

## Port History (B001821)

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

**Credits 3.0**

**Study time 90 h**

**Course offerings and teaching methods in academic year 2026-2027**

A (semester 1)

English

Gent

lecture

**Lecturers in academic year 2026-2027**

Koninckx, Christiaan

RE22

lecturer-in-charge

**Offered in the following programmes in 2026-2027**

[Master of Science in Maritime Science](#)

**crdts**

3

**offering**

A

**Teaching languages**

English

**Keywords**

History of ports and harbours – Port vs authorities – Ancient times until 20th century (included)

**Position of the course**

Providing the bibliographical tools for scientific research. Students have to acquire the knowledge of: the basics of the geography of the maritime environment having an impact on ports and harbours, of the type of port organisation and infrastructure. Understanding the evolution from the ancient times until nowadays.

**Contents**

Part 1:

- Tools for historical research
- Basics of the geography of the sea: climate, currents, winds, tides
- Terminology, types of ports, definitions, etymology
- Harbour vs port city:
- Development of port infrastructure
- Man's activities in the harbour

Part 2:

- Ports and harbours from the antiquity until the 20th century with focus on Europe
- History ports in Belgium, the Netherlands, Great-Britain, France...

**Initial competences**

Having basic geographical knowledge of location on the map of ports, seas, straits, main streams and rivers, main canals.  
Having basic knowledge of the most important European languages.

**Final competences**

- 1 Understanding the historical development of the port (choice of location, extending and unlocking, types of organisation, oceanographical basics having any influence).
- 2 Being able to undertake scientific research concerning the history of ports.
- 3 Being aware of the important role and the influence of ports on the urban environment, the hinterland and the maritime industry.

**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**

Lecture

**Extra information on the teaching methods**

The lectures are organized in an interactive way (questions, ...) and supported by visual aids (maps, pictures, historical films) and a comprehensive printed syllabus

**Study material**

None

**References**

Included in the syllabus

**Course content-related study coaching**

The lecturer is available for assistance on specific office hours and by appointment.

**Assessment moments**

end-of-term 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****Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment**

examination during the second examination period is possible

**Extra information on the examination methods**

Oral examination, wherein the knowledge of the student regarding the final competences is tested.

The student has to be able to present the history of any important part of his own choice referring to the several aspects developed during the course.

The student is allowed to use any material he himself is estimating necessary for arguing and commenting.

**Calculation of the examination mark**

100% oral exam