for a specific historical question.
5 Justify a heuristic method and historical bibliographical research based on scientific criteria.
6 Be aware of the importance of scientific integrity
7 Keep up with developments in historiography and further develop one's own competencies.
8 Be able to critically report on ongoing scientific debates in historiography.
9 Communicate in writing and orally about the results of historical research, with experts and non-experts.
10 Understand the functioning of related human and social sciences.
11 Digital competency: Choose, responsibly use, and critically evaluate an appropriate search strategy based on the principles and algorithms of digital search environments.
12 Digital competency: Independently and scientifically apply the principles of digital source criticism to self-found research objects.
13 Digital competency: Independently compare, select, responsibly use, and critically evaluate digital formats to create digital versions of analog or digital research objects.
14 Digital competency: Independently compare, select, responsibly use, and critically evaluate digital methods to collect and manage analog or digital research objects in a structured way.
15 Digital competency: Design a data model that structures (relationships between) properties of research objects and operationalize this model in the form of a database.
16 Digital competency: Independently compare, select, responsibly use, and

critically evaluate digital tools to improve the quality of digital research objects or datasets.

17 Digital competency: Digitally enrich research objects with information such as annotations or metadata.

18 Digital competency: Recognize repetitive tasks that can be automated and use digital tools to carry out those tasks.

19 Digital competency: Independently compare, select, responsibly use, and critically evaluate digital methods to perform analyses (content, network, relational, spatial, structural, or stylistic).

20 Digital competency: Use digital methods to collaborate on a project during one or more phases of a research process.

21 Digital competency: Be familiar with the basic concepts and interdisciplinary possibilities of Digital Humanities.

Conditions for credit contract

This course unit cannot be taken via a credit contract

Conditions for exam contract

This course unit cannot be taken via an exam contract

Teaching methods

Seminar, Lecture, Practical

Extra information on the teaching methods

Theoretical lessons are lectures. Practical exercises mainly consist of guided practical sessions and seminars in a computer lab.

Study material

None

References

Danniau, F., & Verbruggen, C. (2023). Reizen door tijd en ruimte: de mogelijkheden van digitale publieksgeschiedenis. In K. Aerts, M. Van Ginderachter, A. Vrints, & N. Wouters (Eds.), De publieke historicus: Bruno De Wever en zijn vak (pp. 215–239). Tielt: Lannoo. Noiret, S., Tebeau, M., & Zaagsma, G. (2022). Handbook of digital public history. Oldenburg: De Gruyter. Link

Course content-related study coaching

Availability of professors and/or co-instructors for guiding specific student assignments.

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, Presentation, Assignment

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment

examination during the second examination period is possible

Calculation of the examination mark

100% non-periodic evaluation (NPGE). To pass, students must complete all subassignments.

Facilities for Working Students

1 Possibility of exemption from attendance with a replacement assignment in consultation with the instructor.

2 No possibility to take the exam at a different time.

3 Feedback available via email, by appointment during office hours.

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