

Theoretical Trends in Archaeology

Code: 100725
ECTS Credits: 6

Degree	Type	Year	Semester
2500241 Archaeology	OB	3	2

Contact

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Use of Languages

Principal working language: spanish (spa)
Some groups entirely in English: No
Some groups entirely in Catalan: Yes
Some groups entirely in Spanish: No

Teachers

Jordi Cortadella Morral

Prerequisites

In order to provide students with basic training in concepts, theories and explanatory hypotheses about societies of the past that derive from archaeological research, students should have a basic formation in Prehistory and History in general terms, from Classics to Contemporary times.

Objectives and Contextualisation

- Searching, selecting and managing information autonomously, both from structured sources (databases, bibliographic lists, specialized publications), and from data available on the internet.
- To acquire skills for the critical analysis of archaeological texts, identifying and contextualizing historically the issues raised and the theoretical and methodological resources used in their resolution.
- To recognize and put into practice the following skills for teamwork: commitment, collaboration habit and ability to provide positive elements for solving problems.
- To discuss from the specialized knowledge acquired in an interdisciplinary context.

Competences

- Developing critical thinking and reasoning and communicating them effectively both in your own and other languages.
- Providing a context for the concepts of archaeological theory and its origin and distinguishing the main epistemological and methodological debates in social sciences.
- Respecting the diversity and plurality of ideas, people and situations.
- Students must be capable of applying their knowledge to their work or vocation in a professional way and they should have building arguments and problem resolution skills within their area of study.
- Students must be capable of collecting and interpreting relevant data (usually within their area of study) in order to make statements that reflect social, scientific or ethic relevant issues.

- Students must be capable of communicating information, ideas, problems and solutions to both specialised and non-specialised audiences.

Learning Outcomes

1. Autonomously searching, selecting and processing information both from structured sources (databases, bibliographies, specialized magazines) and from across the network.
2. Critically assessing the sources and theoretical models.
3. Effectively expressing themselves and applying the argumentative and textual processes of formal and scientific texts.
4. Identifying main and supporting ideas and expressing them with linguistic correctness.
5. Identifying the recent interdisciplinary developments affecting the archaeology.
6. Mastering the relevant languages to the necessary degree in the professional practice.
7. Using specialized knowledge acquired in an interdisciplinary context when debating.
8. Using suitable terminology when drawing up an academic text.
9. Using the specific interpretational and technical vocabulary of the discipline.

Content

The theoretical guidelines and the methodological structure of the archaeological discipline will be presented. Also, the historical development of Archaeology from its origins will be critically reviewed.

1. From Myth to Logos. Archaeology in the Greek thought.
2. Art and Archaeology.
3. Evolutionism, Diffusionism, Historical Particularism, and Functionalism.
4. The Historical-Cultural School: general principles.
5. The Historical-Cultural School and the chrono-cultural typologies.
6. The Processual Archaeology ('New Archaeology') and the building of a explicitly scientific Archaeology.
7. Postmodern thought and Postprocessual Archaeologies: critical perspectives and the interpretive vindication.
8. Historical Materialism and Archaeology: approaches from V. G. Childe to the present.
9. Emergent perspectives and approaches in Archaeology.

Methodology

The subject consists of practical classes and seminars.

-In the theoretical sessions the central contents of the agenda will be taught, relating the different theoretical currents with their historical context and with the problems they seek to solve.

-In the seminars will carry out team work, focused on the analysis of theoretical proposals in the research practice of archaeology.

Activities

Title	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes
Type: Directed			

Lectures	40	1.6	2, 5
Type: Supervised			
Seminars	20	0.8	2, 1, 7, 6, 3, 4, 9
Type: Autonomous			
Individual and team work and study	78	3.12	2, 1, 6, 5

Assessment

The subject will be evaluated through individual and / or group essays, public presentations and written tests.

The evaluation system is organized into three modules, each of which will be assigned a specific weight in the final grade.

- Essays module: in this module the essays presented during the course will be evaluated.
- Public presentations and open debate module (seminar).
- Written tests module: this module is aimed at strengthen the understanding of technical vocabulary and theoretical models, and it is restricted to the resit process.

To qualify for the resit, it will be required to have submitted to all evaluable activities and to have passed at least half of them (threshold grade: 4 points over 10).

Assessment Activities

Title	Weighting	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes
Essays presentation	50	0	0	2, 1, 6, 3, 8, 5, 4, 9
Exam	30	2	0.08	2, 3, 8, 5, 9
Oral presentation and discussion	20	10	0.4	7, 6, 3, 8, 4, 9

Bibliography

BASIC BIBLIOGRAPHY

(the list of references could be expanded at the time of addressing specific issues).

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