

Archaeology and Society (A005433)

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

independent work
excursion
lecture

Lecturers in academic year 2026-2027

De Mulder, Guy

LW02

lecturer-in-charge

Docter, Roald

LW02

co-lecturer

Offered in the following programmes in 2026-2027

[Master of Science in Teaching in Arts and Humanities \(main subject Archaeology\)](#)

crdts

5

offering

A

[Master of Arts in Archaeology](#)

5

A

Teaching languages

Dutch

Keywords

Archeology, legislation, structures of archeology, ethics.

Position of the course

This advanced course is a general course within the archaeology master. It builds on the competencies obtained in the archaeology bachelor and further elaborates on several concepts from 'General introduction to Archeology'.

This course is part of a duo with Projectmanagement. In case that only one course is to be taken, Archaeology, legislation, and management has to be chosen first

Contents

Archeology as part of the society (legislative and executive policy, ethics, use and abuse).

* History of archeology in Belgium, structures and institutions within the national archeology and internationally,

* overview and discussion of legislative measures (Flemish legislation, Valletta Convention, legislation in Wallonia, Brussels the Netherlands, France, England, World Heritage Convention, ...).

External actors in the archaeological world come to explain their views on archeology and their role in it (Flanders, but also other areas can be discussed). The language of this course is Dutch, but some lessons can be given in English or French.

Initial competences

This course builds on certain final competences of the bachelor program in archeology.

At least passive knowledge of English and French is assumed to consult professional literature.

Final competences

1 To use interpretive insights in the analysis of complex problems (eg stratigraphic issues, spatial analyzes, ...) and in the field of archaeological management.

- 2 Value-conscious and nuanced judgments about archaeological issues and theories.
- 3 To have an ethical attitude that bears witness to scientific (archaeological) curiosity, critical reflection and an attitude towards lifelong learning.
- 4 Dare to contribute ethically to archaeological heritage management, heritage policy and field research in the broadest sense.
- 5 To participate critically in policy-making and planning in archaeological research and heritage management.
- 6 Functioning in the changing professional system of archeology and responding correctly to this deontologically.

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, Independent work

Extra information on the teaching methods

Depending on the Corona provisions, elements listed below can be adjusted
 Guided self-study: preparing the lessons on the basis of papers and legal texts.
 Lecture with discussion, by lecturers and guest speakers from the archaeological world.
 Online discussion group: Students are encouraged to discuss specific topics from the lesson through Ufora.
 Independent / team work: students are made responsible in group for the preparation of a theme for the debate with the professional archaeologists.
 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: Legislation
 Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty
 Optional: no
 Available on Ufora : Yes

Type: Excursion

Name: Visit of the Ename Heritagecenter and the Maison de l'Archéologie (Arras)
 Indicative price: € 35
 Optional: no

References

Scarre C., Scarre G.F., (eds.), 2006. The Ethics of Archeology. Philosophical Perspectives on Archaeological Practice, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
 Skeates R., McDavid C., Carman J., (eds.), 2012. The Oxford Handbook of Public Archeology, Oxford: Oxford University Press.
 Webley L., Vander Linden M., Haselgrove C., Bradley R., (eds.), 2012. Development-led Archeology in Northwest Europe, Oxford: Oxbow Books.

Course content-related study coaching

Interactive support via Ufora (discussion forum), in person: by electronic appointment

Assessment moments

end-of-term assessment

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

Written assessment with open-ended questions

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

Written assessment with open-ended questions

Examination methods in case of permanent assessment

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment

not applicable

Extra information on the examination methods

Written exam

Calculation of the examination mark

100% periodic evaluation

Facilities for Working Students

- Possibility of exemption from attendance for certain parts
- Possibility of exam at a different time during the academic year
- Possibility of feedback by appointment