UCL
Université catholique de Louvain

LHIST2430
2010-2011

Diplomacy in the Middle Ages, including elements of chronology, sigillography and heraldry

5.0 credits	22.5 h	1q

Teacher(s) :	Pijcke Jacques ;
Language :	Français
Place of the course	Louvain-la-Neuve
Main themes :	The course should foster the primary objectives of the discipline. That being to class by category acts and related documents. Analyse their tradition, from the rough draft to the original and the various forms of copy. Scrutinize their constitutive parts and their arrangement. Interpret their formulae and their specific vocabulary. Explain their elaboration and, therefore, the organization of chancelleries for public acts, ways of drawing up covenants for private acts and procedures for sending them. Determine, finally, the conditions for their validity and seriate the types of anomalies denouncing falsifications. It is obvious that one need progress in knowledge of sigillography, because seals authenticate so many medieval acts, and in knowledge of technical chronology, because dating techniques diverge from modern practices. Along the way, the course can widen perspectives. Study, for example, the system of evidence in medieval society. Penetrating motivations and gauging the skill of forgers. Uncover elements of ideology and factors of mentality buried in preambles, comminatory clauses and even the formulae of acts. Decode the manifold language of seals, where writing and imagery come together.
Aims :	By the end of this course, students should be able to determine the validity of acts that seal or attest to covenants, laws or obligations; to scrutinize their constitutive parts or their arrangement; interpet their formulae and specific vocabulary and explain their elaboration. He will be able to date acts whose dating techniques diverged from modern practices. He will have made a first approach to decoding seals and coats of arms. *The contribution of this Teaching Unit to the development and command of the skills and learning outcomes of the programme(s) can be accessed at the end of this sheet, in the section entitled "Programmes/courses offering this Teaching Unit".*
Other infos :	Prerequisites : Knowledge of Latin.
Cycle and year of study :	> Master [120] in Information and Communication Science and Technology > Master [60] in History > Master [120] in History
Faculty or entity in charge:	HIST