



## Bachelor's courses Faculty of Humanities

VU University Amsterdam - Student- & Onderwijszaken - Exchange programme Vrije Universiteit - 2018-2019



# Commodity Chains and Consumption

<b>Course code</b>	L_GEBAGES307 ()
<b>Period</b>	Period 4
<b>Credits</b>	6.0
<b>Language of tuition</b>	English
<b>Faculty</b>	Faculteit der Geesteswetenschappen
<b>Coordinator</b>	prof. dr. U.T. Bosma
<b>Examinator</b>	prof. dr. U.T. Bosma
<b>Teaching staff</b>	prof. dr. U.T. Bosma
<b>Teaching method(s)</b>	Seminar
<b>Level</b>	300

## Course objective

Learning to do historical research on the basis of primary and secondary sources; learning to present about the progress and results of research orally and in writing ; acquiring insight in, and applying, concepts and theories about global commodity chains; situating case-studies in historical debates.

## Course content

Who benefited from a cup of coffee ? Who dominated the ivory trade ? What steps did it take to turn cotton grown in Asia, Africa or America into a shirt sold in a shop in Europe ? Such questions are the subject of the 'commodity chain' approach in Global History. Historians use the concept of 'commodity chains' to analyze and explain connections between flows of goods, power relations and consumption patterns in various parts of the world throughout history. In this course, we will discuss the state of the art of the commodity chain approach in history, and then apply it in a variety of case studies between c. 1500 and the present.

## Form of tuition

Research seminar

## Type of assessment

Contributions to discussions in class and on Canvas (15 %) , oral presentations (15 %), written essay (70 %)

## Course reading

To be announced

## Entry requirements

First and second year in History completed

## Target group

Third year students of History

## Remarks

If a student is absent more than two times without a valid reason, he/she will be excluded from the course