

Degree programme	Type	Course
Ancient Studies	OP	3
Ancient Studies	OP	4
English and Classics Studies	OP	3
English and Classics Studies	OP	4

Contact lecturer

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Prerequisites

None.

Group languages

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

Objectives

This is an optional course of 3rd and 4th year of the "Bachelor's Degree in Ancient Studies", programmed in the *Mention in Languages*, and an optional course of 3rd and 4th year of the "Bachelor's Degree in English and Classics".

This course will explore the earliest readable documents in Europe, the texts of clay inscriptions written in a syllabic (pre-alphabetic) script known as "Linear B". Linear B was used by the inhabitants of the Mycenaean palatial period of mainland Greece and the island of Crete from 1400 BCE until the collapse of this form of high culture ca. 1200 BCE. Mycenaean civilization (1600-1100 BCE) is the first historical Greek and European civilization. By studying these texts students will be introduced into the earliest form of Greek language known up-to-date, Mycenaean Greek, which pre-dates our earliest alphabetic texts by over four centuries.

The aims of this course are five:

- (1) to familiarize ourselves with the structure of Linear B script in relationship to other writing systems used to represent Greek (i.e., the Cypriote Syllabic Script and the Greek alphabet) and to consider how well Linear B worked as a vehicle for recording Greek as 'visible speech';
- (2) to understand the syntax and system of communication of the ca. 5,000 Linear B texts;
- (3) to sample the lexicon and phonology and morphology of Mycenaean Greek and the relationship of the Mycenaean 'dialect' to the later historical Greek dialects, including Homer;
- (4) to understand Mycenaean Greek culture through the contents of the tablets in relationship with archaeological discoveries;
- (5) to learn how to 'read' historical texts.

Learning outcomes

1. Submitting works in accordance with both individual and small group demands and personal styles.
2. Autonomously searching, selecting and processing information both from structured sources (databases, bibliographies, specialized magazines) and from across the network.
3. Preparing an oral and written discourse in the corresponding language in a proper and organized way.
4. Relate Mycenaean history and civilisation to the Greek literary, cultural and historical developments that emerge from it.
5. Analysing various types of linguistic data.
6. Autonomously searching, selecting and processing information both from structured sources (databases, bibliographies, specialized magazines) and from across the network.
7. Interpret texts in Mycenaean and archaic Greek, archaic Latin and Anglo-Saxon.
8. Relate Mycenaean history and civilisation to the Greek literary, cultural, and historical facts and events that emanate from it.

Contents

1. Introduction to the Aegean Bronze Age.
2. The Aegean scripts of the second millennium BCE: Cretan 'Hieroglyphic', Linear A, Linear B, Cypro-Minoan scripts.
3. Chronology, typology, and classification of Mycenaean texts.
4. The Linear B writing system: list of signs (syllabograms and logograms) and spelling rules.
5. Mycenaean phonetics and phonology.
6. Mycenaean morphology.
7. Mycenaean syntax and lexicon.
8. Mycenaean Greek dialect.
9. The contents of Linear B texts and general features of Mycenaean civilization: geography of the Mycenaean kingdoms, social and political structure, economy, cult and religion, warfare, general assessment of the strengths and weaknesses of palatial Mycenaean culture.

Learning activities and methodology

Title	Hours	ECTS	Learning outcomes
Oral paper	9	0.36	
Compulsory readings and reviews	30	1.2	
Supervision of the written paper	11	0.44	
Writing of the main (course) paper	45	1.8	
Exercises of textual analysis	21	0.84	
Lectures on the contents of this subject	18	0.72	
Tutorials	16	0.64	

After the preliminary professor's explanations of the first four topics listed in the "Contents" section, the

teaching methodology of this course will focus on linguistic and cultural comments on a wide group of Mycenaean inscriptions done by students during the academic year, according to the pattern previously given by the professor. These inscriptions will be used to explain and illustrate the other topics of the course (5-9), which refer to Mycenaean Greek dialect and to the features of Mycenaean civilization.

Furthermore, students will write a course's paper, which will also be orally presented, and two reviews of two compulsory readings (see "Evaluation" section).

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	Weight	Hours	ECTS	Learning outcomes
Written paper	35%	0	0	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8
Review of the book "La civilización micénica"	20%	0	0	1, 2, 3, 6
Review of the book's chapter "Mycenaean Women"	10%	0	0	1, 3, 4, 8
Oral paper	25%	0	0	1, 3, 4, 8
Attendance and active participation at lectures	10%	0	0	1, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8

This subject does not incorporate single assessment.

