

Deep History (A006789)

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 1)

Dutch

Gent

Lecturers in academic year 2026-2027

Buylaert, Frederik

LW03

lecturer-in-charge

Lambrecht, Thijs

LW03

co-lecturer

Offered in the following programmes in 2026-2027

[Master of Science in Teaching in Arts and Humanities \(main subject History\)](#)

crdts

offering

5

A

[Master of Arts in History](#)

5

A

Teaching languages

Dutch

Keywords

Historiographical debates, interdisciplinary trends, history by non-historians, long-run perspectives on the history of humankind, methodology and auxiliary sciences.

Position of the course

This course aims to introduce students to recent attempts to integrate the study of human history on the basis of textual sources in a long-run study of the entire human past on the basis of non-textual data. Firstly, this course helps students understand how the discipline of history is currently positioning itself vis-à-vis popular but controversial attempts at synthesis (e.g. Yuval Noa Harari's *Sapiens* 2011) or David Graeber & David Wengrow, *The Dawn of Everything* (2021) and how our understanding of the human past is being revolutionized by interdisciplinary research that is not primarily directed by historians but by, among others, biologists, economists, psychologists, anthropologists, and so on (the so-called field of Cliodynamics, which was coined in a programmatic article in the science journal *Nature* in 2008).

Contents

Apart from articulating an overarching framework and state of the art, the classes are dedicated to thematic discussions (e.g. a *longue durée* history of gender, money, labour or the biosphere). With each discussion, students are introduced to new methodological approaches to the human past that have made waves in the past years (e.g. archaeogenetics).

Initial competences

The students have a good basic knowledge of the history of their own discipline as a textual approach to the human past, as taught to the students in the mandatory courses on historical criticism and history of historiography.

Final competences

- 1 To be able to demonstrate advanced knowledge of the historiographical debates.
- 2 To be able to critically evaluate existing theories and creatively connect them to original sources.
- 3 To be able to independently track down and process literature and sources on the subject.
- 4 To be able to apply auxiliary sciences, qualitative and quantitative methods to the source material.

- 5 To link back to the broader debates from the primary sources.
- 6 To explain the results of the research orally in an academic manner.

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

Seminar, Independent work, Peer teaching

Extra information on the teaching methods

Peer teaching: presentation of specific topic
Seminar: discussion

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

For each of the topic references will be put at the disposal.

Course content-related study coaching

Ufora website; lecturers' office hours; feedback to presentations, papers and 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, Presentation

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

Presentations, paper, open questions during the written exam

Calculation of the examination mark

50% participation + presentation (= permanent assessment)

50% oral exam (= periodic assessment)

If a student obtains less than 10/20 for at least one component (permanent assessment or periodic assessment), they can no longer pass the course unit as a whole. If the total score does turn out to be a mark of ten or more out of twenty, this is reduced to the highest fail mark (9/20).

Facilities for Working Students

- 1 Student attendance during educational activities is required
 - 2 Possible rescheduling of the examination to a different time in the same academic year
 - 3 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

