GHENT UNIVERSITY

Course Specifications

Valid as from the academic year 2026-2027

Introduction to Heritage (A005635)

Course size *(nominal values; actual values may depend on programme)*

Credits 5.0 **Study time 150 h**

Course offerings and teaching methods in academic year 2027-2028

A (semester 2)	Dutch	Gent	independent work lecture excursion
B (semester 2)	Dutch	Gent	independent work excursion lecture

Lecturers in academic year 2027-2028

Tummers, Anna	LW17	lecturer-in-charge
Daems, Aurelie	LW17	staff member

Offered in the following programmes in 2027-2028	**crdts**	**offering**
Bachelor of Arts in Art History, Musicology and Theatre Studies	5	A
Bachelor of Science in Engineering: Architecture	3	B
Master of Science in Engineering: Architecture	3	B
Exchange Programme Architecture	3	B
Preparatory Course Master of Arts in Art History, Musicology and Theatre Studies	5	A

Teaching languages

Dutch

Keywords

Tangible and intangible heritage, material and immaterial heritage, restauration and conservation, international treaties and conventions, heritage decrees and heritage policies, (illegal and illicit) trade in culture goods, debates around culture goods, cultural appropriation, *Authorized Heritage Discourse*, reception and restitution of culture goods.

Position of the course

The course is an introductory course that provides students with insights in historical and theoretical backgrounds, definitions and conventions related to heritage. It does so by presenting several heritage case studies that are analyzed and discussed throughout the lectures; on the national as well as the international level. Special care and attention is given to elements regarding restauration and conservation of monuments and sites, issues of problematic and contested heritage, the *Authorized Heritage Discourse* and the current debates about the role of heritage within society. Equal attention is given to tangible and intangible heritage. In doing so, the course intends to provide students with methods to engage actively with heritage in all its forms.

Contents

- Ideas about heritage: from the 19th century to the present
- Heritage and the built world: preservation, restauration and conservation of heritage, authenticity, ...
- Heritage international: UNESCO, charters, conventions, ...
- Heritage Flanders: policies, decrees, institutions, ...
- Contested heritage: illegal and illicit trade, cultural appropriation, restitution and

looting, ...
- *Authorized Heritage Discourse*, heritage and communities, critical heritage, ...
- Intangible heritage: (evolving) traditions, customs, rituals, ...

Lecture attendance, extra muros activities and assignment(s) are an integral part of this course. Presence in the class is strongly encouraged.

Initial competences

No specific previous knowledge is required. A strong interest in art, culture, architecture, archaeology, society and heritage in general are greatly encouraged; in its tangible as well as its intangible form.

Final competences

1 Gain an understanding of the history/histories, definitions and theories regarding heritage from the 19th century until today
2 Gain familiarity with international charters and conventions and with the workings of Flemish heritage institutions, the Flemish heritage decree for cultural heritage and immovable heritage
3 Understand key concepts in critical heritage studies and apply these conformingly
4 Be knowledgable about current heritage debates and be capable of critically reflecting upon specific heritage cases
5 Be knowledgable about the changing role of heritage within society

Conditions for credit contract

Access to this course unit via a credit contract is unrestricted: the student takes into consideration the conditions mentioned in 'Starting Competences'

Conditions for exam contract

This course unit cannot be taken via an exam contract

Teaching methods

Excursion, Lecture, Independent work

Extra information on the teaching methods

This class consists of lectures, supplemented by occasional guest lectures and an international excursion. Participation during the discussion of heritage case studies is stimulated via open questions. Class attendance is strongly encouraged. Preceding each lecture a pptx and reading assignments will be uploaded via UFORA. Each pptx will be provided by blank space to add your personal notes to. Lectures will not be recorded. There is no written course: your own notes taken during class, along with the weekly provided pptx and reading assignments are the core of this course. This course also has a mandatory international three-day excursion to Paris, that come with assignments.

Study material

Type: Slides

Name: Slides
Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty
Optional: no
Available on Ufora : Yes

Type: Reader

Name: Reading assignments
Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty
Optional: no
Available on Ufora : Yes

Type: Excursion

Name: Three-day excursion to Paris from Friday 23th to Sunday 25th of April 2027
Indicative price: € 200
Optional: no
Additional information: We try to keep the price to 200 euro's maximum for the total of the excursion. This comprises accommodation, 1 group diner and all visits.

References

Reading assignments will be uploaded on UFORA on a weekly basis and prior to

each lecture.

Course content-related study coaching

Questions can be asked before, during or after the course.
An appointment can be made with the lecturer during office hours.

Assessment moments

end-of-term and continuous assessment

Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the first examination period

Written assessment, Assignment

Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the second examination period

Written assessment

Examination methods in case of permanent assessment

Participation, Assignment

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment

not applicable

Extra information on the examination methods

The written exam counts for 75% of the evaluation for students of offer session A and offer session B.

Students from offer session A make two assignments, which together count for 25 % of the evalution.

Students from offer session B make 1 assignment, which counts for 25% of the evaluation.

Calculation of the examination mark

Offer session A (5 credits):
Written exam and two assignments
Offer session B (3 credits):
Written exam and one assignment

Facilities for Working Students

Accommodations for Working Students
1. Class attendance is strongly encouraged. Infrequent absences will be tolerated.
2. Possible rescheduling of exam if needed during examination period.
3. Possibility of feedback by e-mail or by appointment.