

**Social, Political and Economic Theory in  
Archaeology**

Code: 106850  
ECTS Credits: 6

Degree	Type	Year	Semester
2504611 Archaeology	FB	1	1

## 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.

## Prerequisites

There is no requirement to take the course. However, an approach to current modern and postmodern critical thinking is also desirable.

## Objectives and Contextualisation

The course aims to provide an introduction to the theoretical elements that make up archaeology as a discipline. It focuses on the debate on its capacity to analyse past societies, identifying the main factors that generate and manage archaeological knowledge.

## Learning Outcomes

- CM05 (Competence) Innovatively apply the theoretical and methodological procedures of archaeology to society's demands.
- CM07 (Competence) Propose a theoretical and methodological conceptualisation of archaeology that is consistent with inclusive and non-sexist perspectives of the past.
- KM07 (Knowledge) Recognise the structure of archaeology as a science both on a theoretical (epistemological and ontological) and methodological level based on its theoretical diversity and the main current debates.
- KM08 (Knowledge) Identify the contributions of disciplines such as anthropology, sociology, economic theory, geography, epistemology and the philosophy of science to archaeological theory.
- SM07 (Skill) Apply the logical structure of archaeology as a science to identify the processes that support its main reasoning in order to be able to analyse the processes of inference and generation of archaeological information and offer one's own views.

## **Content**

### **BLOC 1**

1. Introduction. Archaeology, a social science. What does this mean?
  - a. Do we know or do we understand? Do we explain or represent?
  - b. Natural science, social science or historical science?
  - c. Scientific method, archaeological methods and techniques.
  
2. A bit of social theory for archaeology
  - a. What do we understand by society? Perspectives on the analysis of societies
  - b. What do we mean by economy? Perspectives of economic analysis in archaeology
  - c. What do we understand by politics? Perspectives of Politics in Archaeology
  
3. Palaeoecology and economic archaeology
  - a. Analysing the production of social life in the past
  - b. The role of the environment in pre-capitalist economies
  - c. Economic exploitation and social conflict

### **BLOC 2**

4. Social complexity, hierarchy and stratification
  - a. Prestige, status, role
  - b. Property, social classes
  
5. Culture, System and Society
  
6. Ideology
  
7. Gender
  
8. War and Violence

## **Methodology**

The course consists of theory classes and seminars. In the theoretical classes, the central contents of each of the subjects will be introduced, relating the different theoretical currents with their historical context and the problems they aim to solve.

In the seminars, students will work in teams on the analysis of theoretical applications in the practice of archaeology.

Note: 15 minutes of class time will be set aside, within the timetable established by the centre/university, for students to complement the evaluation surveys of the teaching staff's performance and the evaluation of the subject/module.

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			
Theoretical classes	50	2	CM05, CM07, KM07, KM08, SM07, CM05
Type: Supervised			
Classroom practices - discussion seminars	25	1	CM05, KM07, SM07, CM05
Type: Autonomous			
Individual or group study	75	3	CM05, KM08, SM07, CM05

## Assessment

The works in blocks 1 and 2 can be done individually or in teams of up to 3 people. Their maximum length will be about 10 pages unless otherwise indicated. Text comments will be individual.

The instructions for the completion of the assignments/commentaries will be detailed on the virtual campus, as well as the data and procedures for reading and revision.

The grade of Not assessable will be applied if more than 30% of the assessment activities have not been carried out.

In the case of any actual irregularity that may lead to a significant variation in the mark for an assessment activity, the assessment activity will be marked 0, irrespective of any disciplinary proceedings that may be instituted. In the event of irregularities occurring in the assessment acts of the same assignment, the final mark for this assignment shall be 0.

### Single assessment

All students may have access to the possibility of a single assessment, which will be carried out in the faculty database. The single assessment will consist of the following tests, with the weights indicated in brackets:

- Block 1 exam (40%)
- Examination of Block 2 (40%)
- Commentary on a text (20%)

## Assessment Activities

Title	Weighting	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes
Class participation	20%	0	0	CM07, KM07, SM07
Text commentary on Block 1	15%	0	0	CM05, KM08, SM07
Text commentary on Block 2	15%	0	0	CM05, KM08, SM07
Work from Block 1	25%	0	0	CM05, CM07, KM07, KM08, SM07

## Bibliography

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## **Software**

Moodle and virtual campus, word processor and PDF reader