

## Introduction to Historical Research (A004006)

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

Credits	5.0	Study time	150 h	Contact hrs	50.0 h
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Course offerings and teaching methods in academic year 2018-2019

A (semester 1)	Dutch	excursion	2.5 h
		self-reliant study activities	10.0 h
		seminar: practical PC room classes	2.5 h
		seminar: coached exercises	5.0 h
		lecture	20.0 h
		practicum	10.0 h

Lecturers in academic year 2018-2019

Van Gassen, Tineke	LW03	staff member
Van Bruaene, Anne-Laure	LW03	lecturer-in-charge

Offered in the following programmes in 2018-2019

	crdts	offering
<a href="#">Bachelor of Arts in History</a>	5	A
<a href="#">Linking Course Master of Arts in History</a>	5	A

Teaching languages

Dutch

Keywords

Introduction to historical research; bibliographies and databanks; critical apparatus; academic writing.

Position of the course

This introductory course is intended to familiarize students with the basic skills necessary for independent historical research. This class interacts closely with the Practical History I courses (from among which each student must select one). The skills developed lay the groundwork for the various Practical History courses and, ultimately, the master's thesis.

Contents

- Learning how to develop a good research question
- Learning how to develop a good search strategy via the use of printed and online bibliographies, repertories and databanks
- Learning how to develop an adequate critical apparatus (footnotes, source overview, and bibliography)
- Learning about scientific communication (reading and writing)
- Becoming familiar with archives and research libraries

Initial competences

No specific prior knowledge is required. However, the students may be asked to take a preparatory exam in order to determine their own level.

Final competences

- 1 Be able to formulate a research question
- 2 Be able to collect sources and literature in a scientifically valid fashion
- 3 Be able to put together a critical apparatus
- 4 Be able to write – in competent Dutch – abstracts and short reviews of scientific articles in Dutch and English

- 5 Know how archives and libraries function and be able to use them to obtain the right information

#### 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

This course unit cannot be taken via an exam contract

#### Teaching methods

Excursion, lecture, practicum, self-reliant study activities, seminar: coached exercises, seminar: practical PC room classes

#### Extra information on the teaching methods

Lectures supported with Power Points and the Digital Platform.  
Assignments to complete during and after the lectures, both in groups and individually. A portion of the assignments will be carried out in the PC classroom. The assignments will be closely supervised and guided by the instructors and teaching assistants in a practical setting.  
Excursion to an archive and/or library.  
Independent work to improve writing skills.

#### Learning materials and price

Syllabus and online support via the Digital Platform.

#### References

See the Digital Platform, which is continually being updated.

#### Course content-related study coaching

Intensive supervision by teaching assistants, with support from *Taalonthaal*.

#### Evaluation methods

end-of-term evaluation and continuous assessment

#### Examination methods in case of periodic evaluation during the first examination period

Written examination

#### Examination methods in case of periodic evaluation during the second examination period

Written examination

#### Examination methods in case of permanent evaluation

Participation, assignment, report

#### Possibilities of retake in case of permanent evaluation

not applicable

#### Extra information on the examination methods

Permanent: small assignments that in total will account for half of the final grade. Participation in the offered activities is included. The grade from the first exam period will be carried over into the second exam period. This means that there is no second chance for this partim.  
Periodical: written exam in which knowledge, insight and skills are tested. In case of failure, the exam may be sat again in the second exam period.

#### Calculation of the examination mark

50% permanent, 50% periodic

#### Facilities for Working Students

Accommodations:

1. Possibility of attendance exemption, with replacement assignments in consultation with the lecturer
2. Possibility of completing exams at a different time within the academic calendar
3. Possibility of receiving feedback via appointment during or outside of office hours