



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 of Knowledge

Course Code	L_ABAALG207
Credits	6
Period	P4
Course Level	200
Language Of Tuition	Dutch / English
Faculty	Faculty of Humanities
Course Coordinator	dr. H.M.E.P. Kuijpers
Examiner	dr. H.M.E.P. Kuijpers
Teaching Staff	dr. P.H. Moser, prof. dr. I.B. Leemans, dr. S.S. Zaia MPhil, dr. H.M.E.P. Kuijpers, dr. G.J. Somsen, dr. L. Viola, dr. M.P. Ritsema van Eck, prof. dr. J.M. Koppenol
Teaching method(s)	Seminar, Lecture

Course Objective

After completing this course, students will:

- have an understanding of the main historical developments that shaped our idea of what scientific or academic knowledge is;
- understand how several institutions helped to create, preserve and pass on this knowledge throughout history;
- have a broad overview of the changing practices of scholarly and scientific knowledge production over time;
- understand how the advent of the internet, data digitisation and artificial intelligence have changed both the practices of knowledge production as well as the status and accessibility of knowledge;
- be able to reflect on the position of their own discipline within today's knowledge society

Course Content

In the course History of Knowledge, we will focus on questions about what knowledge is and what was seen as valuable knowledge, from classical antiquity up until today, and the way this knowledge was preserved and passed on over time, with special attention for the institutions that played a major role in the process: the library, monasteries, the university, the Republic of Letters, the internationalisation of the sciences in the 19th century, and the latest developments marked by the digital turn and artificial intelligence. Students will learn to reflect about different styles and methods of knowledge production, the necessity of preserving existing knowledge, the relation between authoritative knowledge and power, the accessibility of knowledge over time and for various social groups, and the challenges for and the relevance of the humanities in the digital era.

Additional Information Teaching Methods

The course consists of lectures (2 x 2 hours a week).

Method of Assessment

Written assignments (50%) Final written examination (50%)

Literature

A reading list will be provided via Canvas

Additional Information Target Audience

This course is part of the 2nd year Bachelor's programs History, Geschiedenis and Literature & Society: English

Additional Information

This course is part of the Academic Core. Attendance is compulsory. Students may miss maximum 2 classes.