

Research Seminar: Modern and Contemporary History (A006787)

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 1)

Dutch

Gent

seminar

peer teaching

group work

lecture

Lecturers in academic year 2026-2027

Mestdagh, Eline

LW03

lecturer-in-charge

Offered in the following programmes in 2026-2027

Master of Science in Teaching in Arts and Humanities (main subject History)

crdts

5

offering

A

Master of Arts in History

5

A

Teaching languages

Dutch

Keywords

Modern and Contemporary History, Social History, social movements, contentious politics, wars.

Position of the course

In this research seminar, students are familiarised with the methodology, concepts and topics of modern and contemporary history from a social-historical perspective.

Contents

This is a research seminar in which 'classics' of social history and social sciences are discussed and connected to key themes of modern and contemporary social history and to ongoing research by staff and to students' MA theses. Central theme are social movements, contentious politics and wars.

Initial competences

The students meet the final attainment level of the UGent bachelor in history. In particular, they have a good prior knowledge of the socio-economic, political and cultural history of the historical periods concerned and are acquainted with the techniques of historical criticism.

Final competences

- 1 To have the ability to take a critical approach to the history of a particular period
- 2 To have the ability to originally use and deepen basic knowledge of neighbouring sciences in research and/or professional activities
- 3 To have the ability to employ historical scientific methodology in research or professional activities
- 4 To have general insight into the field's literature (also in another language than Dutch), and the ability to use sources (also in another language than Dutch) in an original and creative way
- 5 To be able to set up historical research
- 6 To have the ability to critically analyse and make original use of current national and international scientific debates in the field of history (also in another language than Dutch)

- 7 To have the ability to write a relevant and coherent historical scientific research
- 8 To have the ability to independently select, correctly use and critically evaluate methods for qualitative and quantitative research
- 9 To have the ability to creatively design and implement one's own historical research
- 10 To possess the techniques required to independently collect, criticise, and process historical sources and literature (also in another language than Dutch), and to integrate these in a historical argument
- 11 To be able to give a nuanced interpretation and correct presentation of the results of one's own research in the form of a report, thesis or article
- 12 To systematically act with scientific integrity, thoughts, and actions
- 13 To have the ability to critically reflect upon the limits of one's own skills
- 14 To have the ability to write down the results of one's own historical scientific research in a clearly structured, academically justified text, written in a clear and academically correct language
- 15 To have the ability to present the results of one's own historical research, to both experts and peers, in a clearly structured oral presentation, in a clear and academically correct language
- 16 To have the ability to communicate (also in another language than Dutch), collaborate and act in an inspiring, advisory or authoritative manner, depending on the situation
- 17 To have the ability to undertake independent historical research, and the ability to fit into a group conducting historical scientific research
- 18 To have the ability to adjust to specialist interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary professional situations

Conditions for credit contract

Access to this course unit via a credit contract is determined after successful competences assessment

Conditions for exam contract

This course unit cannot be taken via an exam contract

Teaching methods

Group work, Seminar, Lecture, Peer teaching

Study material

Type: Slides

Name: Slides

Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty

Optional: no

Type: Reader

Name: Reader

Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty

Optional: no

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

Oral assessment

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

Oral assessment

Examination methods in case of permanent assessment

Participation, Assignment

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment

examination during the second examination period is possible in modified form

Extra information on the examination methods

Students write an individual paper aimed at exploring a theme in an independent

way. This paper will be discussed during the oral examination.

Calculation of the examination mark

Periodical evaluation: 30 %, non-periodical evaluation: 70 %. Students who do not take part in the assessment of one or more parts of the course evaluation or obtain a mark of less than 10/20 for one of its parts cannot pass the course evaluation. Should the average mark be higher than 10/20, the final mark will be reduced to the highest non-pass mark (= 9).

Facilities for Working Students

- Possible exemption from educational activities requiring student attendance; tasks are imposed in substitution after discussion with the lecturer
- Possible rescheduling of the examination to a different time in the same academic year Feedback can be given during an appointment during and after office hours

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