

## Art Policy and Museum Studies (A005583)

**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 2025-2026

A (semester 2)	English	Gent	excursion	0.0h
			practical	0.0h
			group work	0.0h
			lecture	0.0h
			independent work	0.0h
B (Year)	English	Gent		

### Lecturers in academic year 2025-2026

Debackere, Dries	LW17	staff member
Bass-Krueger, Maude	LW17	lecturer-in-charge
Foley, Liza	LW17	co-lecturer
Van Godtsenhoven, Karen	LW17	co-lecturer

### Offered in the following programmes in 2025-2026

	crdts	offering
<a href="#">Bachelor of Arts in Art History, Musicology and Theatre Studies</a>	5	A
<a href="#">Bachelor of Arts in History</a>	5	A
<a href="#">Master of Science in Teaching in Arts and Humanities (main subject Archaeology)</a>	5	A
<a href="#">Master of Science in Engineering: Architecture(main subject Architectural Design and Construction Techniques)</a>	5	A
<a href="#">Master of Science in Engineering: Architecture(main subject Urban Design and Architecture)</a>	5	A
<a href="#">Master of Arts in Archaeology</a>	5	A
<a href="#">Master of Science in Engineering: Architecture</a>	5	A
<a href="#">Exchange Programme Art Studies</a>	5	A
<a href="#">Postgraduate Curatorial Studies</a>	6	B
<a href="#">Preparatory Course Master of Arts in Art History, Musicology and Theatre Studies</a>	5	A

### Teaching languages

English

### Keywords

Museum studies; museum histories; museum theories; contemporary museum topics (decoloniality, sustainability, technology); art policy; art policy practicum

### Position of the course

This Bachelor-level course examines the history, function, and evolving role of museums from the Renaissance to today. Students explore how museums shape cultural narratives, mediate power, and construct knowledge, with attention to historical developments, ethical debates, and contemporary policy challenges. Through theoretical readings, case studies, and applied assignments—including a critical "museum effect" analysis and a mock funding application under Flemish art policy—students gain insight into the political, social, and economic forces that define museums as institutions. The course also addresses contemporary debates on decoloniality, sustainability, and digital transformation, and includes site visits, workshops, and interaction with museum professionals.

Exchange students may take up this course unit, for which no prior knowledge of Dutch is required.

## Contents

This course is structured around four key components, providing a comprehensive foundation in museum studies and art policy:

### 1 Historical and International Perspectives

- Trace the evolution of museums from Renaissance collections to contemporary institutions.
- Analyze how museums have been shaped by colonialism, nationalism, and changing societal values.

### 2 Museum Theory and Critical Practice

- Study key museum theories on curation, display, and the construction of knowledge.
- Apply theoretical frameworks through an analytical "Museum Effect" paper based on a site visit.

### 3 Art Policy and Applied Engagement

- Develop a working knowledge of Flemish cultural heritage policy.
- Collaborate on drafting a mock funding application under the Heritage Decree, simulating real-world museum project development.

### 4 Professional Interaction and Contemporary Debates

- Engage directly with museum professionals through guest lectures and workshops.
- Address critical issues facing museums today, including decoloniality, sustainability, and digital innovation.

## Initial competences

- An intrinsic interest in museums, heritage, and art policy.
- No prior knowledge of museum studies or art policy is required.
- Completion of OZVI or a similar course focused on academic writing (crafting arguments, structuring outlines, citing sources) is strongly recommended.

## Final competences

- 1 Acquire a foundational understanding of the historical development of museums, exhibitions, collecting practices, and curatorial strategies from the Renaissance to the present.
- 2 Critically analyze and evaluate the "museum effect," understanding how exhibitions shape viewer perception and construct cultural meanings.
- 3 Independently write a clear, well-structured, and argument-driven critical essay engaging with museum theory and an exhibition site visit.
- 4 Reflect on the intersection between museums and the performing arts, with particular attention to exhibitionary conventions and performance-based practices.
- 5 Engage in critical discussions about contemporary societal challenges facing museums, including issues of decoloniality, sustainability, and digital transformation.
- 6 Engage with museum professionals by preparing and posing thoughtful, critical questions during guest lectures and workshops.
- 7 Demonstrate a working knowledge of Flemish cultural heritage policy and the Heritage Decree funding framework.
- 8 Collaborate effectively in a team to design a mock funding application that integrates policy knowledge with museum practice.

## 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

Access to this course unit via an exam contract is unrestricted

## Teaching methods

Group work, Excursion, Lecture, Practical, Independent work

## Extra information on the teaching methods

Depending on current developments and guest speakers: approximately 8 lectures (180 min each); 1 museum visit; 1 group reading session; 1 group working session;

1 session with in-person feedback.

## Study material

Type: Handouts

Name: Various articles and book chapters

Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty

Optional: no

Language : English

Available on Ufora : Yes

Type: Excursion

Name: Mandatory Museum Visit

Indicative price: € 8

Optional: no

## References

### Course content-related study coaching

Questions can be asked by e-mail. Appointments can be made with the professor during office hours: <https://calendly.com/maude-basskrueger>

### 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

Written assessment, Assignment

### Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment

not applicable

### Extra information on the examination methods

- 1 **Critical Essay (Museum Effect Paper):** Individual assignment. Students critically analyze a museum exhibition by applying key museum theories discussed in class. Includes mandatory preparatory steps (reading workshop, outline submission). Submitted during the semester.
- 2 **Heritage Decree Funding Application:** Group assignment (2–3 students). Developed in stages with mandatory feedback moments (SWOT analysis, rough draft, first full draft). First draft due at the end of the semester; final version submitted during the examination period during the scheduled exam date. Details regarding deadlines, mandatory components, and the weight of each assignment will be communicated during the first class meeting.

### Calculation of the examination mark

#### UGent students:

All core components of the course are mandatory: the critical essay (Museum Effect Paper), the group policy assignment (Heritage Decree Funding Application), and participation in the museum excursion.

To pass the course, students must submit all components and receive a minimum score of 8/20 on both the individual essay and the group assignment.

Deadlines and the grade distribution for each component will be communicated during the first class session.

#### Curatorial Studies - KASK students:

Graded assignments will be communicated at the start of the semester.

### Facilities for Working Students

Attendance is highly recommended for successful completion of the course, as most lectures are not recorded. Participation in the scheduled excursion—or, if necessary, completion of an approved individual visit—is mandatory. Individual feedback sessions can be scheduled by appointment with the professor or assistants.

