

Modern and Contemporary History (A006723)

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 2026-2027

A (semester 2)

Dutch

Gent

independent work
lecture

Lecturers in academic year 2026-2027

Vandersmissen, Jan

LW03

staff member

Vrints, Antoon

LW03

lecturer-in-charge

Offered in the following programmes in 2026-2027

crdts

offering

Bachelor of Arts in Art History, Musicology and Theatre Studies

5

A

Bachelor of Arts in History

5

A

Bachelor of Science in Sociology

5

A

Master of Science in Teaching in Languages(main subject African Languages and Cultures)

5

A

Master of Science in Teaching in Arts and Humanities (main subject Art History, Musicology and Theatre Studies)

5

A

Master of Science in Teaching in Languages(main subject East European Languages and Cultures)

5

A

Master of Science in Teaching in Languages(main subject Oriental Languages and Cultures)

5

A

Linking Course Master of Arts in History

5

A

Preparatory Course Master of Arts in History

5

A

Elective Set History

5

A

Teaching languages

Dutch

Keywords

Global history from a European perspective, international history, multiperspectivism, 19thC, 20thC

Position of the course

This basic course offers an insight into historical facts and developments from the end of the 18th century to the beginning of the 21st century. The course helps students gain insight into contemporary developments with special attention to multiple perspectives and historical diversity.

Contents

Chronological survey of the most important political, economic, social and cultural developments from the end of the 18th century to the beginning of the 21st century, with emphasis on Western developments in relation to evolutions in Africa, Asia and South America.

Initial competences

Learning goals of history in Flemish secondary education

Final competences

- 1 To have proficient knowledge of the historical terminological framework, the most important historical facts, and historical explanations.
- 2 To have a referential framework for modern and contemporary history.
- 3 To situate historical developments from the end of the 18th century to the

beginning of the 21st century in time and space and within a global frame.

- 4 To have knowledge of the most important developments in the politico-institutional, socio-economic and cultural domain from the end of the 18th century to the beginning of the 21st century.
- 5 To be able to use certain concepts to explain historical developments.
- 6 To be able to discern structures and models in the course of events.
- 7 To be able to judge contemporary social problems and developments using the historical frame of reference.
- 8 To recognise the importance of history as an element of explanation.

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

Extra information on the teaching methods

Lecture and discussion sessions.
Self-reliant study of textbook.

Study material

Type: Handbook

Name: Wiesner-Hanks, Merry E., Clare Haru Crowston, Joe Perry, en John P. McKay. A History of Western Society, Volume 2: From the Age of Exploration to the Present. 14de ed. Boston: Bedford/St. Martin's, 2023.

Indicative price: € 80

Optional: no

Language : English

Author : Wiesner-Hanks, Merry E., Clare Haru Crowston, Joe Perry, & John P. McKay.

ISBN : 978-1-31934-371-2

Oldest Usable Edition : 14

Available through Student Association : Yes

Type: Slides

Name: slides course

Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty

Optional: no

Available on Ufora : Yes

References

Wiesner-Hanks, Merry E., Clare Haru Crowston, Joe Perry, en John P. McKay. A History of Western Society, Volume 2: From the Age of Exploration to the Present. 14de ed. Boston: Bedford/St. Martin's, 2023.

Course content-related study coaching

- Specific questions can be asked by mail.
- Communication via the teaching and learning platform Ufora (also online discussion forum)
- Examination session with sample questions.

Assessment moments

end-of-term assessment

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

Written assessment with open-ended questions

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

Written assessment with open-ended questions

Examination methods in case of permanent assessment

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment

not applicable

Extra information on the examination methods

Assessment moment

Periodical (100%)

Assessment form

- Written exam based on the textbook and (presentations) courses

Calculation of the examination mark

100 % written exam

Facilities for Working Students

Facilities:

- 1 Possible exemption from educational activities requiring student attendance
- 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 office hours
- 4 Classes are recorded and made available via online learning platform

Extra information:

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

Addendum

Facilities for Erasmus students:

- 1 The textbook is in English. The mandatory summary of the textbook can be made in cooperation with other non-Dutch speaking students.
- 2 Possibility to take the written exam on the frame of reference as part of the oral exam.
- 3 Possibility to take the oral exam in English.
- 4 Possibility to propose a suitable exam date during the official exam period, under the condition that the student contacts professor De Wever before the start of the official exam period.