Evaluation process

Assessment for this course is continuous and will be based on the assessment activities listed in the table above.

During lectures students will do analyses of Mycenaean texts useful to explain the course's contents. It is very important that students are conscious that the grades of these daily exercises, which are essentials to write properly the course's paper, are one of the evaluation activities (weight of 10%), so we stress on the attendance and active and regular participation in class.

Erasmus and exchange students who request to advance an exam must present a document from their home university justifying their request.

Each student will write a course's paper, which will consist on the analysis and commentary of a coherent group of Mycenaean inscriptions, previously choosen in agreement with the lecturer. This written paper will be submitted at the end of the course (evaluation activity with weight of 35%) and will also orally presented in class (paper of 20 minutes: evaluation activity with weight of 25%).

Furthermore, each student will do three reviews, with a weight of 10% and 20% as evaluation activity, of the

following three compulsory readings:

1/ Juan Piquero, *La civilización micénica*, Madrid 2020.

2/ Cynthia W. Shelmerdine, "Women in the Mycenaean Economy", en Stephanie Lynn Budin & Jean MacIntosh Turfa (eds), *Women in Antiquity. Real women across the Ancient World*, London and New York 2016, pp. 618-634.

Procedure for the Review of Grades

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.

Not assessed and final grade

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

It is an essential requirement to obtain a minimum score of 4/10 in each one of the evaluation activities in order to make the final average grade. The final grade needs be at least 5/10 to pass the subject.

Reassessment process

In order to participate in the reassessment process, students must have been previously evaluated in activities with a weight of at least 2/3 parts of the final grade.

Only those students who have failed any evaluation activity with a mark lesser than 4/10 or those who have not achieved an average grade of 5/10 will be able to reassess the subject.

Plagiarism

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. Those assessment activities done with irregularities cannot be reassessed.

AI

This subject allows the use of AI technologies exclusively for support tasks such as bibliographic or content-base searches, and text correction, where applicable.

Bibliography

Students will have a subject's dossier with topics and a selection of Mycenaean inscriptions on Moodle.

The bibliography for Mycenaean studies depends on:

1/ The formal editions of Mycenaean inscriptions.

2/ The acta of 15 formal Mycenological conferences (14 already published) and the acta of other specialized conferences of broader than purely Mycenological scope.

3/ The main speciality journals: *Minos* (Salamanca), together with its supplemental monograph series; *Studi micenei ed egeo-anatolici* (Rome) and *Pasiphae* (Rome); *Kadmos* (Berlin); *Aegaeum* (Liège-Austin).

4/ One can find analytical bibliographical syntheses year-by-year in *Studies in Mycenaean Inscriptions and Dialect*, now produced in Austin, TX USA; and also in the pages of the bibliographical index *Nestor* (Cincinnati) (see both series also in the "Webgraphy" section, below).

Basic bibliography

AA.VV., *El Mundo Micénico. Cinco siglos de la primera civilización europea (1600-1100 a. C.)*, Madrid 1992.

AURA JORRO, Francisco, *Diccionario Griego-Español. Anejo I: Diccionario Micénico (DMic.)*, vol. I, Madrid 1985; Anejo II: *Diccionario Micénico (DMic.)*, vol. II, Madrid 1993.

AURA JORRO, Francisco; BERNABÉ, Alberto; LUJÁN, Eugenio R.; PIQUERO, Juan; VARIAS GARCÍA, Carlos, *Diccionario Griego-Español. Anejo VII: Suplemento al Diccionario Micénico (DMic.Supl.)*, Madrid 2020.

AURA JORRO, Francisco; DEL FREO, Maurizio; PIQUERO, Juan (eds.), *The Legacy of Michael Ventris. Progress and Perspectives in the Field of Aegean Scripts and Mycenaean Studies*, Roma 2023.

BERNABÉ, Alberto; LUJÁN, Eugenio R., *Introducción al griego micénico. Gramática, selección de textos y glosario*. 2ª edición corregida y aumentada, Zaragoza 2020.

CHADWICK, John, *El enigma micénico. El desciframiento de la escritura lineal B*, Madrid 1966.

CHADWICK, John, *El mundo micénico*, Madrid 1977.

CHANTRAINE, Pierre, *Morfología histórica del griego*, Reus 1974.

CLINE, Eric H. (ed.), *The Oxford Handbook of the Bronze Age Aegean*, Oxford 2010.

