

**Research Methodology in Prehistory, Antiquity and
the Middle Ages**

Code: 42311

ECTS Credits: 15

Degree	Type	Year	Semester
4313137 Prehistory, Antiquity and the Middle Ages	OB	0	1

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Use of Languages

Principal working language: catalan (cat)

Teachers

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Prerequisites

Studies in History, Archaeology, Classics, Classical Filology or any other official degree in Arts & Humanities, Social Sciences and Law.

Objectives and Contextualisation

The general aims of this module are to introduce students in the methodology of the different fields of research in Prehistory, Antiquity and Middle Ages, through the exposure of basic theoretical and methodological principles, and the study and debate of key cases related to the particularities of each of these fields. Its purpose is to exemplify the problems associated with archaeological, historical and philological research, so that students might be able to plan and develop their own research.

Competences

- Analyse and summarise information from a critical perspective.
- Choose and apply the most efficient methods and techniques at each stage of the historical or archaeological research being conducted.
- Correctly present historical research results orally or in writing.

- Critically analyse the theoretical and methodological standpoints that have guided research in prehistory, ancient history and medieval history.
- Discuss and compare scientific opinions and issues in open academic debate.
- Integrate knowledge and use it to make judgements in complex situations, with incomplete information, while keeping in mind social and ethical responsibilities.
- Organise, plan and manage research work.
- Solve problems in new or little-known situations within broader (or multidisciplinary) contexts related to the field of study.
- Use acquired knowledge as a basis for originality in the application of ideas, often in a research context.
- Use the typical categories and vocabulary used in research and dissemination of prehistory, antiquity, and the Middle Ages.
- Work independently: solving problems and taking decisions.

Learning Outcomes

1. Analyse and summarise information from a critical perspective.
2. Assess the various different methodologies, the tradition and current scientific.
3. Formulate and solve problems and interpret the causes of historical processes.
4. Give presentations on the materials handled or generated and the results obtained.
5. Integrate knowledge and use it to make judgements in complex situations, with incomplete information, while keeping in mind social and ethical responsibilities.
6. Organise, plan and manage research work.
7. Solve problems in new or little-known situations within broader (or multidisciplinary) contexts related to the field of study.
8. Use acquired knowledge as a basis for originality in the application of ideas, often in a research context.
9. Use correctly the categories and concepts that belong to the field of study.
10. Use the main analytic methods, techniques and instruments in prehistoric archaeology.
11. Use the main analytic methods, techniques and instruments in archaeology and ancient history.
12. Use the main analytic methods, techniques and instruments in archaeology and medieval history.
13. Use the main analytic methods, techniques and instruments in greco-latin philology.
14. Use the main analytic methods, techniques and instruments in prehistory, antiquity, Middle Ages and Philology.
15. Work independently: solving problems and taking decisions.

Content

1. Methodology of research in Prehistoric Archaeology

The contents are related to experiences, thoughts and proposals derived from the development of interdisciplinary projects by different members of the Department of Prehistoric. This fact guarantees a direct interrelationship between the setting of issues and problems in the framework of current research, with the implementation of solutions in the context of case studies in which the teaching staff is directly involved. The contents of each topic always aim to combine the application of theoretical frameworks, methodological implications and empirical particularities.

1.1. Archaeological discourses.

- The basis of archaeological research: archaeological objects, subjects.
- Recent trends in archaeological discourses (Symmetrical Archaeology): tension between narratives and knowledge.

1.2. Etnoarchaeology: contributions to Prehistory.

- Concepts and definition. Theoretical and methodological foundations in etnoarchaeology.
- The history of etnoarchaeology and its contributions to contemporary archaeology.
- The contributions of etnoarchaeology to the understanding of the past according different research domains: patterns of refuse, production and consumption processes, social uses of the space, symbolism and ritual.

1.3 Theory and analysis of settlements.

- Social Espace, Archaeological Site, Settlement.
- From Activity Areas to Settlements: the Structuration of Social Space.
- Settlement categories: criteria and implications.

1.4. The archaeology of funerary practices.

- Introduction: Archaeology and the study of funerary assemblages.
- Funerary assemblages and practices: definition, heuristic potential and analytical protocols.
- Theoretical and methodological trends in the research of funerary practices: proposals and case studies.
- The archaeology of funerary practices and current political struggles.

1.5. Seminar:research projects.

Exposition, comments and discussion on the contributions made by the teaching staff from the Department of Prehistory and from external institutions.

2. Methodology of research in Antiquity and Middle Ages Studies.

In this section the methods of research in Classical Philology, Ancient History and Medieval History will be summarized. The contents will be explained during a series of theoretical and practical sessions in which, from the study of specific problems, students are offered a global view of the most current analytical resources to write the history of Antiquity and the Middle Ages, as well as the study of their texts. Students are also oriented in the initiation to research, so that work is planned under the supervision of the most appropriate tutoring, always in accordance with the goals set in advance and with the attendance of the teaching staff of the departments of Antiquity and Middle Ages Sciences and Prehistory.

