

Pre- and Protohistory (A003300)

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 2026-2027

A (semester 1)

Dutch

Gent

independent work
lecture

Lecturers in academic year 2026-2027

De Mulder, Guy

LW02

lecturer-in-charge

De Bie, Marc

LW02

co-lecturer

De Groote, Isabelle

LW02

co-lecturer

Offered in the following programmes in 2026-2027

[Bachelor of Arts in Archaeology](#)

crdts

5

offering

A

[Bachelor of Arts in History](#)

5

A

[Preparatory Course Master of Arts in Archaeology](#)

5

A

[Elective Set Archaeology](#)

5

A

Teaching languages

Dutch

Keywords

prehistory, protohistory, Europe, archaeology

Position of the course

This introductory course is part of a series Domain-specific knowledge courses: chronological overviews, giving a global chronological overview of the human past. This course intends to give a survey of the global European prehistory and protohistory.

Contents

Chronological overview of the prehistoric and protohistoric periods, human evolution, industries and cultures of Europe, especially of Western Europe in the Palaeolithic, the Mesolithic, the Neolithic, the Bronze Age and the Iron Age.

Initial competences

Basic knowledge from French, English and German to read the specialised literature

Final competences

- 1 To have a general insight into the cultural evolution of the stone ages (prehistory) and metal ages (protohistory), especially within Europe.
- 2 To analyse the relations between different prehistoric events critically.
- 3 To gain insight into the main evolutions of various aspects of prehistoric and protohistoric societies.
- 4 To analyse specialist literature published in different languages critically.
- 5 To be able to situate the most important prehistoric and protohistoric events, cultures and sites in a chronological and geographical perspective.
- 6 Demonstrate general knowledge on biological process of evolution and the biocultural evolution of humans

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

Access to this course unit via an exam contract is unrestricted

Teaching methods

Lecture, Independent work

Extra information on the teaching methods

Lectures with PowerPoint, video and other multimedia combined with critical reading of papers or book chapters.

Guided self-study: mandatory literature.

This course unit assumes responsible use of generative artificial intelligence (GAI).

Unpublished data should never be entered into GAI tools. The applicable guidelines from Academic Skills are respected throughout the course.

Study material

Type: Handbook

Name: Europe between the Oceans 9000 BC-1000 AD

Indicative price: € 20

Optional: no

Language : English

Author : Barry Cunliffe

Type: Syllabus

Name: Prehistory

Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty

Optional: no

Available on Ufora : Yes

Type: Slides

Name: Pre- & Protohistory

Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty

Optional: no

Available on Ufora : Yes

References

- Cunliffe B., 2008. Europe between the Oceans: 9000 BC-AD 1000. New Haven: Yale University Press.
- B. Cunliffe, On the Ocean. The mediterranean and the Atlantic from prehistory to AD 1500 (2017)
- Scarre C., 2009. The Human Past: World Prehistory and the Development of Human Societies. London: Thames & Hudson.

Course content-related study coaching

- Specific questions can be asked on appointment with the lecturer.
- The forum on Ufora

Assessment moments

end-of-term assessment

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

Written assessment with multiple-choice questions, Written assessment with open-ended questions

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

Written assessment with multiple-choice questions, Written assessment with open-ended questions

Examination methods in case of permanent assessment

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment

not applicable

Extra information on the examination methods

Assessment moment

Periodical (100%)

Assessment form

Final, written examination.

Calculation of the examination mark

100% periodical

50% prehistory and 50% protohistory

Students must achieve 10/20 on each part of the course

Facilities for Working Students

1. Possible exemption from educational activities requiring student attendance.

2. Alternative time for feedback

For more information concerning flexible learning: contact the monitoring service of the faculty of Arts and philosophy