

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 Recognize the importance of the archaeological context and (post-) depositional site-formation processes.
- 4 To be able to apply the principles of 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)
- 6 Being able to apply the theoretical framework of the Chaîne Opératoire to material culture studies.
- 7 Understand the diverse manners in which social aspects of archaeological contexts can be grasped.
- 8 Being able to assess the applicability of different archaeometric analytical techniques.

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.

Recordings of the lectures are not available.

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

