

Pottery: Production and Use

Code: 44481
ECTS Credits: 6

Degree	Type	Year	Semester
4317545 Prehistoric Archaeology	OT	0	2

Contact

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Use of Languages

Principal working language: spanish (spa)

Teachers

Xavier Clop Garcia

Javier Camara Manzaneda

Sara Díaz Bonilla

Anna Maria Bach Gómez

Prerequisites

Those established by the general regulations of the master's degree

Objectives and Contextualisation

The objective of the module is to train students to approach and/or manage the study of prehistoric pottery from a technological perspective. The theoretical bases, methodologies and research strategies necessary to develop global studies of handmade pottery products will be addressed. Issues such as the theoretical framework of ceramic research, classification systems and type-morphometric definition, the analysis of raw material (clays and degreasers), the identification of modeling processes, the study of traces of use and the determination of the functionality of vessels, the role of experimentation and ethnoarchaeological research in ceramic research, etc. Particular emphasis will be placed on the analysis and discussion of issues such as ways of doing, artisan traditions, transmission systems of artisanal knowledge... illustrating it with the exposition and debate of case studies to different areas of the world. The contents of the module have as primary objective providing students with advanced training that enables them to work with advanced resources and instruments in the study of prehistoric ceramic materials, as they are essential documents for the knowledge of the communities that produced and/or used them.

Competences

- Analyse and extract significant scientific information from archaeological materials and from the results of specialist scientific studies.
- Critically analyse a scientific problem area on the basis of specific evidence and documents.
- Design research projects on prehistoric archaeological sites and materials
- Knowledge and understanding that provide a basis or opportunity for originality in developing and / or applying ideas, often in a research context.
- Present information, ideas, problems and solutions to both specialists and non-specialists.

- Recognise and judge the social consequences of your own work, taking diversity in gender, identity and culture into account.
- Work both individually and in multidisciplinary teams

Learning Outcomes

1. Apply both knowledge and analytic skills to problem-solving within the field of study.
2. Apply the appropriate techniques and instruments of analysis to case studies.
3. Evaluate the real potential for influencing the public through cultural action.
4. Include gender perspectives, universal accessibility and multiculturalism when proposing and reflecting on work.
5. Incorporate ethical considerations into the analysis of the cultural needs of different groups.
6. Knowledge and understanding that provide a basis or opportunity for originality in developing and / or applying ideas, often in a research context.
7. Organise time and resources for performing the work: prioritising objectives, and setting calendars and plans for action.
8. Present information, ideas, problems and solutions to both specialists and non-specialists.
9. Recognise and put into practice the following teamwork skills: loyalty, willingness to collaborate, cooperation in problem solving.
10. Relate theoretical approaches to their historical context and to research methods.
11. Seek out, select and manage information independently, both from structured sources (databases, bibliographies, or specialist journals) and from internet searches.
12. Show mastery of the instrumental techniques and resources of archaeological laboratory analysis.
13. Use acquired knowledge as a basis for originality in the application of ideas, often in a research context.

Content

ARCHEOMETRY OF POTTERY PRODUCTION (Dr. Xavier Clop) (6 sessions)

1.- CONTENT OF THE SUBJECT

- Some concepts: archaeometry, product, pottery production process, ways of doing, artisan tradition... (1.5 hours theory session).
- Clay and paste: raw material management strategies: what, how, where, why... (1-hour theory session).
- From clay to shaped object: modelling, treating surfaces, decorating (1 hour theory session).
- Finally, obtain pottery: drying and firing (1-hour theory session).
- From production to social use (1.5 hours theory session).
- Archaeometry of pottery production and ethnoarchaeology (1-hour theory session).
- Archaeometry of pottery production and experimentation (1-hour theory session).

2.- FORMATION ACTIVITIES

- Work with archaeological material in the theoretical sessions (classroom). Macroscopic identification of natural degreasers and added degreasers in authentic archaeological collections (2 hours practical session) (group work with brief oral presentation, 10 min.).
- Work with archaeological material in the theoretical sessions (classroom). From authentic archaeological collections, students they will start to the study of modelling techniques (2 hours practical session) (group work with brief oral presentation, 10 min.).
- Work with archaeological material in the theoretical sessions (classroom). From authentic archaeological collections, students they will start to the study of surface treatment (2 hours practical session) (group work with brief oral presentation, 10 min.).

- Proposal and discussion of case studies regarding the determination of the social use of pottery (2 hours practical session) (group work with brief oral presentation, 10 min.).

- Proposal and discussion of case studies around the use of ethnography and experimentation in the study of pottery production (2 hours practical session) (group work with brief oral presentation, 10 min.).

