

## African Archaeology (A005330)

**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**

| Offering       | Language | Location | Teaching Methods     |
|----------------|----------|----------|----------------------|
| A (semester 1) | English  | Gent     | lecture<br>excursion |
| B (semester 1) | English  | Gent     |                      |

**Lecturers in academic year 2026-2027**

Coutros, Peter LW21 lecturer-in-charge

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

| Programme   | crdts | offering |
|---|-------|----------|
| <a href="#">Master of Science in Teaching in Languages(main subject African Languages and Cultures)</a> | 5     | A        |
| <a href="#">Master of Science in Teaching in Arts and Humanities (main subject Archaeology)</a>         | 5     | A        |
| <a href="#">Master of Arts in African Studies</a>   | 5     | A        |
| <a href="#">Master of Arts in Archaeology</a>   | 5     | A        |
| <a href="#">Exchange Programme African Languages and Cultures</a>                                       | 5     | A        |
| <a href="#">Exchange Programme Archaeology</a>  | 5     | A        |

**Teaching languages**

English

**Keywords**

archaeology, history, Sub-Saharan Africa, cultural heritage

**Position of the course**

As the MA *African Studies* aims at integrating various disciplines in an interdisciplinary approach to the study of African societies, the course African archaeology will offer the methodological basics so that archaeological results and papers can be critically analysed and assessed.

**Contents**

Through a variety of case-studies, issues such as the role of archaeology in Africa will be assessed, dating methods and context (stratigraphy, site formation processes), the conservation chances of various aspects of material culture, the reconstruction of past environments, the impact of evolution in worldview on the agenda of archaeological research, and the contribution of archaeology to the conservation of cultural heritage and museum policies.

Focus is on sub-Saharan Africa and a number of case studies will come from Central Africa.

**Initial competences**

Having successfully completed the BA in African Languages and Cultures, the BA in Archaeology, the BA in History or having equivalent competences.

**Final competences**

- 1 an in-depth knowledge of the role of archaeology in the reconstruction of history in Africa South of the Sahara
- 2 correct use of archaeological sources in an interdisciplinary approach to assess

history in Africa South of the Sahara  
3 understand the importance of archaeological results for African heritage conservation

**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**

Excursion, Lecture

**Extra information on the teaching methods**

Lecture & excursion 36h

**Study material**

None

**References**

None apart from the compulsory reading materials

**Course content-related study coaching**

Feedback in class, Teams online on appointment

**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**

End-of-term evaluation

**Calculation of the examination mark**

**Facilities for Working Students**

Not applicable