DEL FREO, Maurizio; PERNA, Massimo (eds.), *Manuale di epigrafia micenea. Introduzione allo studio dei testi in lineare B*, 2 vols, Limena 2016.

DUHOUX, Yves; MORPURGO DAVIES, Anna (eds.), *A Companion to Linear B. Mycenaean Greek Texts and their World*, Louvain-la-Neuve, vol. I, 2008; vol. II, 2011; vol. III, 2014.

GODART, Louis, *Les scribes de Pylos*, Pisa-Roma 2021.

JIMÉNEZ DELGADO, José Miguel, *Sintaxis del griego micénico*, Sevilla 2016.

KILLEN, John T., *Economy and Administration in Mycenaean Greece. Collected Papers on Linear B*, edited by Maurizio Del Frio, vol. I-III, Roma 2015.

KILLEN, John T. (ed.), *The New Documents in Mycenaean Greek*, 2 vols., Cambridge 2024.

LEJEUNE, Michel, *Mémoires de philologie mycénienne*, vol. I, Paris 1958; vol. II, Roma 1971; vol. III, Roma 1972; vol. IV, Roma 1997.

LEJEUNE, Michel, *Phonétique historique du mycénien et du grec ancien*, Paris 1972.

MELENA, José Luis, *Ex Oriente Lux. La aportación de las filologías del Oriente Próximo y Medio Antiguo a la comprensión de los primeros textos europeos*, Vitoria 1984.

MELENA, José Luis, *Textos griegos micénicos comentados*, Vitoria 2001.

OLIVIER, Jean-Pierre, *Les scribes de Cnossos. Essai de classement des archives d'un palais mycénien*, Roma 1967.

OLSEN, Barbara A., *Women in Mycenaean Greece. The Linear B Tablets from Pylos and Knossos*, New York 2014.

PALAIMA, Thomas G., *The Scribes of Pylos*, Roma 1988.

PALMER, Leonard R., *The Interpretation of Mycenaean Greek Texts*, Oxford 1963.

PIQUERO, Juan, *El léxico del griego micénico. Index Graecitatis. Étude et mise à jour de la bibliographie*, Nancy 2019.

PIQUERO, Juan, *La civilización micénica*, Madrid 2020.

RUIPÉREZ, Martín S.; MELENA, José Luis, *Los griegos micénicos*, Madrid 1990.

SHELMERDINE, Cynthia W. (eds.), *The Cambridge Companion to the Aegean Bronze Age*, Cambridge 2008.

VENTRIS, Michael; CHADWICK, John, *Documents in Mycenaean Greek*, Cambridge 1973².

WEILHARTNER, Jörg (ed.), *The Cambridge Companion to Aegean Bronze Age Writing*, Cambridge 2024.

Webgraphy

- <http://bib.cervantesvirtual.com/portal/diccionariomicenico/> (web of *Diccionario Micénico*).
- <http://sites.utexas.edu/scripts/> (*Program in Aegean Scripts and Prehistory*, Univ. Texas).
- <http://classics.uc.edu/nestor/> (*journal Nestor*).
- <http://calibra.classics.cam.ac.uk> (*CaLiBRA: Cambridge Linear B Research Archive*).
- <http://www.aegeussociety.org/en/index.php/aegeus/> (*Aegeus. Society for Aegean Prehistory*).
- <http://lila.sns.it/mnamon/> (*Mnamon. Antiche scritture del Mediterraneo*).
- <http://www.hf.uio.no/ifik/english/research/projects/damos/> (*DAMOS. Database of Mycenaean at Oslo*).
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FX_IzgVm1YA (*El enigma de la primera escritura griega. La lineal B: documentary by UNED*).
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_CgjVjI2bNU (*A very English genius: documentary about Michael Ventris' life*).
- <https://itsallgreektotanna.wordpress.com/2016/06/08/mycenopoly/> (*Mycenopoly: board game based created by Anna Judson on "Monopoly", but set in the Mycenaean palaces*).
- <https://www.bsa.ac.uk/videos/how-to-make-a-linear-b-tablet/> (*Anna Judson's video explaining how to make Linear B tablets*).

Software

Microsoft Teams

Course groups and languages

The information provided is provisional until November 30. After this date, you will be able to consult the language of each group through this [link](#). To access the information, you will need to enter the course CODE

Type of teaching	Group	Language	Semester	Shift
(TE) Theory	1	Catalan	second semester	morning-mixed
(PAUL) Classroom practices	1	Catalan	second semester	morning-mixed