

## General Introduction to Archaeology (A003304)

**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

lecture

independent work

**Lecturers in academic year 2026-2027**

Vandendriessche, Hans

LW02

lecturer-in-charge

De Mulder, Guy

LW02

co-lecturer

**Offered in the following programmes in 2026-2027**

[Bachelor of Arts in Archaeology](#)

**crdts**

5

**offering**

A

[Master of Science in Geology](#)

5

A

[Master of Science in Geology](#)

5

A

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

5

A

[Elective Set Archaeology](#)

5

A

**Teaching languages**

Dutch

**Keywords**

Archaeology, history, methodology

**Position of the course**

This basic course is part of a series Methodology. The course intends to give a general overview of methods and theories in European archaeology.

**Contents**

General overview of different aspects of archaeology as discipline. Amongst others, history of archaeology, archaeological theories, taphonomic processes, relative dating, etc.

**Initial competences**

Accessible to all students, without specific previous knowledge

**Final competences**

- 1 To have critical insight into the evolution of archaeology as a science.
- 2 To have knowledge of the large movements that define archaeology.
- 3 To recognise the taxonomic processes archaeology deals with.
- 4 To be able to apply different relative dating techniques (typology, seriation, stratigraphy,...)
- 5 To have a first critical insight in the role of archaeology as an actor in the society of today (ethics, management, archaeology and politics)

**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. 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Unpublished data should never be entered into GAI tools.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: Archaeology Theories, Methods and Practice  
Indicative price: € 50  
Optional: no  
Language : English  
Author : Renfrew and Bahn

Type: Syllabus

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

Type: Slides

Name: powerpoint presentation per course/chapter  
Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty  
Optional: no  
Available on Ufora : Yes

### References

Renfrew C., Bahn P., 2012. Archaeology: Theory, Methods, and Practice, London: Thames and Hudson (sixth edition).

### Course content-related study coaching

Weekly visiting hours and via Ufora.

### Assessment moments

end-of-term assessment

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

Written assessment with open-ended questions

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

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

100% periodical. Final written examination. More insight than encyclopedic knowledge

### Calculation of the examination mark

100% periodical

### Facilities for Working Students

Facilities:

- 1 Possible exemption from educational activities requiring student attendance
- 2 Feedback can be given by email.
- 3 It is possible to take the exam at a different time within the regular exam period