

## History and Civilisation of the Ancient Near East

Code: 104193

ECTS Credits: 6

**2025/2026**

Degree	Type	Year
Ancient Studies	FB	1

### Contact

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### Teaching groups languages

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

### Prerequisites

None

### Objectives and Contextualisation

The aim of the subject is to study the history of the Ancient Near East, from the appearance of the first cities to the Hellenistic world. The study, beyond addressing the political development of the different states of the region, will also analyze social, economic and cultural history of the Ancient Near East.

### Competences

- Apply the main methods, techniques and instruments of historical analysis.
- Demonstrate the basic skills needed to participate in an archaeological excavation and be able to interpret its findings.
- 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 ethical relevant issues.
- 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.
- Understand and interpret the evolution of ancient societies in the Mediterranean from Egyptian civilisation to the disbanding of Western imperial Rome through analysis of the political, historical, social, economic and linguistic factors.

### Learning Outcomes

1. Describe the political, social and economic reality of the peoples of the Near East in antiquity.
2. Identify and assess the different stages in the historical evolution of the civilisations of the ancient Near East and their main cultural achievements.
3. Identifying the specific methods of history and their relationship with the analysis of particular facts.
4. Interpret ancient societies from an analysis of the surviving material vestiges of these.
5. Interpret material sources and the archaeological register.

6. Interpret textual and iconographic documents as sources for learning about the political, socioeconomic and cultural history of the ancient Near East.
7. Organise and plan the search for historical and archaeological information.
8. Organising and planning the search of historical information.

## Content

Theme 1: Introduction to Ancient Near Eastern Studies

History and historiography of the Ancient Near East. Periodization and chronology. Geography

Theme 2: Origin of the State

Process of Neolithization. Rise of the first states

Theme 3: Third millennium BCE

Sumer and Akkad. Political and religious aspects. Social and economic aspects.

Theme 4: Second millennium BCE (I)

The Amorite dynasties. Political and literary aspects. Social and economic aspects.

Theme 5: Second millennium BCE (II)

The club of the great powers. Political, diplomatic and military aspects. Social and economic aspects.

The Canaanite world. The cultural and religious background of the Bible. Social and economic aspects.

Theme 6: The Sea Peoples

The crisis of 1200 in the Ancient Near East. Disappearance of the Mycenaean world and the Hittite Empire. The fall of Ugarit and the restructuring of the Canaanite world.

Theme 7: First millennium BCE

The great empires: Assyria and Babylon. Political and military aspects. Social and economic aspects.

## Activities and Methodology

Title	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes
Type: Directed			
Lectures	90	3.6	1, 3, 2, 5, 4
Type: Supervised			
Classroom practices, resolution of exercises	30	1.2	1, 3, 2, 6, 5, 4, 8, 7
Type: Autonomous			
reviews, readings	30	1.2	1, 3, 2, 6, 5, 4, 8, 7

The teaching methodology will consist of the combination of lectures, presentation of reviews and papers, reading of specialized bibliography, classroom practices and resolution of exercises.

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
Exam 1	40%	0	0	1, 3, 2, 6, 5, 4, 8, 7
Exam 2	40%	0	0	1, 3, 2, 6, 5, 4, 8, 7
Oral presentation in class	20%	0	0	3, 6, 5, 4, 8, 7

The evaluation of the subject will consist of three activities.

- (1) Exam 1 (40%)
- (2) Exam 2 (40%)
- (3) Oral presentation in class (20%)

On carrying out each evaluation activity, lecturers will inform students (on Moodle) of the procedures to be followed for reviewing all grades awarded, and the date on which such a review will take place.

#### Re-evaluation

Students will obtain a "Not assessed/Not submitted" course grade unless they have submitted more than 30% of the assessment items.

In order to participate in the re-evaluation, it will be necessary to have presented at least two of the three programmed evaluation activities.

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 entirely prohibits the use of AI technologies in all of its activities. Any submitted work that contains content generated using AI will be considered academic dishonesty; the corresponding grade will be awarded a zero, without the possibility of reassessment. In cases of greater infringement, more serious action may be taken.

In the event that tests or exams cannot be taken onsite, they will be adapted to an online format made available through the UAB's virtual tools (original weighting will be maintained). Homework, activities and class participation will be carried out through forums, wikis and/or discussion on Teams, etc. Lecturers will ensure that students are able to access these virtual tools, or will offer them feasible alternatives.

Single evaluation

There is no single evaluation.

## Bibliography

Bibliography

Klengel, Horst, 1992: *Syria, 3000 to 300 BC*. Berlin.

Kuhrt, Amelie, 2000: *El Oriente Próximo en la Antigüedad* (2 vols.). Barcelona.

Liverani, Mario, 1995: *Antiguo Oriente*. Barcelona.

Liverani, Mario, 2003. *Relaciones internacionales en el Próximo Oriente antiguo, 1600-1100 a.C.* Barcelona.

Liverani, Mario, 2005: *Más allá de la Biblia*. Barcelona.

Liverani, Mario, 2022: *Asiria. La prehistoria del imperialismo*. Madrid.

Margueron, Jean Claude, 1995: *Los mesopotámicos*. Madrid.

Oppenheim, A. Leo, 2003: *Antigua Mesopotamia*. Madrid.

Podany, Amanda H. 2024: *Tejedores, escribas y reyes. Una nueva historia del Próximo Oriente Antiguo*. Córdoba.

Postgate, Nicolas, 1999: *La Mesopotamia arcaica*. Madrid.

Sanmartín, Joaquín / Serrano, José Miguel, 1998: *Historia Antigua del Próximo Oriente: Mesopotamia y Egipto*. Madrid.

Van de Mieroop, Marc, 2020: *Historia del Próximo Oriente Antiguo (ca. 3000-323 a.C.)*. Madrid.

## Software

PowerPoint

PDF

## 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