



Exchange programme Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam

Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam - Exchange programme Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam - 2024-2025

Exchange

Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam offers many English-taught courses in a variety of subjects, ranging from arts & culture and social sciences, neurosciences and computer science, to economics and business administration.

The International Office is responsible for course approval and course registration for exchange students. For details about course registration, requirements, credits, semesters and so on, please [visit the exchange programmes webpages](#).

History and Ethnography

Course Code	L_AABAGES222
Credits	6
Period	P3
Course Level	200
Language Of Tuition	English
Faculty	Faculty of Humanities
Course Coordinator	Y. Saramifar MA
Examiner	Y. Saramifar MA
Teaching Staff	dr. W. Mwatwara, Y. Saramifar MA
Teaching method(s)	Seminar

Course Objective

PLEASE BE ADVISED: THIS COURSE IS ONLY TAUGHT IN ENGLISH & STUDENTS OF BOTH DUTCH AND ENGLISH GROUPS SHALL BE MERGED INTO ONE CLASSROOM. STUDENTS MAY CHOOSE TO WRITE THEIR FINAL PAPER IN DUTCH, AND IT WILL BE CORRECTED BY ANOTHER TEACHER.

This course is designed from an interdisciplinary perspective so that students learn how empirical qualitative methods from social sciences contribute to history and historical research:

- 1- Learn ethnographic methods (interviewing, observation-participation, visual analysis/photo-elicitation) and their applications in (oral) history.
- 2- learn the difference between Emic and Etic within knowledge production
- 2-Aquire storytelling/writing skills by knowledge of past (history) to contemporary.
- 3- Gain familiarity with interdisciplinarity and decolonial collaborative knowledge production

Course Content

Some historians insist a historian comes to know the past by literally rethinking the ideas of historic figures. Therefore, all history becomes the history of thought (Flynn 1974). Although, social sciences investigate phenomena through methods/methodologies and fieldwork that yield empirical evidence. In other words, social scientists look at phenomena by following perceptions, while historians look through them by rethinking what was perceived.

This course, as a skill-learning course, introduces students to ethnography, its interdisciplinary use, and how ethnography can be included in historians' toolboxes.

Additional Information Teaching Methods

Twice every week (interactive lectures/seminars)

Individual Expiemnetion [finding archived images/maps/product designs/sounds/smells and connecting them to contemporary issues)

Method of Assessment

Active Participation (10%, this includes attendance and active contribution to class discussion)

Ethnographic Observation and Storytelling via objects (30%)

Visual Essay (30%)

Ethnography of Objects (30%)

Additional Information

The basic knowledge about social sciences is NOT required!