

Introduction to Material Studies (A003316)

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

seminar

practical

Lecturers in academic year 2026-2027

Clerbaut, Tim

LW02

staff member

Sergant, Joris

LW02

staff member

Vanhoutte, Sofie

LW02

staff member

De Clercq, Wim

LW02

lecturer-in-charge

Dekoninck, Michiel

LW02

co-lecturer

Vandendriessche, Hans

LW02

co-lecturer

Offered in the following programmes in 2026-2027

[Bachelor of Arts in Archaeology](#)

crdts

5

offering

A

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

5

A

Teaching languages

Dutch

Keywords

Materials, lithic artefacts, pottery, determination, characterisation, illustration

Position of the course

This introductory course is part of a series Practice, which aims at teaching students the techniques and methods of describing and illustrating archaeological material (lithics and ceramics).

Contents

This course consists of a few theoretical lessons (introductions) followed by practical exercises on lithics and ceramics

Initial competences

Accessible to all students, without specific previous knowledge

Final competences

- 1 To control the basic methods and techniques for analysing lithic artefacts and ceramics.
- 2 To make correct determinations of lithic artefacts and ceramics.
- 3 To make correct descriptions of lithic artefacts and ceramics.
- 4 To make correct assessments of different aspects of lithic artefacts and ceramics (lithic artefacts and ceramics (technology, typology, raw materials, etc.).
- 5 To control the basic techniques for illustrating lithic artefacts and ceramics.

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

This course unit cannot be taken via an exam contract

Teaching methods

Seminar, Lecture, Practical

Extra information on the teaching methods

Through small demonstrations (e.g. of knapping activities) and reference finds the students are introduced in the techniques and methods of analysing archaeological finds. Afterwards each student has to apply this knowledge by studying some artefacts under close supervision of the lecturer and his assistant.

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: Handleiding voor het tekenen van archeologisch aardewerk

Indicative price: € 8

Optional: no

Language : Dutch

Type: Syllabus

Name: Introduction to material culture studies: partim lithic artefacts

Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty

Optional: no

Language : Dutch

Available on Ufora : Yes

Type: Slides

Name: powerpoint presentation per course/chapter

Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty

Optional: no

Language : Dutch

Type: Other

Name: Aanvullende digitale leermiddelen

Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty

Optional: no

Language : Dutch

References

Andrefsky W., 2005. Lithics, Macroscopic approaches to analysis, Cambridge Manuals in Archaeology, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Orton C., Tyers P. Vince A. 1993. Pottery in Archaeology, Cambridge Manuals in Archaeology. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Course content-related study coaching

The practical exercises are supervised permanently.

Assessment moments

continuous assessment

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

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

Examination methods in case of permanent assessment

Participation, Assignment

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment

examination during the second examination period is possible

Extra information on the examination methods

Practical exercises, consisting of an individual analysis of lithic artefacts and ceramics according to the standard methods and techniques for describing and illustrating. The results of this exercise must be discussed in different papers, which will be evaluated.

Calculation of the examination mark

100% based on two submitted papers. 50% lithic analysis; 50% pottery analysis.
The student needs to be successful for both papers.

Facilities for Working Students

1. Student attendance during educational activities is required
2. It is not possible to take the exam at another time
3. Alternative time for feedback

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