

Archaeometry (A005435)

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	group work	6.25h
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Lecturers in academic year 2026-2027

Van Thienen, Vince	LW02	staff member
Vandenabeele, Peter	LW02	lecturer-in-charge

Offered in the following programmes in 2026-2027

	crdts	offering
Master of Science in Teaching in Arts and Humanities (main subject Archaeology)	5	A
Master of Arts in Archaeology	5	A

Teaching languages

English

Keywords

Material culture, artefact studies, archaeometry, natural sciences, methods of analysis

Position of the course

This advanced course is an elective subject within the Master's programme in Archaeology. It builds on the competences acquired in the bachelor's course in archaeology and aims at an integration of concepts.

Contents

In this interactive and interdisciplinary course, the emphasis is on the independent and critical processing of literature and sources from various sub-disciplines of archaeometry and on the interaction with international specialists. The focus is on archaeometrical analysis in order to answer historical and archaeological questions, that are asked from different perspectives. Working in a collection is different from academic research; in situ analysis during a large measurement campaign requires a different approach compared to research on conservation/restoration and presentation of objects.

This course forms a blended international programme (BIP), where there is interaction between the Ghent students and international colleagues interested in different domains of archaeometrical research from their own backgrounds.

The course consists of two parts: on the one hand, there is a digital component, in which on-line guest lectures are given by experts from abroad, explaining their working context and methods based on recent practical experiences.

On the other hand, there is the 'congress week', in which we simulate an international scientific conference. Here, either foreign fellow students will visit Ghent, with the Ghent students acting as 'congress organisers', or the Ghent students will go abroad to participate in this project as 'congress participants' together with fellow students from participating universities.

During the conference week, students give presentations based on literature research or on their own (archaeometrical) research, e.g. from theses or internships. Lecturers/researchers from the participating universities also give presentations about their research.

The conference organiser will also organise a 'social programme', including a conference excursion.

The language of this course is English.

Initial competences

This course builds on certain final competences of the bachelor's programme in archaeology, more specifically on the specific competences regarding material culture and archaeometry obtained in the material study courses and the course on archaeometry and physical anthropology of the bachelor's programme.

Final competences

- 1 Applying an advanced understanding of the archeometrical conceptual framework to analyse and evaluate new and complex ideas
- 2 Use human and natural sciences originally in research or professional activities (multidisciplinarity).
- 3 Have the attitude to use the best research methods in professional archaeological activities or study.
- 4 Independently select and carry out appropriate analysis techniques and critically interpret the results in archaeological research.
- 5 Have an attitude of integrity which demonstrates scientific curiosity, critical reflection and a spirit of lifelong learning.
- 6 Present and justify own archaeological research to experts, peers and non-experts.
- 7 Communicating, cooperating and acting in an appropriate, inspiring, advisory or authoritative manner.

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

Group work, Excursion, Independent work, Peer teaching

Extra information on the teaching methods

Group work: Discussion on the presentations, organisation of the travel and congress week

Peer teaching: student presentations

Independent work: preparing the presentation, selection of the subject in agreement with the teaching staff.

Excursion: guiding a group and giving a short presentation, interaction with peers

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.

No lecture recordings are provided.

Study material

Type: Slides

Name: course slides

Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty

Optional: no

References

Bibliography may vary, depending on the themes discussed.

Course content-related study coaching

Interactive support via Ufora and in person: by electronic appointment

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

Oral assessment, Participation, Presentation, Peer and/or self assessment

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment

examination during the second examination period is possible in modified form

Extra information on the examination methods

Presentation, with questions during the congress week.

Peer and/or self assessment of the presentations.

Oral evaluation by the teaching staff of the participating universities, during the congress week.

Presence and participation is obligatory.

Calculation of the examination mark

Participation in the congress week is mandatory to pass this course unit. Given the importance of participation, a student cannot pass the examination (neither during the second chance evaluation) in case of absence during the congress week. Final score is determined by a weighted distribution of the peer evaluation and assessment by a jury of the attending lecturers from the participating universities.

Final decision on the end score is by the responsible of the hosting university

Facilities for Working Students

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