Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona

2023/2024

Artefact Analysis

Code: 100717
ECTS Credits: 6

Degree	Type	Year	Semester
2500241 Archaeology	OB	3	2

Contact

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Teaching groups languages

You can check it through this link. To consult the language you will need to enter the CODE of the subject. Please note that this information is provisional until 30 November 2023.

Teachers

Rafael Mora Torcal

Frank Robert Risch

Eni Soriano Llopis

Prerequisites

Have made previously the subject of Introduction to the Archaeology.

Objectives and Contextualisation

The subject has like aim the introduction to the basic knowledges of the methodology and the technicians of the study of laboratory in Prehistoric Archaeology. It will enter to the students in the Archaeometry of the materials lithics, pottery, metallic, incising particularly in like posing and develop the study of the raw materials, the technical of production and the forms of consumption. The contents of this subject are oriented to give to the students the necessary basic instruments for can work the archaeologic materials with category of historical documents.

Competences

- Carrying out and managing archaeology fieldwork: excavation and survey.
- Managing the main methods, techniques and analytic tools in archaeology.
- 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.
- Students must develop the necessary learning skills to undertake further training with a high degree of autonomy.

Learning Outcomes

1. Applying both knowledge and analytical skills to the resolution of problems related to their area of study.
2. Applying proper techniques and analytical tools in case studies.
3. Autonomously searching, selecting and processing information both from structured sources (databases, bibliographies, specialized magazines) and from across the network.
4. Combining technical resources from similar disciplines.
5. Interpreting the archaeological fieldwork results by placing them into their historical context.
6. Mastering specific techniques and instrumental resources of archaeological laboratory analysis.
7. Organizing their own time and work resources: designing plans with priorities of objectives, calendars and action commitments.
8. Recognising and implementing the following teamwork skills: commitment to teamwork, habit of cooperation, ability to participate in the problem solving processes.
9. Transmitting the results of archaeological research and clearly communicating conclusions in oral and written form to both specialised and non-specialised audiences.
10. Using computing tools, both basics (word processor or databases, for example) and specialised software needed in the professional practice of archaeology.
11. Using the specific interpretational and technical vocabulary of the discipline.

Content

PART A.- GEOARCHEOLOGY AND ARCHEOMETALLURGY (Roberto Risch)

1.- SOME NOTIONS OF GEOLOGY

1.1.- The structure of the Earth

1.2.- The formation of rocks and deposits

1.3.- Identification of mineral and rocks

2.- STUDY OF MACROLITHIC ARTIFACTS

2.1.- Methods of study

2.2. Identification of the macrolithic artifacts

2.3. Exploitation of the raw material in primary outcrops

2.4. Morfo-technical and functional analysis of the macrolithic artifacts

2.5.- Socio-economic implications

3.- THE METALLURGY AND THE STUDY OF THE METALS

3.1. Metal mining

3.2. Smelting and air insufflation

3.3. Casting, finishing, use and maintenance

3.4. Archaeometric analysis techniques

PART 2.- THE STUDY OF KNAPPABLE LITHIC ARTEFACTS (Rafael Mora)

1.- Introduction: What information can we get through the study of lithic artefacts?

2.- Technology (Origins, technological perspective, "chaîne opératoire")

3.- Technical Modes (Mode 1, Mode 2, Mode 3, Mode 4)

4.- Refittings and retouched artefacts

PART 3.- STUDY OF POTTERY (Xavier Clop)

1.- The diversity of the social materiality. Artifacts, products and Archaeometry

2.- The pottery as a product

3.- Selection and treatment of the raw material

4.- Modelling

5.- Treatment of the surfaces and decoration

6.- Dried and firing

7.- Function and social uses

8.- Shapes and typologies

Methodology

Directed activities

The course centres in learning of the study of different type of archaeologic materials from sessions theoretic-practical developed to the Laboratory.

1.-Activities to the Laboratory. They will realize sessions theoretic-practical where will combine the explanation of theoretical concepts, systems of study and analysis, variables of study, etc. With the realization the practical activities that allow to put in practical and evaluate the capacity of obtaining significant data of the concepts purchased. The activities of practical will consist in explanation and discussion of cases of study, analysis of archaeologic materials, etc.

