

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

A (semester 1)	English	Gent	lecture 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

	crdts	offering
Master of Science in Teaching in Languages(main subject African Languages and Cultures)	5	A
Master of Science in Teaching in Arts and Humanities (main subject Archaeology)	5	A
Virtual Mobility	5	B
Master of Arts in African Studies	5	A
Master of Arts in Archaeology	5	A
Exchange Programme African Languages and Cultures	5	A
Exchange Programme Archaeology	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