

Degree programme	Type	Course
History	FB	1

Contact lecturer

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Teaching staff

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Group languages

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

Prerequisites

There are no specific prerequisites for this course.

Objectives

The course introduces students to the discipline of Ancient History, providing the necessary theoretical, methodological and historiographical foundations. More specifically, the course familiarises students with the origins and development of the earliest civilisations in history, those of the ancient Near East (centred on Mesopotamia and Egypt), from the emergence of the urban phenomenon to the conquest of Babylon by the Persian king Cyrus the Great in 539 BCE. To achieve this goal, knowledge and use of the main historical sources of Assyriology and Egyptology-the two academic disciplines concerned with the study of the ancient Near East-will be essential.

Learning outcomes

- CM09 (Integrate archaeological research methods and their relationship with other techniques in the global study of human history.) Integrate archaeological research methods and their relationship with other techniques in the global study of human history.
- CM10 (Integrate into the global vision of human history from Prehistory and the first Mesopotamian civilizations a non-androcentric or Eurocentric perspective that contemplates the gender perspective.) Integrate into the global vision of human history from Prehistory and the first Mesopotamian civilizations a non-androcentric or Eurocentric perspective that contemplates the gender perspective.

- KM14 (Describe the main historical processes in the emergence and development of the first human societies in Prehistory and the Ancient Age, recognising their respective geographical and temporal scopes, as well as the main situations that derived from these processes.) Describe the main historical processes in the emergence and development of the first human societies in Prehistory and the Ancient Age, recognising their respective geographical and temporal scopes, as well as the main situations that derived from these processes.
- KM15 (Identify the different study methodologies and different types of sources in prehistoric societies.) Identify the different study methodologies and different types of sources in prehistoric societies.
- KM16 (Identify the different methodologies and sources for the study of the societies of the Ancient Near East.) Identify the different methodologies and sources for the study of the societies of the Ancient Near East.
- KM17 (Recognise the potential of prehistoric and ancient archaeological remains for the dissemination of heritage.) Recognise the potential of prehistoric and ancient archaeological remains for the dissemination of heritage.
- SM14 (Apply research methodologies for the construction of initial representations about the first human societies in Prehistory and in the Ancient Age.) Apply research methodologies for the construction of initial representations about the first human societies in Prehistory and in the Ancient Age.
- SM15 (Interpret in a general and synthetic way the main economic and social processes of prehistoric and Ancient Near Eastern societies, as well as their succession over time.) Interpret in a general and synthetic way the main economic and social processes of prehistoric and Ancient Near Eastern societies, as well as their succession over time.
- SM16 (Explain through written works or oral presentations the intra- and extra-community social relations, gender relations and cultural diversity in Prehistory and in the first Mesopotamian civilisations.) Explain through written works or oral presentations the intra- and extra-community social relations, gender relations and cultural diversity in Prehistory and in the first Mesopotamian civilisations.

Contents

The course is structured around nine teaching units. The first is devoted to the sources, geography and chronology of the course. The other units (2 to 9) are presented in chronological order, from the oldest to the most recent, and cover the main periods, key figures and sources of the approximately three millennia encompassed by the history of the ancient Near East.

Topic 1. Introduction: Chronological and geographical framework

Topic 2. The origins of the State

Topic 3. The Early Dynastic Period in Mesopotamia

Topic 4. Akkad and the Third Dynasty of Ur

Topic 5. The third millennium BCE in Egypt

Topic 6. The second millennium BCE in the Near East

Topic 7. The Late Bronze Age and the crisis of 1200 BCE

Topic 8. The empires of the first millennium BCE in Mesopotamia: Assyria and Babylonia

Topic 9. The first millennium BCE in Egypt

Learning activities and methodology

Title	Hours	ECTS	Learning outcomes
Classroom practice	50	2	CM10, SM14, SM15, SM16

Seminars and lectures	5	0.2	CM09, CM10, KM15, KM16, SM15
In person sessions	95	3.8	CM09, CM10, KM14, KM15, KM16, KM17, SM15

The teaching methodology for the course encompasses three types of activity:

(1) In person sessions: where opportunities for participation and methodological reflection will be provided.

(2) Classroom practices: where topics linked to some of the course's units will be discussed in plenary sessions.

(3) Seminars and lectures: two seminars or lectures will be scheduled, delivered by experts in the Ancient Near East, to provide first-hand knowledge from researchers working on the topics covered in the course, while also fostering a plurality of voices. In addition, students will also be encouraged to watch other lectures available online and open access.

