UAB
Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona

Artefact Analysis

Code: 106857
ECTS Credits: 6

2024/2025

Degree	Type	Year
2504611 Archaeology	OB	2

Contact

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Teaching groups languages

You can view this information at the end of this document.

Prerequisites

Have previously taken the subject of Introduction to Archeology.

Objectives and Contextualisation

The subject aims to introduce the basic concepts of the methodology and techniques of laboratory studies in Prehistoric Archaeology.It will introduce students to the Archaeometry of lithic materials, ceramics, metals, focusing particularly on how to plan and develop the study of primary materials, production techniques and consumption patterns.The continguts of this subject are aimed at donating to the students the basic instruments necessary to be able to work the archaeological materials in the category of historical documents.

Learning Outcomes

1. CM09 (Competence) Plan the work processes of archaeology, specifically information processing in the field and laboratory analysis activities, organising work teams and distributing different tasks among their members to achieve the expected goals.

2. KM12 (Knowledge) Analytically classify different movable and immovable archaeological materials and remains.
3. KM13 (Knowledge) Apply multidisciplinary techniques and methods to the processing and analysis of archaeological records and materials in laboratory and off-site work: analysis of ceramics, industry, archaeozoology, archaeobotany and osteoarchaeology, digital processing and treatment of archaeological images and data, statistics and quantification.
4. KM14 (Knowledge) Organise different laboratory activities in archaeology and the processing of archaeological information and images based on the characteristics and requirements of the proposed activity.
5. SM13 (Skill) Apply the main typological classification systems to archaeological materials from different chronologies, taking into account their morphological characteristics, the materials used and the processes of taphonomic alteration and decay.
6. SM14 (Skill) Apply the main methods, techniques and instruments of analysis in the field of archaeology (obtaining and processing images), and in off-site (digitisation of images, creation of databases) and laboratory work (analysis of different types of archaeological remains).
7. SM15 (Skill) Use technological equipment in field and laboratory work: total stations, binocular loupes and microscopes and imaging equipment.
8. SM16 (Skill) Employ the basic procedures for consolidation and preservation of archaeological materials in the laboratory, assessing their suitability and their impact on future analyses of the same materials.
9. SM17 (Skill) Use the typical digital and computer equipment and tools for research and professional practice in archaeology in order to represent and order archaeological records (total stations, cameras, specialised software) and to perform analyses of different types of materials (binocular loupes and microscopes, calipers and digital scales, specialised software).

Content

BLOCK A. GEOARCHEOLOGY I ARCHEOMETALURGY (Roberto Risch)

A.1.- SOME NOTIONS OF GEOLOGY

1.1.- The structure of the land

1.2.- The formation of rocks and dipsits

1.3.- Identification of minerals and rocks

A.2.- STUDY OF MACROLYTIC MATERIALS

2.1.- Study methods

2.2. Identification of macrolithic artifacts

23. Exploitation of primary materials in primary outcrops

2.4. Morpho-technical and functional analysis of macrolithic artifacts

2.5.- Socio-economic implications

A.3.- METAL·LÚRGIA I THE STUDY OF METALS

3.1. Metal mining

3.2. Reduction and air inflation

3.3. Pit, finish, us and maintenance

3.4. Archaeometric analysis techniques

BLOCK B.- STUDY OF LITICAL MATERIALS TALLATS (Antoni Palomo)

1.- Introduction: What explains the lithic materials?

2.- Technology (Origins, technological analysis and "operational chain")

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

4.- Remuntatges and retouched artifacts

BLOC C.- STUDY OF CERAMIC MATERIALS (Xavier Clop)

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

2.- Ceramics as a product

3.- Selection and processing of the first subject

4.- Modeling techniques

5.- Treatment of surfaces and decoration

6.- Assecat i cocció

7.- Function and social uses

8.- Forms and typologies

Activities and Methodology

Title	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes
Type: Directed			
Classes	15	0.6	CM09, KM12, KM13, KM14, SM14, SM15, CM09
Practica lesson	30	1.2	CM09, KM12, KM14, SM14, SM15, SM17, CM09
Type: Supervised			
Commentary and discussion of practical dossiers (individually or in small groups)	15	0.6	KM12, KM13, SM14, SM17, KM12
Tutorials	5	0.2	CM09, KM13, KM14, CM09
Type: Autonomous			
Practical preparation	25	1	CM09, SM14, SM15, SM17, CM09
Reading and documentation	20	0.8	KM13, SM14, KM13

Directed activities

The subject focuses on the learning of the study of different types of archaeological materials based on theoretical-practical sessions carried out at the Laboratory.

