

Archaeology of Early Agricultural Societies

Code: 100730
ECTS Credits: 6

2025/2026

Degree	Type	Year
Archaeology	OT	4

Contact

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Teachers

Miguel Molist Montaña

Teaching groups languages

You can view this information at the [end](#) of this document.

Prerequisites

No prerequisites

Objectives and Contextualisation

This course of the Archaeology degree is focused on the study of the origins and consolidation of agricultural societies. A historical and archaeological analysis of the phenomenon of domestication of plant products (agriculture) and animals (livestock) is carried out. It also includes the study of the economic and social transformations associated with it: the appearance and consolidation of settlements, demographic changes, technological transformations, funerary practices, in other words, the study of peasant society. In the analysis of the empirical and historical record, special emphasis is placed on the study of societies in different geographical areas: the Near East, Europe and the Mediterranean during the Holocene

Competences

- Contextualizing and analysing historical processes.
- Developing critical thinking and reasoning and communicating them effectively both in your own and other languages.
- 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.
- Students must have and understand knowledge of an area of study built on the basis of general secondary education, and while it relies on some advanced textbooks it also includes some aspects coming from the forefront of its field of study.

Learning Outcomes

1. Applying both knowledge and analytical skills to the resolution of problems related to their area of study.
2. Autonomously searching, selecting and processing information both from structured sources (databases, bibliographies, specialized magazines) and from across the network.
3. Carrying out oral presentations using appropriate academic vocabulary and style.
4. Effectively expressing themselves and applying the argumentative and textual processes of formal and scientific texts.
5. Identifying the characteristic methods of Archaeology and its relationship with the historical analysis.
6. Identifying the context of the historical processes.
7. Interpreting material sources and the archaeological record.
8. Mastering and identifying the history of immediate environment.
9. Mastering the diachronic structure of the past.
10. Mastering the processes of change produced in Prehistory.
11. Mastering the relevant languages to the necessary degree in the professional practice.
12. Recognising the importance of controlling the quality of the work's results and its presentation.
13. Submitting works in accordance with both individual and small group demands and personal styles.
14. Using suitable terminology when drawing up an academic text.
15. Using the specific interpretational and technical vocabulary of the discipline.

Content

SUMMARY

Block 1 Introduction, Concepts, Methodology

Introduction: Definition and History of Research

Concepts, variables and changeover times

Block 2 Theory, Transformations and the Archaeological Record

Interpretive theories on the emergence of agriculture and livestock.

Change and continuity in agricultural societies: economic and social aspects

Territory and population. Habitat and domestic devices

Agriculture and Livestock: debate on domestication

Agriculture and Livestock new economic forms

New technologies: tools, containers, fabrics, decorations, ...

Exploitation and circulation of biotic and abiotic goods

Funeral practices and symbolic change

A Global Reading: Peasant Societies: New Economy and Social Approach

Block 3 Analysis of the origin of peasant societies in the Middle East

Early Agricultural Societies in the Eastern Mediterranean: Precedents

First agricultural manipulations in the Eastern Mediterranean

Cattle raising and consolidation of the village.

Technological transformations and socioeconomic stabilization

From the village in the city

Block 4 Analysis of the origin of peasant societies in Europe and the Middle East

Early Agricultural Societies in Europe and the Western Mediterranean: Precedents

Diffusion versus autoctonism Closed debate?

The world of Southeast Europe (Greece, Balkans, ...)

Italy and its role in the neolithization of the Western Mediterranean

First agricultural societies: the painted ceramics groups

Consolidation of the new economic forms (Chassey, Sepulchres

Megalithic societies in Western Europe

Translated with www.DeepL.com/Translator (free version)

Activities and Methodology

Title	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes
<hr/>			
Type: Directed			
Theoretical classes and faculty-led research seminars	40	1.6	2, 10, 11, 8, 9, 14, 6, 7, 15
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Type: Supervised			
Carrying out guided learning exercises and tutorials	19	0.76	2, 11, 4, 14, 6, 15
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Type: Autonomous			
Personal study, text reading. Writing papers. Reading of comments	80	3.2	2, 10, 11, 9, 3, 14, 7
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TEACHING METHOD

DIRECTED ACTIVITY 40 h

Theoretical classes directed by the teaching staff. 30h

Teaching-learning methodology: Master classes with ICT support and large group discussion.

Seminar sessions and practices led by the teaching staff. 10h

Teaching-learning methodology: Introduction of the session, presentation of the text, evaluation and collective critical discussion. Individual and/or collective presentations and round of assessments.

SUPERVISED ACTIVITY 20 h.

-Tutorial.

Teaching-learning methodology: Arranged sessions to solve doubts and maintain discussions on specific contents of the subject, problems and seminars.

-Performance of guided learning exercises.

Teaching-learning methodology: Conducting and correcting standardized learning exercises.

AUTONOMOUS ACTIVITY 90 h.

-Personal study.

Teaching-learning methodology: Integration of the acquired knowledge.

Reading of texts. Writing of papers. Preparation of oral comments and seminars. Search of bibliographic information.

Teaching and learning methodology: Comprehensive reading of texts, preparation of reviews, summaries and analytical comments using a guide. Information search strategies. Selection of materials.

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

Continuous Assessment Activities

Title	Weighting	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes
Delivery of works	10%	1	0.04	1, 2, 10, 11, 8, 9, 4, 3, 14, 5, 7, 13, 12
Presentations and active participation in class	30%	6	0.24	1, 11, 8, 9, 4, 3, 14, 5, 12, 15
Tests of theoretical content	60%	4	0.16	11, 8, 9, 4, 14, 6, 7, 15

In addition to continuous evaluation (written tests, work and field trips), a re-evaluation is planned. Students wishing to take part in the re-evaluation must meet the following requirements:

- All the evidence of continuous assessment in the teaching guide must have been submitted.
- They must have passed the work and the exercise of the field trip.

Re-evaluation calendar: The dates of the re-evaluation exams are set by the Faculty of Arts. It is the students' responsibility to know the date that corresponds to them to make the re-evaluation of their subject. These dates are published on the faculty's website in July of the previous academic year.

At the time of completion / delivery of each assessable activity, the teaching staff will inform (Moodle, SIA) of the procedure and date for reviewing grades.

In the event that the student carries out any irregularity that may lead to a significant variation in the grade of an evaluable act, this evaluation act will be graded with 0, regardless of the disciplinary process that may be instructed. In case of several irregularities in the acts of evaluation of the same subject, the final grade of this subject will be 0.

If the tests cannot be taken in person, their format will be adapted (maintaining the weighting) to the possibilities offered by the UAB's virtual tools. Homework, activities and class participation will be done through forums, wikis and/or exercise discussions through Moodle, Teams, etc. The teaching staff will ensure that the student can access or offer alternative means, which are within their reach.

Bibliography

General titles

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UCKO,P. i DMBELY,G.W. (eds.)(1969): *The domestication and exploitation of plant and animals*. Durkworld. Londres, 1969.

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HODDER, I. (1990): *The domestication of Europe*. Edt. Blackwell, 331pags.

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Software

For written presentations, a standard word processor (Word, OpenOffice writer or similar) is recommended.

For oral presentations it is recommended to use PowerPoint or similar.

Groups and Languages

Please note that this information is provisional until 30 November 2025. You can check it through this [link](#). To consult the language you will need to enter the CODE of the subject.

Name	Group	Language	Semester	Turn
(PAUL) Classroom practices	1	Catalan	first semester	morning-mixed
(TE) Theory	1	Catalan	first semester	morning-mixed