

Syllabus

Introduction to Archaeology

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Introduction

The **aim** of this course is to provide a broad perspective on Archaeology nowadays for students studying archaeology for the first time, overcoming the commonplaces about the discipline. Academic, methodological, theoretical, professional and social issues will be addressed analyzing different contexts. The topics introduced in this course will be **developed** deeply in the following courses of the Historian degree: “Archaeology” (2nd year), “Archaeological Methods in History” (4th year), and two optional courses entitled “Topics of Prehistory and Archaeology” and “Advanced Archaeology Topics” (3rd or 4th year).

Skills

This course is included in the module ‘General History’ (M02), whose **academic skills** are: 1. To learn the methods and basic skills of historical research, gathering, organizing and analyzing different sources of information; 2. To show sufficient knowledge and understanding of the main processes of history from a diachronic perspective, in its different aspects (economic, social, political, cultural) and in its relations with present societies; 3. To identify different perspectives and historiographical approaches used over time and to establish their relationship with the cultural periods; 4. To present properly in oral and written forms at least one theme or a problem of historical investigation in order to show the capability to study correctly primary and secondary sources. The **learning outputs** of the courses are 1. To value critically the potentially of Archaeology to study any historical period and identify the professional dimension (M02C2); 2. Be aware that Archaeology is in permanent construction and revision, using different approaches to ‘make sense’ of the archaeological record (M02C3); 3. Define and understand the methodological tools used by Archaeology (M02C1).

Theoretical contents

The Framework of Archaeology

1. What is Archaeology?
2. The history of archaeology thought

Archaeological Methods

3. Archaeological Reconnaissance
4. Archaeological Excavations
5. Building Archaeology
6. Post-excavation analysis and archaeological materials

Different ‘archaeologies’

7. Classical archaeology

8. Medieval Archaeology

9. Historical Archaeology

10. Archaeology of contemporary societies

Archaeology and society

11. Archaeology and Cultural Heritage

Practical activities

1. Project: Archaeological guide
2. Museum BIBAT visit
3. Materials and Assemblages Lab
4. Computational Archaeology activities
5. Harris Matrix

Methodology

The course includes theoretical and practical sessions. Some previous self-work is required for the practical sessions. When possible (funds from the Alava Campus and practical organization), some visits will be done, but most of the activities will be based on lectures and practical sessions.

In E-gela will be available all the materials needed for the course, including papers, exercises, guides, templates and others.

Ordinary examination call: Continuous assessment

50 % of the evaluation will be based on a written exam; the other 50 % will be evaluated through attendance and practical works (project, seminars, visits, etc) following the instructions gave in the practical sessions. It is compulsory to obtain a minimum of 2 points (over 10) in each part. Misspellings and the lack of clarity (in the exam or the essays) can be penalty up to 3 points. Positive participation in class, effort and originality would be taken into consideration.

The students must inform the teacher, by written communication or email, they decide to refuse the ordinary exam call. This refusal has to be done during the first 9 weeks of the term. The final evaluation will consist of an exam (held on the day defined by the Dean's Office), and the delivery of an essay. The subject of the essay has to be previously agreed.

Attendance

Attendance would be considered on the grading because every class member develops his or her own understanding of the assigned activates, and classroom discussions enable everyone in the group to share what they've learned. In addition, some material will only be presented in class.

Extraordinary examination call

The extraordinary call will consist of a unique exam based on the study of some textbooks (Carver 2009, Grant et al 2015, Johnson 2010, Renfrew and Bahn 2016) and the delivery of an 10k words essay. The subject of the essay has to be previously agreed.

Course references and readings

Bahn P., 1989, *Bluff your way in archaeology*, London, C-49718

Bahn P., 2012, *Archaeology: A very short introduction*, Oxford University Press, Oxford (2nd ed)

Balme J., Paternson A., 2014. *Archaeology in Practice. A Student Guide to Archaeological Analysis*, Wiley Blackwell, Chichester (arriving)

Bentley R. A., Maschner H. D. G., Chippindale C., 2007, *Handbook of Archaeological Theories*, Altamira Press, Lanham-New York-Toronto

Carver M., 2009, *Archaeological Investigation*, Routledge, London and New York 902.3 CAR

Fagan B. M., Durrani B., 2016, *A brief history of Archaeology. Classical times to the twenty-first century*, Routledge, London and New York (2nd ed) (arriving)

Gamble C., 2015, *Archaeology. The basics*, London and New York (3rd ed)

Grant J., Gorin S., Fleming N., 2015, *The Archaeology coursebook. An introduction to themes, sites, methods and skills*, Routledge, London and New York (4th ed) 902 GRA

Greene K., Moore T., 2012, *Archaeology: An Introduction*, Routledge, London and New York (5th ed)

Harris O. J. T., Cipolla C., 2017, *Archaeological Theory in the New Millennium: Introducing Current Perspectives*, Routledge, London and New York (arriving)

Johnson M., 2010, *Archaeological Theory: An introduction*, Wiley (2nd ed) 902 JOH

Kelly R. L., Thomas D. H., 2010, *Archaeology. International Student Edition*, Wadsworth (5th ed)

Renfrew C., Bahn P., 2016, *Archaeology. Theories, Methods and Practice*, Thames & Hudson (7th ed) 902.3 REN

Rippon S., 2012, *Historic landscape Analysis. Deciphering the countryside*, Council for British Archaeology, York (arriving)

Trigger B. G., 2006, *A History of Archaeological Thought*, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge (2nd ed) (arriving)

To find out more

Alcock S. E., Osborne R., 2012, *Classical Archaeology*, Wiley-Blackwell (2nd ed) (arriving)

Bintliff J., 2004, Survey archaeology in Greek Aegean World, C. Smith, Encyclopedia of Global Archaeology, New York, 7139-7146

Buchli V., Lucas G., 2001, *Archaeologies of the Contemporary Past*, Routledge, London and New York (arriving)

Carver M., Klápště J., 2011, *The Archaeology of Medieval Europe, vol 2. Twelfth to Sixteenth Centuries*, Aarhus University Press, Aarhus (arriving)

González Ruibal A., 2019, *An Archaeology of the Contemporary Era*, Routledge, London and New York

Graham-Campbell J., Valor M., 2007, *The Archaeology of Medieval Europe, vol 1. Eighth to Twelfth Centuries AD*, Aarhus University Press, Aarhus (arriving)

Orser C. E., 2017, *Historical Archaeology*, Routledge, London and New York (3rd ed) (arriving)

Hall M. and Silliman S. W., 2006, *Historical Archaeology*, Blackwell, Malden, 902 HIS

Hicks D. and Beaydry M. C. ed., *The Cambridge companion to historical archaeology*, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, 902 CAM

Majewski T. and Gaimster D. R. M., 2009, *International handbook of historical archaeology*, London and New York

Noah Harari Y., 2014, *Sapiens: A Brief History of Humankind*, London

Some useful websites

Arqueología Medieval <http://www.arqueologiamedieval.com/>

Basque Cultural Heritage <http://www.euskadi.eus/app/ondarea-patrimonio-cultural-vasco/>

Biblioarqueología <http://www.biblioarqueologia.com/>

Geoeuskadi <http://www.geo.euskadi.net/s69-bisorea/es/x72aGeoeuskadiWAR/index.jsp>,

Harris Matrix <http://harrismatrix.com/>

Museum of London <https://www.museumoflondon.org.uk/museum-london>

The UK Oak Project <https://www.oak-research.co.uk/>

Time Team <http://www.timeteamdigital.com/>

York Viking Center <https://www.jorvikvikingcentre.co.uk/>