

Physical Anthropology (A005436)

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	independent work
			seminar
			excursion
			group work

Lecturers in academic year 2026-2027

Dedrie, Tristan	LW02	staff member
Patterson, Sydney Jane	LW02	staff member
Pijpelink, April	LW02	staff member
De Grootte, Isabelle	LW02	lecturer-in-charge
Abrams, Grégory	LW02	co-lecturer
Deforce, Koen	LW02	co-lecturer
van Hattum, IJk	LW02	co-lecturer

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
Exchange Programme Archaeology	5	A

Teaching languages

English

Keywords

osteoarchoeology, osteology, evolutionary anthropology

Position of the course

This course is an option for the MA students in archaeology. It builds upon the outcomes of the bachelor in archaeology.

Contents

This course deals with two themes: paleoanthropology and osteoarchoeology. Human osteoarchoeology is the study of human skeletal remains found in an archaeological context. Analysis of the human skeleton is absolutely an integral part of understanding the past, as it provides primary evidence of the people who inhabit and experience the world.

The focus of this course is on identifying human skeleton and tooth tests and then applying this knowledge to learn more about individuals and populations.

The language of this course is English.

Initial competences

This course builds on certain final competencies of the bachelor's programme in archaeology.

The student is required to have a basic knowledge in the field of physical anthropology (human osteology) acquired in the course "archoeometrie en fysische antropology" or approved equivalent course.

Some knowledge of English and French to be able to consult professional literature.

Final competences

- 1 Een kennis van een aantal verschillende aspecten in de studie van biologische antropologie.
- 2 Ability to critically evaluate evidence and arguments regarding issues in human evolution.
- 3 The identification of all bones, teeth and important morphological features of the human skeleton
- 4 Determination of age, sex and stature using dental and skeletal methods;
- 5 Identify common pathological lesions and trauma in bones and teeth;
- 6 A familiarity with methods for estimating ancestry and reconstruction of nutrition.
- 7 Use advanced insight into the archaeological conceptual framework to analyse and evaluate new and complex ideas.
- 8 Handle international archaeological scientific literature originally and critically.
- 9 Having an honest attitude that testifies to scientific (archaeological) curiosity, critical reflection and an attitude to lifelong learning.
- 10 Expanding written and oral skills in communicating complex ideas and datasets derived from these academic disciplines.

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, Seminar, Excursion, Lecture, Independent work, Peer teaching

Extra information on the teaching methods

Each theme is introduced by a presentation illustrated with slides, after which seminars or practicals, discussion and problem solving are possible. The substance is then deepened by the student using the most recent literature. Emphasis is placed on the self-efficacy of the student. An excursion to a skeleton depot is provided.

!! Because of COVID19, modified forms of work can be rolled out if this proves necessary!!

This course assumes the responsible use of generative artificial intelligence (GAI). During the lessons, what this means will be explained. The applicable guidelines from Academic Skills are respected throughout the entire course. No unpublished data is to be uploaded to GAI.

Study material

Type: Handbook

Name: Human bone manual

Indicative price: € 30

Optional: no

Language : English

Author : Tim White and Folkens

ISBN : 978-0-12088-467-4

Number of Pages : 300

Online Available : No

Available in the Library : No

Available through Student Association : Yes

Usability and Lifetime within the Course Unit : intensive

Usability and Lifetime within the Study Programme : regularly

Usability and Lifetime after the Study Programme : occasionally

Type: Handouts

Name: Practical Exercise Book

Indicative price: € 20

Optional: no

References

More specific reading before class on Ufora

Course content-related study coaching

Interactive support Ufora, personal by appointment only

Assessment moments

end-of-term and continuous assessment

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

Oral assessment

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

Oral assessment

Examination methods in case of permanent assessment

Peer and/or self assessment, Assignment

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

During the evaluation, it is checked whether the student has gained the necessary insight. The oral exam is a combination of long and short answer questions and tests whether the student has acquired the necessary knowledge. The group presentation (peer evaluation) and paper test the application and insight of the acquired knowledge. The report tests whether the students use the international archaeological scientific literature as originally, well-founded and critically. Covid19: If restrictive measures are applied at the time of evaluations, the fight against COVID19 the evaluations may be adjusted.

Calculation of the examination mark

Report (20%). Peer evaluation (20%), Essay (20%) Oral exam (40%).

Facilities for Working Students

Possibility to access feedback via email or by appointment