Recording and dissemination of sessions

The sessions and their contents are protected by intellectual property and data protection regulations. Recording, reproducing, or sharing classes or participants' contributions is not permitted without prior authorization. Any recording must be expressly authorized.

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
Oral presentations	20%	0	0	CM09, CM10, SM15, SM16
Exam 2	35%	0	0	KM14, KM15, KM16, KM17, SM14
Exam 1	35%	0	0	CM09, CM10, KM14, KM16, SM15, SM16
Attendance and participation in class	10%	0	0	CM10, KM14, KM17, SM15, SM16

Continuous assessment for the course is based on the following activities:

- Attendance and participation in class (10% of the final mark): attendance at two lectures/seminars, the dates for which will be announced in advance in class and on the virtual campus.
- Two mid-term exams (35% of the final mark each): each exam will cover a part of the syllabus, so there will not be a final exam that covers all the material.
- Oral presentations (20% of the final mark): on a topic chosen by the students, based on the guidelines that will be announced in good time in class and on the virtual campus. The work presented orally can be carried out individually or in groups of up to 4 people.

A revision schedule for students will be set after the marks for each of the activities have been published, and will be announced in class and on the virtual campus. The only assessable activities that can be resat are the two partial exams. To pass the course, both exams must have a minimum mark of 4 or higher. Furthermore, to

be eligible for the resit, a student must have been assessed on a set of activities with a combined weighting of at least two-thirds. Finally, a student will receive a grade of "Not Assessed" if they have not submitted more than 30% of the assessment activities.

Assessment schedule

Assessment dates can't be changed unless there's an exceptional and well-justified reason. If a student has a documented chronic or acute illness, they can request to postpone the assessment, if it fits within the academic calendar. These requests must be submitted at least seven days in advance and include the required documentation. If the reason is an unexpected situation considered force majeure, the regulations allow the request to be submitted after the scheduled date, provided the documentation is delivered within three working days. This includes situations such as the birth or adoption of a child, or the death of a partner or a close relative (up to second degree). In cases of illness or other circumstances, the documentation must clearly show that the student was not in a condition to take the assessment at the scheduled time. Teaching staff may also use their discretion to consider other circumstances not explicitly listed above.

Moreover, in the event of unforeseen and justified circumstances, if it becomes necessary to modify the assessment procedure described in the teaching guide and/or the date published in the assessment calendar, the teacher will discuss the proposed modification with the affected class. This will be communicated via the course's Virtual Campus as far in advance as possible.

Single assessment

This subject does not allow a single assessment.

Plagiarism or fraudulent conduct

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.

Use of AI technologies

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.

Erasmus and Exchange Students

Erasmus students who need to leave before the scheduled assessment dates must provide an official document from their home university, addressed to the Degree Exchange Coordinator, confirming a calendar conflict (an overlap with academic activities at their home institution). Furthermore, Erasmus and exchange students who request to advance an exam must present a document from their home university justifying their request.

Bibliography

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Leick, Gwendolyn, 2002: *Mesopotamia. La invención de la ciudad*. Barcelona.

Liverani, Mario, 1995: *El antiguo oriente*. Barcelona.

Montero Fenollós, Juan-Luis, 2025: *Mesopotamia. Historia de la tierra de Gilgamesh*. Córdoba.

Parra, José Miguel, 2011: *El Antiguo Egipto*. Madrid.

Podany, Amanda, 2016: *El Antiguo Oriente Próximo: una breve introducción*. Madrid.

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

Postgate, John Nicholas, 1999: *La Mesopotamia arcaica. Sociedad y economía en el amanecer de la historia*. Madrid.

Radner, Karen, 2015: *Ancient Assyria: A Very Short Introduction*. Oxford.

Sasson, Jack M., 1995: *Civilizations of the Ancient Near East*. New York.

Van de Mieroop, Marc, 2020: *Historia del Proximo Oriente antiguo (ca. 3000-323 a.n.e.)*. Madrid.

Van de Mieroop, Marc, 2025: *Historia del Antiguo Egipto 3200 a. C.-395 d. C.* Madrid.

Wilkinson, Toby, 2016: *Auge y caída del Antiguo Egipto: historia de una civilización desde el año 3000 aC hasta la época de Cleopatra*. Barcelona.

Software

Word (or the like), pdf (acrobat reader) and ppt.

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	first semester	morning-mixed
(PAUL) Classroom practices	1	Catalan	first semester	morning-mixed
(TE) Theory	2	Catalan	first semester	morning-mixed
(PAUL) Classroom practices	2	Catalan	first semester	morning-mixed