Introduction to Historical Research (A004006)

Course Specifications
Valid as from the academic year 2019-2020

Lecturers in academic year 2019-2020
Van Gassen, Tineke
Van Bruaene, Anne-Laure

Course offerings and teaching methods in academic year 2019-2020
A (semester 1)

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

Offered in the following programmes in 2019-2020
Bachelor of Arts in History 5 A
Linking Course Master of Arts in History 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

(Approved)
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

(Approved)