

History and Civilisation of Egypt

Code: 104209
ECTS Credits: 6

| Degree | Type | Year | Semester |
|-------------------------|------|------|----------|
| 2503702 Ancient Studies | OB | 1 | 2 |

Contact

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Use of Languages

Principal working language: catalan (cat)
Some groups entirely in English: No
Some groups entirely in Catalan: Yes
Some groups entirely in Spanish: No

Teachers

Jospe Cervelló Autuori
Marc Orriols Llonch
Jose Lull Garcia

Prerequisites

There are no prerequisites.

Objectives and Contextualisation

- 1) To understand the historical processes that took place in the Nile Valley since the Neolithic times (VI millennium) to the Roman period, taking into account both the internal dynamics and the international contexts.
- 2) To know the most important aspects of the Egyptian civilization: society and economy, religion and spirituality, gender and identity, language and writing, urbanism and architecture, material culture and visual culture, "sciences" and techniques.
- 3) To know and to interpret the most important written, archaeological and iconographical sources of ancient Egypt (the written sources, in translation).

Competences

- Apply the main methods, techniques and instruments of historical analysis.
- Be able to express oneself orally and in writing in the specific language of history, archaeology and philology, both in one's own languages and a third language.
- Recognise the impact of some important aspects of the ancient world in contemporary culture and society.
- Students must develop the necessary learning skills to undertake further training with a high degree of autonomy.

- Students must have and understand knowledge of an area of study built on the basis of general secondary education, and while it relies on some advanced textbooks it also includes some aspects coming from the forefront of its field of study.
- Understand and interpret the evolution of ancient societies in the Mediterranean from Egyptian civilisation to the disbanding of Western imperial Rome through analysis of the political, historical, social, economic and linguistic factors.

Learning Outcomes

1. Analyse the key issues that help to approach the study of historical phenomena from a gender perspective.
2. Explain the main historical events in Ancient Egypt and the Greco-Roman world.
3. Explain the main historiographic debates on antiquity.
4. Identifying the context of the historical processes.
5. Identifying the specific methods of history and their relationship with the analysis of particular facts.
6. Preparing an oral and written discourse in the corresponding language in a proper and organized way.
7. Relate the historical texts to their archaeological contexts.
8. Show expertise in the reading of historical texts written on various media.
9. Submitting works in accordance with both individual and small group demands and personal styles.
10. Using the specific interpretational and technical vocabulary of the discipline.

Content

LESSON 1 Introduction to Egyptology

History and historiography of Egyptology

Periodization and chronology

Natural environment: geography and geology

Case study: The Nile

LESSON 2 Origin of the State in the Nile Valley

Neolithization

Emergence and consolidation of the State: from the Predynastic to the Dynastic

LESSON 3 Emergence of writing in the Nile Valley

Egyptian scripts

The hieroglyphic system

Earliest evidence of writing in the Nile Valley: documents and problems

LESSON 4 The III millennium

The Old Kingdom or the Pyramid Age

Memphis and the memphite necropolis

Political and religious aspects

Social and economic aspects

Case study: ¿How the pyramids were built?

Case study: The *Pyramid Texts*

LESSON 5 The II millennium (I)

The Middle Kingdom

Political and literary aspects

Social and economic aspects

Egypt and Nubia: Kerma

Egypt and the Middle East: the *hyksos*

LESSON 6 The II millennium (II)

The New Kingdom or the Egyptian empire (I)

Political, military and diplomatic aspects

Social and economic aspects

Case study: Hatshepsut

Case study: Thebes: the city, the temples, the necropolis

LESSON 7 The II millennium (III)

The New Kingdom or the Egyptian empire (II)

The Age of Amarna: politics and religion

The Ramessid culture

Social and economic aspects

Case study: The battle of Qadesh

Case study: Strikes and the dismantling of the royal tombs

LESSON 8 The Sea Peoples

The crisis of 1200 in the eastern Mediterranean

Egypt and the Sea Peoples

The Libyan question

LESSON 9 The I millennium (I)

The Late Period: Egyptians, Libyans, Ethiopians, Assyrians and Persians

The Kingdom of Kush

Social and economic aspects

Case study: Egypt and the Bible

LESSON 10 The I millennium (II)

Alexander and Egypt

Ptolemaic Egypt

Political and economic aspects

Cultural aspects

Case study: Alexandria

Case study: The Ptolemaic temples

LESSON 11 Egyptian religion

Cosmogonies

The Pantheon

The problem of the Egyptian mythology

The funerary world

The doctrine of Egyptian kingship

Temples and rituals

Case study: the myth of Osiris

Case study: the *Book of Going Forth by Day* or *Book of the Dead*

LESSON 12 Gender and identity in ancient Egypt

Egyptology and gender studies

Man and woman: the roles of gender

Birth, childhood, adulthood, old age, and death

Sexuality

LESSON 13 Art, architecture and urbanism in Egypt

Egyptian art

Civil and military architecture and urbanism: cities and fortresses

Funerary architecture: royal and private tombs

Roads

LESSON 14 "Sciences" and techniques in ancient Egypt

Medicine

Astronomy and time computation

Numeration and mathematics

Geography and cartography

Case study: the Egyptian sky

Methodology

The course will consist of three kinds of formative activities:

- 1) Directed activities: lectures and practical lessons (case studies).
- 2) Supervised activities: classroom debates, questions, discussions, and exchanges of opinions, that may be proposed by the lecturers or be the result of concerns or interventions of the students.
- 3) Independent activities: readings, study of sources, courseworks (see Evaluation), and final exam preparation.

Activities

| Title | Hours | ECTS | Learning Outcomes |
|---|-------|------|-------------------------------|
| Type: Directed | | | |
| Lectures | 30 | 1.2 | 1, 8, 3, 2, 4, 5, 7, 10 |
| Practical lessons (case studies) | 15 | 0.6 | 1, 8, 3, 2, 4, 5, 7, 10 |
| Type: Supervised | | | |
| Classroom discussions | 5 | 0.2 | 1, 8, 6, 3, 2, 4, 5, 10 |
| Type: Autonomous | | | |
| Courseworks (commentary of sources and reading report: see Evaluation) and exam preparation | 68 | 2.72 | 1, 8, 6, 3, 2, 4, 5, 9, 7, 10 |

Assessment

The evaluation will consist of three activities:

- 1) Commentary of primary sources: written source (in translation) and archaeological or iconographical source on the same issue to connect: 25%.
- 2) Bibliographic summary of one of the 4 required readings: 25%.
- 3) Final exam: 50%.

Activities 1 and 2 will be delivered in doc or pdf format and they must conform to the following edition parameters: Font Times New Roman 12 pt; single spaced; default margins; complete name and NIU above right.

Students must do four required readings during the semester. To run activity 2 they must choose one of these readings, but all of them will be on the exam.

To pass the course the final exam must be passed. The minimum mark for the final exam to be deemed approved is 5.

Assessment Activities

| Title | Weighting | Hours | ECTS | Learning Outcomes |
|-------|-----------|-------|------|-------------------|
|-------|-----------|-------|------|-------------------|

| | | | | |
|-------------------------------|-----|----|------|-------------------------------|
| Commentary of primary sources | 25% | 15 | 0.6 | 1, 8, 6, 3, 2, 4, 5, 9, 7, 10 |
| Final exam | 50% | 2 | 0.08 | 1, 8, 6, 3, 2, 4, 5, 9, 7, 10 |
| Summary of a required reading | 25% | 15 | 0.6 | 1, 8, 6, 3, 2, 4, 5, 9, 7, 10 |

Bibliography

Basic bibliography

Agut, D.; Moreno García, J.C. 2016. *L'Égypte des pharaons. De Narmer à Dioclétien. 3150 av.J.-C.-284 apr.J.-C.* Mondes Anciens. Paris: Belin.

Baines, J.; Málek, J. 1980. *Atlas of Ancient Egypt*. Oxford: Phaidon (Spanish transl. 2000. *Atlas cultural de Egipto. Dioses, templos y faraones*. Barcelona: Folio).

Bard, K.A. 2015. *An Introduction to the Archaeology of Ancient Egypt*. Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell.

Cervelló Autuori, J. 2015¹, 2016². *Escrituras, lengua y cultura en el antiguo Egipto*. El espejo y la lámpara 11. Bellaterra: Publicacions UAB.

Kemp, B.J. 1989¹; 2005². *Ancient Egypt. Anatomy of a Civilization*. London-New York: Routledge (Spanish transl. of the 1st ed. 1992. *Antiguo Egipto. Anatomía de una civilización*. Barcelona: Crítica).

Lloyd, A.B. (ed.) 2010. *A Companion to Ancient Egypt*. 2 vols. Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell.

Moreno García, J.C. 2004. *Egipto en el Imperio Antiguo (2650-2150 antes de Cristo)*. Barcelona: Edicions Bellaterra.

Parra, J.M. (ed.) 2009. *El antiguo Egipto. Sociedad, economía, política*. Madrid: Marcial Pons.

Shaw, I. (ed.) 2000. *The Oxford History of Ancient Egypt*, Oxford: Oxford University Press (Spanish transl. 2007. *Historia del antiguo Egipto*. Madrid: La Esfera de los Libros).

Hölbl, G. 2001. *A History of the Ptolemaic Empire*. London-New York: Routledge (orig. ed. 1994. *Geschichte des Ptolemäerreiches*. Darmstadt: Wissenschaftliche Buchgesellschaft).