2. Autonomous activity. From the theoretical sessions of introduction and the dossiers of the course, the students will work with the extension and the assimilation of the basic concepts involved in the study of the archaeologic materials. His application during the practical will facilitate the acquisition of the own capacities required for the development of the study of the different types of archaeologic materials treaties.

Concrete formative activities

1. Laboratory exercise (microscopy): macro and microscopic identification of minerals and rocks

Additional documentation: Virtual Campus - Rafael Sánchez López et al., Cómo hacer más fácil la identificación de minerales y rocas

2. Laboratory exercise (microscopy): Macroscopic identification of metallic minerals and metallurgical debris

Additional Documentation: virtual Campus

3. Laboratory practice: Description and macroscopic analysis of macrolithic artifacts related to metallurgy

Additional documentation: Virtual campus

4. Laboratory exercise (microscopy): Analysis of trace of production in lithic artifacts

Additional Documentation: virtual Campus

5. Laboratory exercise: exhibition and discussion of cases of study

Additional Documentation: virtual Campus

6. Laboratory exercise (microscopy): Identification of minerals, rocks and added temper in pottery

Additional Documentation: virtual Campus

7. Laboratory practice: Technological analysis and examination of lithic artefacts

Additional Documentation: virtual Campus

8. Laboratory practical: description and macroscopic analysis of prehistoric pottery

Additional Documentation: virtual Campus

9. Laboratory practical: drawing of pottery

Additional Documentation: virtual Campus

10. Laboratory practical: identification of pottery modeling techniques

Additional Documentation: virtual Campus

11. Laboratory practical: identification of hand-made pottery surface treatments

Additional Documentation: virtual Campus

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			
Practices	35	1.4	2, 1, 4, 6, 11
Theoretical classes	20	0.8	2, 6, 5, 11
Type: Supervised			
Comment and discussion practical dossier (individual or in group)	20	0.8	3, 7, 9
Tutorial	9	0.36	2, 9
Type: Autonomous			

Practices preparation	30	1.2	7, 8, 10
Reading and documentation	30	1.2	2, 3, 10

Assessment

The competences will be evaluated by means of: works and evaluation of the practical activities.

The system of evaluation organizes of the following way: thematic Block A: 40%; thematic Block B: 20% of the note; thematic Block C: 40% of the note.

Class attendance is mandatory.

In each one of the thematic modules will be evaluate of the following way:

Assistance and participation in the classes theoretic-practical (10% global weight).

Module of delivery of the dossiers of practical (30% global weight).

Work of course or final exam (Theoretical and practical contents) (60% global weight).

The final note will be the half of the note weighted on 100 obtained in the different blocks.

To surpass the course in necessary to obtain a score of 5 in a scale of 10.

At the time of completion/delivery of each assessment activity, the teacher will inform (Moodle, SIA) of the procedure and date of revision of the grades.

To pass the subject it is essential to pass the three thematic blocks, either through the continuous assessment or through the reassessment test. Not passing one of the blocks means not passing the subject.

It will consider non-evaluable the student that do not submit the practical and/or the corresponding works of 2 thematic blocks.

Reevaluation: The students that have not attained a note of 5 in any of the thematic blocks, will be able to present to the test of reevaluation of that or of those thematic blocks that they have suspended. The test of reevaluation will consist in a test written.

In the event of a student committing any irregularity that may lead to a significant variation in the grade awarded to an assessment activity, the student will be given a zero for this activity, regardless of any disciplinary process that may take place. In the event of several irregularities in assessment activities of the same subject, the student will be given a zero as the final grade for this subject.

This subject does not incorporate single assessment.

Assessment Activities

Title	Weighting	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes
Assistance and participation in the theoretical-practices classes	10%	3	0.12	2, 5, 9, 11, 10
Practices dossier	30%	3	0.12	2, 1, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11
Work of course	60%	0	0	2, 1, 3, 5, 11

Bibliography

Documentation and didactic material in general: Virtual Campus and to http://seneca.uab.es/prehistoria/prehistoria ACTIVE

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Software

No specific software is necessary