Historical Practice I: Early Modern History (A004025)

Valid as from the academic year 2019-2020

Course Specifications

Lecturers in academic year 2020-2021

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Offered in the following programmes in 2020-2021

- Bachelor of Arts in History
- Linking Course Master of Arts in History
- Preparatory Course Master of Arts in History

Teaching languages

Dutch

Keywords

Historical practice, Seminar: Early Modern period

Position of the course

This is a practical course which aims to introduce the students to basic research skills for the study of Early Modern History (ca. 1450-1750). Special attention is paid to the following: (1) Understanding the specific aims of historical research; (2) Understanding the diverse strategies through which historical literature attains these goals; (3) Understanding the role of interpretation, research questions and models in setting up historical research; (4) Mastering basic terminology of historical research; (5) Mastering efficient reading and note-taking practices in relation to historical literature; (6) Mastering efficient heuristic strategies for historical literature, and use of library collections; (7) Learning how to formulate a research question; (8) Learning how to answer a research question through historical research on primary sources; (9) Learning how to report research results in a logically structured and clearly articulated research paper.

Contents

- We focus on a specific theme in the history of this period, to be announced at the beginning of the academic year. The instructor provides a basic set of research instruments.
- Each student completes a number of intermediate assignments and writes a final paper, in which the aforementioned aspects of historical research are practised.

Initial competences

- Having an elementary knowledge of historical developments
- Having a working passive knowledge of Dutch, English, French
- Having sufficient skills for writing clear and correct Dutch, English, or French (grammar, syntax, vocabulary)

Final competences

(Approved)
1 Having a basic knowledge of the diversity of sources and scientific literature for a specific historical research topic.
2 Being able to clearly and correctly synthesise the results of existing historical research in a status quaestionis.
3 Being able to work out a basic historical argument in a story board.
4 Being able to formulate a sufficiently limited research question concerning a specific historical topic.
5 Being able to build a correct and sufficiently relevant bibliography by means of a satisfactory heuristic strategy.
6 Mastering the different parts of a research paper, as well as their specific functions and sub-parts.
7 Being able to guarantee the credibility of a research paper through footnotes and a matching bibliography.

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
Guided self-study, demonstration, self-reliant study activities, lecture: plenary exercises, seminar: coached exercises

Learning materials and price
Relevant study materials will be made available through Minerva.

References

Course content-related study coaching
The Dept. of History provides teaching assistance.

Evaluation methods
continuous assessment

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

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

Examination methods in case of permanent evaluation
Assignment

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

Extra information on the examination methods
No oral nor written examination. Grading is done on the basis of an individual final research paper, as well as several intermediate assignments.

Calculation of the examination mark
Final paper (50 %), intermediate assignments (50 %).

Facilities for Working Students
1. Possible exemption from educational activities requiring student attendance, a task is imposed in substitution.
2. The examination cannot be rescheduled.
3. Feedback can be given by email, or during an appointment during office hours.
For more information concerning flexible learning: contact the monitoring service of the faculty of Arts and philosophy

(Approved)