UCLouvain

bhist1315

2025

Quantitative methods for historians

The version you're consulting is not final. This course description may change. The final version will be published on 1st June.

4.00 credits	30.0 h	Q1

Teacher(s)	Tousignant Nathalie ;			
Language :	French			
Place of the course	Bruxelles Saint-Louis			
Learning outcomes	At the end of this learning unit, the student is able to: This course aims to introduce the students to the use of statistics in historical analysis. It has two main aims: to overcome misperceptions on data analysis and to manage basic tasks on series (diachronic and synchronic).			
Evaluation methods	The final assessment will be written exam and consist of two parts. A knowledge test and an application test similar to the exercises performed during the course. It will take place in a computer room.			
Teaching methods	The Quantitative Methods in History course combines lectures with exercises in which students are expected to participate actively. Exercises include reading articles, commenting on graphs and working with sources in the computer room.			
Content	The aim of this course is to train students in the various heuristic, critical and statistical approaches to quantification in history. It is divided into three parts: 1) Building a data series 2) Analyze serial data 3) Presenting and commenting on serial data Through this course, students will learn to construct quantitative data from historical sources (mainly archives), to use computer tools (mainly Excel) and their various functions to exploit them using statistical analysis formulas (average, median, variance, covariance, index) and to present and comment on them in the most relevant and precise way possible. Students will be required to criticize as well as construct a graph/table representing data.			
Inline resources	Cf. supra			
Bibliography	Saly-Giocanti F., <i>Utiliser les statistiques en histoire</i> , Paris, Armand Colin, 2005. Lemercier C. et Zalc C., <i>Méthodes quantitatives pour l'historien</i> , Paris, La Découverte, 2008.			
Other infos	There is no syllabus. The subject matter is what is covered in the course, the exercises and the readings suggested throughout the sessions. The two following books form the theoretical basis of the course: Saly-Giocanti F., <i>Utiliser les statistiques en histoire</i> , Paris, Armand Colin, 2005. Lemercier C. and Zalc C., <i>Méthodes quantitatives pour l'historien</i> , Paris, La Découverte, 2008. Power Point presentations, exercise materials (archive scans, mathematical formulas, etc.) and articles read during the course will be posted on the Moodle space.			
Faculty or entity in charge	PHLB			

Programmes containing this learning unit (UE)					
Program title	Acronym	Credits	Prerequisite	Learning outcomes	
Bachelor in History	HISB1BA	4		٩	
Bachelor in History (French - English)	HIAB1BA	4		٩	