

## 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 2023-2024**

A (semester 1)

English

Gent

excursion

seminar

group work

independent work

**Lecturers in academic year 2023-2024**

Massagé, Liesbeth

LW02 staff member

Pironneau, Camille

LW02 staff member

van Hattum, IJK

LW02 staff member

Rivollat, Maité

LW02 lecturer-in-charge

Abrams, Grégory

LW02 co-lecturer

Deforce, Koen

LW02 co-lecturer

De Grootte, Isabelle

LW02 co-lecturer

Palmer, Jessica

LW02 co-lecturer

**Offered in the following programmes in 2023-2024**

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

5

**offering**

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 A knowledge of biological and cultural human evolution

- 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!!

#### **Learning materials and price**

Teaching materials will be made available via Ufora.

Lab coat.

This course uses texts in Dutch, English, or French. White T.D., Folkens P.A., 2005. The Human Bone Manual, Amsterdam/Boston: Elsevier Academic Press. Estimated cost: €30

#### **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%).