MORPHOMETRIC AND DECORATION ANALYSIS (Dra. Anna Gómez) (4 sessions)

1.- CONTENT OF THE SUBJECT

- Historiographical approach to pottery production studies. Main contributions to the measurement of the morphotypes used in prehistoric ceramics. (1-hour theoretical session).

- Volumetric and potential capacity approach of ceramic containers. Content considerations based on the densities and storage potential of ceramic containers. (1-hour theoretical session).

- Morphometric approach and mechanical and thermal properties of pottery vessels from a diachronic perspective (Pottery Neolithic to Late Bronze). (1-hour theoretical session).

- Historiographical approach to production and consumption strategies. (1-hour theoretical session).

- The concept of ceramic decoration: from gesture to decorative motif and functionality to "aesthetics". (1-hour theoretical session).

- Approach to main author's theories focusing on decorative pattern and approach to the technological inference. (1-hour theoretical session).

2.- TRAINING ACTIVITIES

- Work with archaeological material in the theoretical sessions (classroom). Based on real archaeological collections, the problem of quantification in ceramics and the representativeness of quantitative data *versus* qualitative will be addressed.

Type: Group work

Dedication: 2 hours.

Type of work: in groups with a brief oral presentation (10 min).

- Volume and capacity approach. Laboratory practices with drawing ceramic material, digitization and volumetric calculation using different software.

Type: Individual work

Dedication: 2 hours.

Type of work: Exercise delivery and critical assessment of it.

Methodological application to decorative analysis. From some ceramic sets, develop an analytical proposal to decorative patterns analysis and their representativeness (quantitative and qualitative).

Type: Group work

Dedication: 2 hours

Type of Work: Delivery of the proposed variables and assessment of the methodology used.

USES AND SOCIAL FUNCTIONS (Dr. Xavier Clop) (2 sessions)

1.- CONTENT OF THE SUBJECT

Researchers of recognized national and international prestige in the field of research on handmade ceramic productions of prehistoric chronology, ethnoarchaeology, experimentation... will be invited to carry out an explanation of their work and so that the students can dialogue with them about the theoretical and methodological approaches and the empirical results of the case studies presented. The structure of these seminars will be mainly of expositions in sessions of 1.5 hours, which will include the explanation and the space for debate. The participation of 4 researchers is expected each course.

2.- TRAINING ACTIVITIES

Approach and discussion around the exhibition held. Eventually, it will be possible to work with archaeological, ethnoarchaeological and experimental materials. The sessions may be face-to-face or, eventually, be carried out through an online connection.

Methodology

Guided activities: introductory classes on the theoretical and methodological approaches of the subject: discussion seminars on case studies and laboratory practices.

Supervised activities: tutorials and guided learning exercises (individual or in small groups).

Autonomous activities: search of documentation, Reading of texts, writing of Works, study.

Annotation: Within the schedule set by the centre or degree programme, 15 minutes of one class will be reserved for students to evaluate their lecturers and their courses or modules through questionnaires.

Activities

Title	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes
Type: Directed			
Papers discussion seminars	4	0.16	2, 1, 11, 13
Public presentation of essays	2	0.08	2, 1, 8, 13
Study and discussion of documentary and archaeological sources	4	0.16	2, 1, 12, 4, 9, 10, 13
Theoretical classes	20	0.8	6
Type: Supervised			
Carrying out guided learning exercises (individual or in small groups)	10	0.4	2, 1, 11, 12, 4, 7, 9, 10
Tutorials	10	0.4	5, 2, 1, 11, 4, 7, 10
Type: Autonomous			
Search for documentation, reading texts, writing papers, studying	42	1.68	2, 1, 11, 12, 4, 7, 9, 10, 6, 13

Assessment

Classroom activities: discussion of case studies and practical activities (50% of the assessment).

Realization of individual course work (50% of the assessment). The work will have to be chosen as a priority from a list proposed by the teaching staff of the module.

The practices are not recoverable.

Assessment Activities

Title	Weighting	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes
Assistance and participation at class	15%	36	1.44	2, 1, 8, 6, 13
Carrying out practical activities	30%	8	0.32	5, 1, 8, 10, 13
Carrying out written work	40%	12	0.48	5, 2, 1, 11, 12, 4, 8, 10, 6, 13, 3
Oral presentation of written work	15%	2	0.08	2, 4, 7, 8, 9, 10, 6, 13

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USES AND SOCIAL FUNCTIONS (Dr. Xavier Clop)

The different speakers will provide, in each case, the bibliography necessary to prepare the work sessions. Students will have this bibliography with enough time to prepare the corresponding session.

Software

No specific software is necessary