

## Introduction to the Natural Sciences in Archaeology (A003307)

**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

independent work  
lecture

### Lecturers in academic year 2026-2027

Pijpelink, April

LW02

staff member

Storme, Annelies

LW02

staff member

Van Thienen, Vince

LW02

staff member

Vandenabeele, Peter

LW02

lecturer-in-charge

Deforce, Koen

LW02

co-lecturer

De Groote, Isabelle

LW02

co-lecturer

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

[Bachelor of Arts in Archaeology](#)

crdts 6

offering A

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

6

A

[Elective Set Archaeology](#)

6

A

### Teaching languages

Dutch

### Keywords

Natural sciences, archaeology, archaeometry

### Position of the course

This course is part of the package 'methodology'.

This course wants to help the students to gain insight in the methods and interpretation of natural scientific research in archaeology.

### Contents

This course covers the first principles on sampling of archaeological material for natural scientific research, and the possibilities offered by soil sciences, geology and geography for archaeology, archaeozoology, archaeobotany, physical anthropology, etc. Moreover, an overview is given of the most important analytical methods.

### Initial competences

No specific preliminary knowledge or skills are required.

### Final competences

- 1 To have an overview of the methodology of natural scientific research in archaeology.
- 2 To be able to evaluate natural scientific reports in an archaeological research project.
- 3 To be able to follow the archaeological literature on natural scientific research.
- 4 To be aware of the potential of natural scientific research in archaeology.
- 5 To have an ecological impression on human history.

### 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**

Lecture: Where students should take additional notes to the notes in the manual as well as to the provided study materials.

Guided self-study: the students should be able to process some texts on a self-reliant base

Excursion: the teacher can eventually organise a national excursion/lab visit.

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: Natuurwetenschappen en archeologie : methode en interpretatie, Anton ErvynckVeerle LinseelePeter VandenaabeeleGert VerstraetenPatrick Degryse, Acco  
Indicative price: € 40  
Optional: no

Type: Slides

Name: course slides  
Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty  
Optional: no

**References**

A list is available in the manual.

**Course content-related study coaching**

Individual coaching is possible after the courses, via Ufora or after making an e-mail appointment with the teaching staff

**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**

Part Ecological archaeology: open questions

Part Analytical methods:

- Terminology: explain in max. 5 lines.
- Statements: Agree or disagree

**Calculation of the examination mark**

End-of-term evaluation: 50 % of the marks are on the part ecological archaeology, 50% of the marks are on analytical methods.