1.-Activitats al Laboratori. Theoretical-practical sessions will be carried out to combine the presentation of theoretical concepts, study and analysis systems, study variables, etc. with the realization of practical activities that allow us to put into practice and evaluate the capacity to obtain significant data of the acquired concepts. The practical activities will consist of the presentation and discussion of study cases, analysis of archaeological materials, etc.

2. Autonomous activity. From the introductory theoretical sessions and the subject dossiers, the students will work on the expansion and assimilation of the basic concepts involved in the study of archaeological materials. The application during the practices will facilitate the acquisition of the necessary skills required for the study of the different types of archaeological tract materials.

Activitats formative concretes

1. Laboratory practice (microscopy): Macro and microscopic identification of minerals and rocks

Additional documentation: Virtual campus: Rafael Sánchez López et al.:How to make the identification of minerals and rocks easier

2. Laboratory practice (microscopy): Macroscopic identification of metallic minerals and metallic remains

Additional documentation: Virtual Campus

3. Laboratory practice: Description and macroscopic analysis of useful substances related to metallurgy

Additional documentation: Virtual Campus

4.- Laboratory practice (microscopy): Analysis of production traces in lithic artifacts

Additional documentation: Virtual Campus

5.- Laboratory practice: presentation and discussion of study cases

Additional documentation: Virtual Campus

6.-Laboratory practice (microscopy): Identification of minerals, rocks and degreixants afegits

Additional documentation: Virtual Campus

7.- Technological analysis of lithic materials (Artifacts corresponding to technical modes)

Additional documentation: Virtual Campus

8.- Laboratory practice: description and macroscopic analysis of prehistoric ceramic materials

Additional documentation: Virtual Campus

9.- Laboratory practice: drawing of ceramic materials

Additional documentation: Virtual Campus

10.- Laboratory practice: identification of modeling techniques

Additional documentation: Virtual Campus

11.- Laboratory practice: identification of surface tractaments in ceramics to me.

Additional documentation: Virtual Campus

Note: 15 minutes of a class will be reserved, within the calendar established by the centre/degree, for the complementation by the students of the questionnaires for the evaluation of the professor'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.

Assessment

Continous Assessment Activities

Title	Weighting	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes
Attendance and participation in theoretical-practical classes	10%	5	0.2	CM09, KM13, KM14, SM13, SM14, SM15, SM16, SM17
Course work	60%	20	0.8	CM09, KM12, KM13, KM14, SM14, SM15, SM17
Practice dossier	30%	15	0.6	KM13, SM14, SM15, SM17

Competencies will be evaluated through: work and evaluation of practical activities.

The evaluation system is organized as follows: Thematic pad A: 40%; Thematic pad B: 20% of the grade; Thematic pad C: 40% of the grade.

Class attendance is mandatory.

In each of the thematic modules they are available in the following way:
Assistance and participation in theoretical-practical classes (10% overall).
Module for delivery of internship dossiers (30% overall).
Course work or final exam (theoretical and practical continguts) (60% global weight)

The final grade will be half of the grade weighted out of 100 obtained in the different blocks.

To pass the subject, you must obtain an overall score of 5 on a scale of 10.

At the time of completion of each evaluable activity, the teacher will inform (Moodle, SIA) of the procedure and data for reviewing the qualifications.

To pass the subject it is essential to pass the three thematic blocks, both for the continuous assessment and for the reassessment test. Not passing one of the pads means not passing the subject.

The student who does not submit the practices and/or the corresponding assignments of 2 thematic pads will be considered non-assessable.

Reassessment: students who have not obtained a grade of 5 in any of the thematic pads may take the reassessment test for that or those thematic pads that they have failed. Proof of reassessment will consist of written proof.
In case the student performs any irregularity that could lead to a significant variation in the qualification of an evaluation act, it will qualify either this evaluation act, regardless of the disciplinary process that can be instructed. In cases where various irregularities occur in the evaluation acts of a subject, the final qualification of that subject will be 0.

This subject does not foresee the single evaluation system.

Bibliography

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BLOCK C. Study of pottery

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Software

No specific software is required.

Language list

Name	Group	Language	Semester	Turn
(PLAB) Practical laboratories	1	Catalan/Spanish	second semester	morning-mixed
(PLAB) Practical laboratories	2	Catalan/Spanish	second semester	morning-mixed
(PLAB) Practical laboratories	3	Catalan/Spanish	second semester	morning-mixed
(TE) Theory	1	Catalan/Spanish	second semester	morning-mixed