

Practicum: Material Culture of the Middle Ages and the Early Modern Age (A003333)

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	seminar
			practical

Lecturers in academic year 2026-2027

Clerbaut, Tim	LW02	staff member
Vanhoutte, Sofie	LW02	staff member
De Clercq, Wim	LW02	lecturer-in-charge

Offered in the following programmes in 2026-2027

	crdts	offering
Bachelor of Arts in Archaeology	3	A
Preparatory Course Master of Arts in Archaeology	3	A

Teaching languages

Dutch

Keywords

Material study, Middle Ages, early modern period, material culture

Position of the course

This advanced course is part of a series Domain specific practice courses, which aims at teaching students the techniques and methods of describing and illustrating archaeological material finds, building on the course Introduction to materials. This course will focus on typology and technology of different categories of artefacts, both of local and imported nature, from the Middle Ages and later periods.

Contents

Survey of the evolution of mainly ceramics (typology and technology), but also of some other categories of objects from the mediaeval and later periods.

Initial competences

- To have successfully completed the course Introduction to Materials or acquired the intended competences in another way
- To have successfully completed (or to follow simultaneously) the course Archaeology of the Middle Ages and the Early Modern period.

Final competences

- 1 To be able to recognise and analyse mediaeval and early modern objects.
- 2 To have basic knowledge on several areas of mediaeval pottery by direct contact with the material.
- 3 To understand the methodology of the study of archaeological material.
- 4 To be able to generally determinate artefacts from the medieval and early modern period
- 5 To have general insight into the typology and technology of different objects from the mediaeval and later periods.
- 6 To be able to use the result of the study of materials in a general site interpretation by reference to existent case studies.
- 7 To be able to critical reflect about the relation between specific groups of finds and their contexts

Conditions for credit contract

Access to this course unit via a credit contract is determined after successful competences assessment

Conditions for exam contract

This course unit cannot be taken via an exam contract

Teaching methods

Seminar, Excursion, Lecture, Practical

Extra information on the teaching methods

- Lectures: some lectures to sketch the theoretical background
- Seminar: practical exercises either in group and/or individually in order to practice the skills and knowledge concerning the study of mediaeval objects (glas, leder, ...).
- Excursion: possibly a visit to a relevant exhibition or site with explanation by a (regional) specialist. Students are asked to make a modest contribution toward the costs.

Recordings of lectures are not provided as a standard, and the availability of up-to-date recordings that fully correspond to the taught material cannot be guaranteed.

Active attendance in class is therefore strongly encouraged.

This course unit assumes responsible use of generative artificial intelligence (GAI).

Unpublished data, including course material, should never be entered into GAI tools

The applicable guidelines from Academic Skills are respected throughout the course.

Study material

Type: Slides

Name: Handouts in the form of powerpoint-slides linked to the lectures

Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty

Optional: no

Language : Dutch

Available on Ufora : Yes

Available in the Library : No

Available through Student Association : No

Type: Other

Name: Additional literature or practical tools to support the practicum

Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty

Optional: yes

Available on Ufora : Yes

References

Course content-related study coaching

Contact moments every week with practical exercises.

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

Report the student is given an (individual) assignment to determine and report his or her findings. The reports are evaluated, as well as the participation during sessions. Attendance is therefore mandatory.

Calculation of the examination mark

Non-periodical: continuous assessment (100%)

Passing all (partial) assignments is mandatory. Otherwise, the final score is equated to the highest non-deliberable number.

Facilities for Working Students

To be discussed with the teacher

Class attendance

- Class attendance is mandatory and will be included in the calculation of the final score

Online facilities

- No online/digital facilities (lectures take place on campus, without recordings)

Catch-up exam

- It is not possible to take the exam at another time

Feedback

- Possibility to receive feedback at another time: by appointment