

Introduction to Prospection and Excavation Techniques (A003306)

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

Credits 6.0

Study time 180 h

Course offerings and teaching methods in academic year 2026-2027

A (semester 2)

Dutch

Gent

lecture

independent work

Lecturers in academic year 2026-2027

Vandendriessche, Hans

LW02

lecturer-in-charge

Maréchal, Sadi

LW02

co-lecturer

Pincé, Possum

LW02

co-lecturer

Offered in the following programmes in 2026-2027

[Bachelor of Arts in Archaeology](#)

crdts

offering

6

A

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

6

A

[Elective Set Archaeology](#)

6

A

Teaching languages

Dutch

Keywords

Prospecting techniques, excavation techniques

Position of the course

This basic course is part of a package 'Methodology'. In this case the course helps the student to gain insight into the specific field methods and field techniques of archaeology.

Contents

Overview of the main fieldwork methods in archaeology, discussed on the basis of numerous applications and examples from the field of European and non-European archaeology.

Initial competences

To have a basic understanding of the meaning, theoretical foundations, objectives and history of archaeology.

Final competences

- 1 To have a critical understanding of the various prospection and excavation methods used within archaeology.
- 2 To have an idea of the diverse applications of these techniques in archaeological fieldwork.
- 3 To be ready for practical fieldwork (internships).
- 4 To have a notion of the ethics of archaeological fieldwork.
- 5 To understand the integration of invasive and non-invasive field approaches.
- 6 Be aware of adequate registration and documentation methods applied on specific research contexts, traces and finds.
- 7 Understand how preventive archaeological research is organized in Flanders.

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

This course consists of lectures, supplemented with illustration material and required reading.

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 Unpublished data should never be entered into GAI tools.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: Syllabus

Name: F. Vermeulen & Ph. Crombé, Inleiding tot prospectie- en opgravings technieken in de archeologie

Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty

Optional: no

Language : Dutch

Available on Ufora : Yes

References

- Collis, J. (1996). *Digging up the past: an introduction to archaeological excavation*. The History Press.
- Greene, K., & Moore, T. (2010). *Archaeology: an introduction*. Routledge

Course content-related study coaching

- For specific questions students can contact the lecturers during their office hours (by appointment) and after the lectures.
- Forum on UFORA.

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 examination with open and closed questions. The emphasis is more on understanding than on encyclopedic knowledge.

Calculation of the examination mark

Periodic evaluation (100%)

Facilities for Working Students

Facilities:

- 1 Possible exemption from educational activities requiring student attendance
- 2 Feedback can be given during an appointment during or after office hours
- 3 It is possible to take the exam at a different time within the regular exam period