Intellectual History (A004010)

Valid as from the academic year 2019-2020

Course Specifications

Course offerings and teaching methods in academic year 2020-2021

A (semester 2)  English  lecture: response lecture  45.0 h

Lecturers in academic year 2020-2021

Vanden Broecke, Steven  LW03  lecturer-in-charge

Offered in the following programmes in  2020-2021
crds  offering

Bachelor of Arts in History  5  A
Bachelor of Science in Political Science  5  A
Exchange Programme History  5  A
Exchange Programme in Political and Social Sciences  5  A

Teaching languages

English

Keywords

Text analysis
Historiographical research methods
History of science
History of political thought
History of religion
History of medicine

Position of the course

This is an introductory course to the field, methodologies, and subfields of intellectual history, exploring these through the weekly practice of historical text analysis of primary sources.

Contents

Intellectual history studies how humans interpreted their (social or natural) world in the past, and how they made this world meaningful for themselves. It focuses on the history of human thought, and on the way in which humans appropriate ideas about the world. It also pays special attention to phenomena of ideology and performativity in human discourse; both of these bring out the political or social dimensions of human meaning-making. We operate in two stages:

1. Introduction to the scholarly field of intellectual history: what, where, when, how, and why?
2. Every session follows a similar pattern. Every week, we focus on one classic source for Intellectual History (e.g., Machiavelli's *The Prince*; Montaigne's *Essais*; Freud's *Interpretation of Dreams*), This classic source is juxtaposed with an important historian's analysis of this source (e.g. the work of Quentin Skinner, Charles Taylor, Michel Foucault, Carl Schorske). The combination allows us to study the different ways in which intellectual historians operate, and to engage in-class attempts at constructing our own intellectual-historical treatments.

Initial competences

English, CEFR level B1 or higher.

Final competences

Conditions for credit contract

(Approved)
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
Access to this course unit via an exam contract is unrestricted

Teaching methods
Guided self-study, on-line discussion group, lecture: response lecture

Extra information on the teaching methods
This lecture series attaches considerable importance to: individual preparation of weekly reading materials; in-class participation; class attendance. Experience shows that English as a language of instruction poses few problems for Ghent bachelor students, as well as for many foreign students (with the possible exception of Spain and Asia). Please contact the instructor if you have doubts about your (written or spoken) English skills.

Learning materials and price
Minerva, sub "Documents"

References

Course content-related study coaching

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

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent evaluation
examination during the second examination period is possible

Extra information on the examination methods
PE: written essay exam on sources discussed in class.
NPE: every week one group of students is expected to participate in an online discussion group concerning the assigned readings for that class. The discussion sets out from one or several questions raised by the instructor.

Calculation of the examination mark
PE: 80 %
NPE: 20%

(Approved)