

Practicum: Material Culture of the Bronze and Iron Age (A003331)

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

Credits 3.0

Study time 90 h

Course offerings and teaching methods in academic year 2026-2027

A (semester 2)

Dutch

Gent

lecture

excursion

seminar

Lecturers in academic year 2026-2027

Lauwers, Bart

LW02

staff member

De Mulder, Guy

LW02

lecturer-in-charge

Offered in the following programmes in 2026-2027

[Bachelor of Arts in Archaeology](#)

crdts

offering

3

A

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

3

A

Teaching languages

Dutch

Keywords

Archaeology, Bronze Age, Iron Age, Northwestern Europe, ceramics, metal, glass, etc.

Position of the course

This advanced course is part of the series Domain specific practice courses; the main aim is to teach the student how to work with artefacts. It is in fact building on the course Introduction to materials, in this particular case the typology and technology of different categories of artefacts (ceramics, metal as gold and silver, bronze and iron, glass, textile, salt etc.) during the Bronze Age and the Iron Age of North-Western Europe. This course is a continuation of both Introduction to materials and Protohistory of NW-Europe.

Contents

Evolution of ceramics (technology and typology) during the Bronze Age and the Iron Age in NW-Europe, of metal (ornaments, jewellery such as fibulae, bracelets, torques, etc.; weapons and tools in bronze and iron), glass, as well as less common categories of artefacts such as amber, coral, salt, organic artefacts (wood, textile...).

Initial competences

- To have successfully completed the course Introduction to Materials.
- To have successfully completed (or to follow simultaneously) the course Protohistory of NW-Europe.

Final competences

- 1 To have a thorough and critical insight and knowledge of the typology and technology of different material categories occurring during the Bronze Age and the Iron Age in the Low Countries and in surrounding areas.
- 2 To be able to study and draw different material categories.
- 3 To be able to describe different material categories.
- 4 To be able to situate different material cultures of the Metal Ages in their context.
- 5 To have insight into the basic literature concerning the various material

categories of the metal ages.

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, Excursion, Lecture

Extra information on the teaching methods

- Lectures: in preparation for the seminars
- Seminar: practical exercises, to be conducted individually (or in group). Several archaeological objects are to be studied, described and interpreted.
- Self-study: assigned 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.

Study material

Type: Slides

Name: Material

Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty

Optional: no

Available on Ufora : Yes

Type: Excursion

Name: Royal Museum for Art and History

Indicative price: € 45

Optional: no

Additional information: Visit to the Protohistory collection

References

No specific references

Course content-related study coaching

Individual coaching is possible during the lectures and seminars, through Minerva and after appointment with the lecturers.

Assessment moments

end-of-term and continuous assessment

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

Written assessment, Assignment

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

Written assessment, Assignment

Examination methods in case of permanent assessment

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment

not applicable

Extra information on the examination methods

The emphasis is more on insight than on encyclopaedic knowledge. Practical exercises through which the final competences are tested.

Calculation of the examination mark

100% periodic

Facilities for Working Students

1. Student attendance during educational activities is required
 2. The examination cannot be rescheduled
 3. Feedback can be given by email or during an appointment during office hours
- For more information concerning flexible learning: contact the monitoring service of the faculty of Arts and philosophy

