COURSE DETAIL

HISTORICAL METHODS: INTERNATIONAL HISTORY IN THE TWENTIETH CENTURY

Country
Netherlands

Host Institution
Leiden University College

Program(s)
Leiden University College

UCEAP Course Level
Upper Division

UCEAP Subject Area(s)
History

UCEAP Course Number
104

UCEAP Course Suffix

UCEAP Official Title
HISTORICAL METHODS: INTERNATIONAL HISTORY IN THE TWENTIETH CENTURY

UCEAP Transcript Title
INTL HIST 20C

UCEAP Quarter Units
4.50

UCEAP Semester Units
3.00

Course Description

This course offers an introduction to the theories and methods of history as a field of knowledge. Our general area of enquiry for this course is international history in the 20th century. Students take up independent research projects related to some aspect of this field. The course begins with an analysis of history as a discipline by exploring how historians operate; the assumptions they work from; their methods and sources; as well as their disagreements. The questions considered in this section include: what distinguishes history from the social sciences; historical sources, methods, organization, and framing; the assumptions historians make their ability to infer causation; and how the recent rise of transnational and global history challenges (and complements) more traditional approaches to international history.

Then methodology, and particularly to the use of archival sources are reviewed. Students learn to identify sources and work with archival catalogues and hone their skills of analysis. The questions considered in this section include: methods use to collect and interpret different forms of historical evidence? what can our sources tell us about historical causation? how do we incorporate different types of sources, such as oral history and memoirs, into our analysis? how do we critically evaluate our sources, and interpret silences and omissions? how do we avoid drowning in the seas of evidence that can spill out from the archive?

Throughout the course, students pursue an independent research project on a chosen subject within the field of international history which reflects the process of devising and executing a piece of historical research. Students select a topic, devise a research question, assess historiographical literature, identify and select relevant sources, dig into the sources, managing notes, and put their analysis to paper.

Language(s) of Instruction
English

Host Institution Course Number

Host Institution Course Title
HISTORICAL METHODS: INTERNATIONAL HISTORY IN THE TWENTIETH CENTURY

Host Institution Course Details
https://studiegids.universiteitleiden.nl/courses/110275/historical-methods-inte...

Host Institution Campus

Host Institution Faculty
Governance and Global Affairs

Host Institution Degree

Host Institution Department
Culture, History & Society

Course Last Reviewed
2021-2022

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