Minor History 2017-2018
Hier vind je de beschrijvingen van de vakken in de minor. Meer inhoudelijke informatie over de minor vind je op minor.vu.nl.
## Inhoudsopgave

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Decolonizing Europe

**Doel vak**

Decolonizing Europe has both historical and methodological learning objectives. After the course, participants...

1. Have a good understanding of the main approaches to the postwar history of the European nation state and are able to situate leading historians in the historiographical debate on decolonization and postcolonialism
2. Are able to critically review (both in writing and speaking) a monograph and to develop, both orally and in writing an argued opinion about the issue addressed by the author(s)
3. Have been challenged to reflect on the own ‘subject position’ and explore the theme from various perspectives while acknowledging different experiences with respect to European postcolonial society.

**Inhoud vak**

The course focuses on the impact of European imperialism on the dynamics of nation state formation within ‘Postwar Europe’.* While all around the globe countries became independent, what did that mean for Europe itself? Students will come across at least three developments that played a major role in the repositioning of Europe in the international arena after colonialism:

- The reordering of European national states in East and West and the impact of the Cold War
- The changes within Europe and between Europe and the ‘Third World’ as a result of decolonization.
- The gradual European integration process and, simultaneously, the emergence of major ambiguities within separate nation states concerning the concept of multicultural society.

The course investigates these developments with particular attention to a better understanding of colonialism as a history with a deep influence on notions of belonging, inclusion and exclusion with respect to citizenship at national and European level. Against the backdrop of a political history, this course will discuss how historians, philosophers, activists, politicians, have approached this history within a national, European or global frame of reference.


**Onderwijsvorm**

Two introductory lectures (week 1 and 2) supported by common reading assignments, week 3 individual assignment to write a summary and discuss a monograph selected from the course list or at your own suggestion, followed by a guest lecture in week 4; as from week 5-7 intensive
sessions focusing at the topics addressed in the selected monographs. In week 8 the course ends with a forum discussion organized by the participants.

**Toetsvorm**
Mandatory: attendance of the seven plenary sessions and final forum discussion.
Grading elements:
1. pro-active role in class, including class notes or other prep. assignments 30%;
2. Monograph: summary and discussion paper (2.000 words) 40%;
3. ppt. presentation and discussion in class about topics addressed in the reviews 20%.
4. Contribution to final forum discussion 10%;
Instructions and criteria for the assessment of the summary and discussion paper on a selected monograph will be included in the full course description.
In order be able to finish the course, each grading element per se has to be satisfactory. If failed, the paper can be re-submitted.

**Literatuur**
An extensive list will be published in the full course description. The following titles will be used as common reference works:

**Vereiste voorkennis**
Students will need a sufficient background in contemporary history, either at a general level, or specifically concerning the history of their own country, region, continent of origin.

**Aanbevolen voorkennis**
It is strongly advised to read Jansen/Osterhammel before class starts.

**Doelgroep**
As from the start, the course will be at 300 level and require a dedication to reading a lot. The course aims at History students in their BA3-minor semester and at those students from other disciplines who follow the full History minor-program. Other international exchange students and students from other disciplines, University colleges and VU-faculties with a sufficient level of historical knowledge, can participate after permission by the course coordinator.

**Intekenprocedure**
The maximum number of participants for this module is 25 students. Make sure that you register in time.

**Overige informatie**
Full course title:
Decolonizing Europe - Perspectives on Post-WW2 State Formation and the Cold War

**Democracy: A History**

| Vakcode | L_GABAGES212 (|
Doel vak
Improve knowledge of the historical development of democracy and of democratization in history. Improve understanding of differences between classic, early modern and modern understandings of democracy. Being able to critically reflect on normative thinking in academic and political debates. Being able to formulate an independent opinion on historical and contemporary issues related to democracy.

Inhoud vak
Since the end of the eighteenth century ‘democracy’ slowly but steadily has become more popular. Democracy as a mode of government and the word ‘democracy’ itself has by leaps and bounds found acceptance in many parts of the world. Democracy has become the standard or the rule, while other modes of government are considered as deviations or exceptions. How and why has this evolution occurred in Europe and in other parts of the world? What sorts of changes or continuities can during this prolonged evolution be discerned in the concept of ‘democracy’, and how can we critically assess the dominant position of democracy? Answers to these questions will be presented by giving an overview of the historical development of democracy since the time of the Athenian democracy, the ‘Atlantic Revolutions’ of around 1800, and the rise, fall and rise in the era around the World Wars. The history of democracy will be related to theories about democracy and democratization. The main emphasis will be on the Western and European history of democracy but guest lecturers will also discuss the non-Western development of democracy.

