UCLouvain

# lhist2450

*2025*

# Epistemology and scientific communication in history

| 5.00 credits | 22.5 h | Q1 |
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| Teacher(s) | Warland Geneviève ; |
| Language : | French<br>> English-friendly |
| Place of the course | Louvain-la-Neuve |
| Prerequisites | / |
| Main themes | The first part of the course (Epistemology) aims at examining the value of the methods used by the historian to elaborate his knowledge. The methodology is based upon the experience of each participant, at the level of the making of the master thesis.<br>Every step of the historical research initiates a debate about a number of theoretical questions concerning epistemology applied to history. Every participant will base the answers on his/her own practice as an historian. The answers will be written down in a document to defend during the exam.<br>The second part of the course (Scientific communication) aims at deepening the competences of the students in terms of conceptualisation and use of semiotic data applied to the different types of historical stories.<br>The course proposes a number of training modules including a theoretical part (concepts) and a practical part (works and exercises) approaching different communication supports in history : textual (written, oral speech, electronic publication) and mixed (partially using the relation between text and image as a vector of communication). Several dimensions of communication will be approached (narrative semiology, visual rhetoric,..). |
| Learning outcomes | **At the end of this learning unit, the student is able to :**<br>This course proposes a deeper study of the development and the circulation of knowledge in history. It consists in proposing a common reflection about the models, the concepts, the methods and the scientific research and communication tools in history. The student will be stimulated to develop ways of epistemological reflection and scientific communication.<br>After the course the student will: - master the fundamental concepts borrowed to the theories of language, as a linguistic code and representation mode, as well as a vector of communication that founds relationships between the talking subjects and the context of production and reception.<br>- be able to reflect critically upon the semiotic stakes (modalities of representation) used in contemporary historian productions.<br>- master the conventions and techniques that rule the elaboration of the historical discourse and within it the operational transfer of scientific contents between the different modes of story (texts, images, mixed messages) |
| Evaluation methods | Continuous assessment based on two written assignments (a scientific summary preparing for the thesis topic and an essay on epistemology). The first assignment is individual; the second is completed in a group. Each accounts for 50% of the final grade. In the event of failure, the student must redo the assignment in which they failed.<br>Generative artificial intelligence (AI) must be used responsibly and in accordance with academic and scientific integrity practices. Scientific integrity requires that sources be cited, so the use of AI must always be disclosed. The use of artificial intelligence for tasks where it is explicitly prohibited will be considered cheating. This applies to writing assignments where heuristic research and writing cannot use AI. Other effective language assistance tools will be presented in the course. |
| Teaching methods | Both theoretical and practical. Methodological guidelines and notional and historiographical overviews to prepare individual and group essays. |
| Content | The methodology for the part relating to epistemology aims to raise students' awareness of the use of concepts in history. It introduces them to their reappropriation through contemporary historiographical trends. The part relating to scientific communication in history recalls the main conventions of scientific writing (how to structure and write a scientific text) and introduces the basic rules of typography and layout of academic publications as well as electronic publishing. |
| Inline resources | See Moodle LHIST 2450. |
| Bibliography | La bibliographie est acrualisée annuellement. Elle se trouve sur Moodle LHIST 2450. |
| Other infos | English friendly course.<br>The use of generative AI is not permitted for the writing of the two assessed papers. |

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| Faculty or entity in charge | EHAC |

| Programmes containing this learning unit (UE) | | | | |
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| Program title | Acronym | Credits | Prerequisite | Learning outcomes |
| Master [120] in History | HIST2M | 5 | | 🔍 |