

Degree	Type	Year
Archaeology	OP	3

Contact

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Teaching groups languages

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Prerequisites

No prerequisites are needed

Objectives and Contextualisation

The most relevant proposals regarding the State as a historical phenomenon in itself and, also, as a category of social analysis will be presented and debated.

The contents of the course are structured in two parts:

1. Theories of the State in Western philosophical thought. The concept of "State" will be reviewed over time, in order to expose and critically evaluate the most influential philosophical models within the framework of the tradition of Western thought. In parallel, its respective influence on archaeological discipline will be emphasized.
2. Archeology of the State. The key issue of State formation will be approached from the archaeological and, secondarily, anthropological research. From this perspective, the conditions and mechanisms that triggered the formation of the State in different times and regions of the world will be analyzed.

Learning Outcomes

1. CM18 (Competence) Identify social, economic and environmental impact in the past and present of the different processes of change that occurred in prehistory based on a critical evaluation of the archaeological evidence from different periods and geographical areas.
2. CM19 (Competence) Expose the participation of women in the prehistoric societies of Africa, Eurasia and America and the social construction of gender relations and the sexual division of labour.
3. KM28 (Knowledge) Defend the contributions and implications of the main theoretical proposals of archaeology (traditional, processual, post-processual, feminist, Marxist archaeologies) on the societies of the different periods of the prehistory of Africa, Eurasia and America.
4. KM29 (Knowledge) Chronologically arrange the appearance of different architectural types, the main complexes of lithic industry, and the most relevant ceramic, archaeozoological and archaeobotanical assemblages of European prehistory.

5. KM30 (Knowledge) Characterise the main historical processes of prehistoric societies in relation to paleoenvironmental and social effects, identifying the contributions of recent archaeological research to previous knowledge.
6. KM31 (Knowledge) Recognise androcentric biases in representations and dissemination of prehistory to develop inclusive analyses that recognise the roles of women and sexual division.
7. SM30 (Skill) Critically analyse prehistoric societies to identify inference processes, the biases of the different theoretical models and the potential and limitations of existing records.
8. SM31 (Skill) Synthesise the contribution of different factors to the processes of social change and environmental impact in the different periods of prehistory, especially European.
9. SM32 (Skill) Produce hypotheses about periods of the prehistory of Africa, Eurasia and America from the recognition, critical interpretation and synthesis of records from archaeological projects.

Content

Part I: Theories of the State in Western Philosophical Thought

1. Politics and government in the classical world: Plato and Aristotle.
2. Christian thought: Augustine of Hippo and Thomas Aquinas.
3. Machiavelli and the modern theory of the State: technologies of power.
4. The modern conception of the State: Hobbes and radical individualism; Locke and the liberal emergence; Rousseau, assembly and social contract.
5. Evolutionism and Civilization.
6. The Marxist theory of the State: Marx, Engels, and Lenin.
7. The anarchist critique of the State: Bakunin.

Part II: Archaeology of the State: Case Studies

1. The formation of the State in Egypt.
2. The formation of the State in the Yellow River.
3. Cahokia: chiefdom or civilization?
4. Violence and the formation and maintenance of States.
5. Writing and the State.
6. Other case studies: "complexity" without States, societies "against" States.

Activities and Methodology

Title	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes
Type: Directed			
Theoretical classes	50	2	CM18, CM19, KM28, KM30, KM31, SM30, SM32, CM18
Type: Supervised			
Practical classroom-based workshops	10	0.4	CM19, KM28, KM30, KM31, SM32, CM19

The subject consists of theoretical and seminary classes.

-In the theoretical classes the central contents of the syllabus will be taught, linking the different theoretical proposals from political thought with the central archaeological problem around the formation and development of classist societies with state political organization. The treatment of the topics will be accompanied by the critical exposure of case studies corresponding to different times and regions of the world.

-The seminars will discuss the most relevant theoretical and methodological aspects related to the subject contents.

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.

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Assessment

Continuous Assessment Activities

Title	Weighting	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes
Short texts for discussion	10	10	0.4	CM19, KM28, KM31
Text commentary	40	30	1.2	CM19, KM28, KM31
Written test	50	50	2	CM18, CM19, KM28, KM29, KM30, KM31, SM30, SM31, SM32

- A text commentary, related to the subjects included in Part i.

- Short texts for discussion.

- Written test related to the case studies reviewed in Part II..

Resit: written test on the contents reviewed in this subject.

Single evaluation procedure allowed: text commentary and written test.

Bibliography

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Software

No specialised software is required

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/Spanish	second semester	morning-mixed
(TE) Theory	1	Catalan/Spanish	second semester	morning-mixed