Onderwijsvorm
Lectures and discussion.

Toetsvorm
Midterm and final exam.

Literatuur
Roger Osborne, Of the people, by the people. A new history of democracy (2011); D. Held, Models of Democracy (2006; 3 edition); articles and book chapters (to be announced).

Vereiste voorkennis
First year completed.

Doelgroep
General History

**Doel vak**
Knowledge and insight in the development of world history and civilizations from antiquity to the present day from a cultural, religious, political, economic and social perspectives.
Acquire basic knowledge necessary for a better understanding of the historical background of different civilizations and their interacting.

**Inhoud vak**
The course *general history offers a brief orientation in global history, its general trends from the Antiquity to the present, and its current methods and historiography. The course focuses on the main trends in the history of civilizations all over the world and deliberately avoids an European centred world view. Working from the heritage available in Dutch museums the lectures illucidates what we know and what we don't know of our common past. We approach world history by looking at the world of Antiquity, world religions, cultural and scientific history, political, social and economic history and world history from a anthropological perspective.**

**Onderwijsvorm**
Lectures in the English language.

**Toetsvorm**
Assignments and final exam. Class participation is mandatory (80%).

**Literatuur**

**Vereiste voorkennis**
First year completed.

**Doelgroep**
This minor is open to third year BA students from all disciplines.
Imagining the Dutch: themes Dutch History

**Doel vak**
Learn about the characteristics and dilemma’s of Dutch national history by discussing chapters from handbooks, articles and lectures. Improve knowledge of Dutch modern history (writing) in general and more particularly learn about important themes, such as national history, political history, colonial history and different representations of Dutch history and identity in museums and media. Throughout the course we will discuss these themes in relation to important concepts such as nationalism, democracy, pillarization and (religious) tolerance.

Being able to integrate information of case studies and guest lecturers into the broader scientific framework that is discussed.
Being able to critically review and discuss mandatory literature, used theories, dominant opinions and information on public websites.
Being able to recognize normative thinking in scientific literature and in the work of historians.

**Inhoud vak**
A country of cheese and herring, that experienced an extraordinary Golden Age in the seventeenth century. And a country of tolerance, pillarization and consensus democracy. These are just a few examples of how the Netherlands has been imagined in the past and in recent periods by foreigners and by Dutch citizens themselves. These images tell a story of the Netherlands and are informed by both past and contemporary experiences.

Over the years questions about the true meaning of these images of the Netherlands have been raised. Who are the Dutch? What is ‘typically Dutch’ about the Dutch from an international perspective? What are the differences between how the Dutch themselves and how foreigners have imagined the Netherlands? And how should we deal with these images from an academic perspective?

The course will offer an introduction on Dutch history that is explicitly related to contemporary debates. The lectures of the course focus on themes in Dutch history and will cover a wide range of topics. The historical reasons for the extraordinary economic growth and cultural richness of the Netherlands in the 17th century; the development of the Dutch as a maritime nation in the 18th century; the rise of democracy in the 19th and 20th century; recent debates about the
colonial past and immigration. Discussion among students about the content of the lectures and the course literature is part of this course. Students have to read the literature in advance and have to make exercises. The course is finished with a written exam.

**Onderwijsvorm**
Lectures (two periods every week one lecture)

**Toetsvorm**
Written Exam and assingments

**Literatuur**
To be announced on Canvas.

**Doelgroep**
Students taking part in program 'Semester in Amsterdam'; International Students; Dutch students interested in Dutch History.

**Overige informatie**
This course will be provided two times: in periods 1&2 (L_GCBAALG003) and in periods 4&5 (L_GCBAALG004).

**Research Tutorial**

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**Doel vak**
Individual deepening of your expertise in one of the fields you have studied in the other minor courses.

**Inhoud vak**
Dependent on your personal choice under supervision of your teacher.

**Onderwijsvorm**
Self tuition by reading and writing under supervision of your teacher.

**Toetsvorm**
Paper.

**Vereiste voorkennis**
Completed other courses in the minor History.

**Doelgroep**
All BA3 students.
Overige informatie
This research tutorial is part of the minor History.