

Introduction to World Archaeology (A003305)

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

excursion

lecture

Lecturers in academic year 2026-2027

Bretschneider, Joachim

LW02

lecturer-in-charge

Offered in the following programmes in 2026-2027

[Bachelor of Arts in African Languages and Cultures](#)

crdts

5

offering

A

[Bachelor of Arts in Archaeology](#)

5

A

[Bachelor of Arts in History](#)

5

A

[Bachelor of Science in Communication Science](#)

5

A

[Elective Set Archaeology](#)

5

A

Teaching languages

Dutch

Keywords

World archaeology

Position of the course

This introductory course is part of the course package 'Methodology', which provides overviews of specific periods and/or regions.

Contents

This course aims to present a general overview of the important archaeological developments outside Europe, more specifically in North, Meso-, and South America, the Far East, Oceania and Africa. Chronologically, the course covers all archaeological periods with emphasis on the Holocene period. The lessons are taught by UGent professors and (inter)national specialists invited as guest speakers. As a result, the lessons by guest speakers can occasionally be given in French or English.

Initial competences

Final competences high school level (Middelbaar Onderwijs). Standard language knowledge (Dutch, English).

Final competences

- 1 To gain insight in cultural evolutions on different continents.
- 2 To be able to reflect critically on the relations between various cultural manifestations and phenomena on different continents.
- 3 To contextualise internationally the archaeological developments that have been discussed in other general courses.
- 4 To critically analyse the available archaeological sources.
- 5 To independently analyse the scientific literature in different languages.

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

Excursion, Lecture, Independent work

Extra information on the teaching methods

- Courses with PowerPoint presentations (up to 50% online), video and/or other media (online).
- Excursion: attend a lecture by a renowned (inter)national expert and/or guided visit to a collection with non-European archaeological artefacts.

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: Reader

Name: Introduction to world archaeology

Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty

Optional: no

Available on Ufora : Yes

Online Available : Yes

Available in the Library : No

Available through Student Association : No

Type: Handouts

Name: Introduction to world archaeology

Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty

Optional: no

Available on Ufora : Yes

Online Available : Yes

Available in the Library : No

Available through Student Association : No

Usability and Lifetime within the Course Unit : intensive

Usability and Lifetime within the Study Programme : one-time

Usability and Lifetime after the Study Programme : regularly

References

The individual (guest) lecturers may provide background information through a list of additional literature, made available on Ufora, as an aid to prepare for the exam.

Course content-related study coaching

Contact moments in the framework of study coaching are possible during breaks, at the end of the course, on appointment, and electronically via email.

Assessment moments

end-of-term assessment

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

Written assessment

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

Written assessment

Examination methods in case of permanent assessment

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment

not applicable

Extra information on the examination methods

Written exam, based on the lectures, guest lectures, the reading materials in MINERVA and the excursion, whereby questions assess insights and comprehensions rather than encyclopedic knowledge. The student is expected to illustrate his/her insights by means of cases and to describe the broader connections between the themes that were covered.

Calculation of the examination mark

100 % end-of-term evaluation. To succeed this course, the final examination mark must be at least 10/20.

Facilities for Working Students

1. Possible exemption from educational activities requiring student attendance
2. Possible rescheduling of the examination to a different time in the same academic year
3. Alternative time for feedback is possible, via email, phone, on appointment during working hours.

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