2.1. Introduction to Research in Ancient History.

In this section we will devote special attention to the use of the resources necessary to initiate research in the field of Ancient History. We will build on the possibilities offered by modern primary source access and treatment tools (Humanities packard, Perseus, LSJ, DGE, etc.) to, in a second phase, address the analytical possibilities of secondary sources (Dialnet, JSTOR, Année Philologique (on-line), Persee, catalogues and digital repositories, etc.). In this way, from the reality of today's scientific world, we will review the main modern trends in the studies of the Ancient World and, particularly, in the use of auxiliary tools for research: databases and bibliographic collections. All this formation will be focused from case studies and with the interaction of students so that, finally, they will be able to complete their research in the Final Master's Work (TFM). In this sense, visits and practical exercises will be carried out in the journal repository and the library of the UAB with the aim of commenting on the main secondary primary sources but, also, aiming to show the different sensitivities and historiographical trends in Europe and beyond.

2.2. Introduction to Classical Philology Research.

In this part of the methodological module we will review the history of textual criticism and present its fundamental notions. On this basis, the new challenges of textual criticism will be described, such as the editing of texts with multilingual tradition or texts that are, in themselves, translations of other texts. Not only will we assess these difficulties, but we will have the opportunity to address them in an editing workshop in a practical way. We will conclude with a critical reflection on the scope and limits of the scientific method.

2.3. Introduction to research in Medieval History.

This section aims to provide an overview of the most current analytical resources to the history of the the Middle Ages, to oversee students in their initiation to research and provide them with tools with which to develop a research activity in the field of Medieval history, both academic and professional.

The program will include the presentation of the sources for writing the history of the Middle Ages:

- Historiographic sources.
- Libraries (generalist and specialized).
- Internet resources (Gallica, Cervantes virtual, Hispanica Digital Library, Digital Memoria de Catalunya, etc).
- Archaeological sources (academic journals specialized in Medieval archaeology, inventories and catalogues, memories of archaeological intervention, etc.).

On a practical level, the activity will be organized in a group or at the individual level according to the number of students. A part of each session will be devoted to discussing the approaches, problems and progress that each group or individual has had throughout the week. In the end, a brief report will be submitted.

2.4. Introduction to research in Historiographic Sciences.

As it is a methodological module, we will test two different approaches to the fact of the book, libraries and reading in the late Middle Ages. The first class will deal with indirect testimonies, that is, references of books of the time that have not been preserved but are mentioned in the Medieval documentation. To explain this fact the case of Manresa will be discussed. Next, we'll see how the codicological description of a manuscript is performed. In the second session, we will visit the archive and the reserve library of the University of Barcelona, located in the Universitat Square, where we will be able to review Medieval manuscripts, comment them and develop an exercise of codicological description. This exercise will be the basis for the assessment of the subject.

Methodology

Guided activities: lectures, presentation of essays, seminars on discussion in relation to documentary or archaeological sources.

Monitorized activities: tutorial activities, essays (at a individual or small group levels).

Autonomous activities: searching documentary sources, reading of texts, essay writing, studying, attendance at seminars and conferences

Activities

Title	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes
Type: Directed			
Autonomous	187.5	7.5	1, 9, 6, 3, 15, 14, 2
Guided	93.75	3.75	1, 9, 4, 6, 3, 15, 14, 2
Monitorized	93.75	3.75	1, 9, 4, 6, 3, 15, 14, 2

Assessment

Evaluation of the specialization in Antiquity and Middle Ages Sciences.

In accordance with the objectives set out, the evaluation focuses on the individual research project to be developed by each student during the first semester of the course, in which specific objectives and methods to achieve them will be set. In order for this work to be the core of the subsequent research work (TFM), the evaluation process can also involve the teacher in charge of tutoring each TFM.

Accordingly, the evaluation procedure will be as follows:

-Short practical exercise (or written test) proposed from each area of knowledge, in order to attest to basic and indispensable learning in matters of research methodology. The sum of these grades will mean 60% of the final grade, with each area of knowledge having a proportional contribution to that grade.

-Complete the evaluation (40%) with a follow-up of the student in the development of their TFM, through a consultation of the coordinator of the module with the tutor of the TFM.

Note: the participation of students in the exercises and workshops is essential for any eventual resit and, therefore, attendance in these activities will be highly recommended.

Assessment Activities

Title	Weighting	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes
Presentation of results	40%	0	0	1, 9, 4, 6, 3, 7, 8, 14
Tutorials and individual or group interviews	20%	0	0	1, 9, 4, 6, 3, 5, 15, 14, 2
Writing essays	40%	0	0	1, 9, 11, 12, 10, 13, 4, 6, 3, 7, 8, 15, 14, 2

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