

**COURSE DATA****DATA SUBJECT**

Code: 34021
Name: Ancient universal prehistory
Cycle: Undergraduate Studies
ECTS Credits: 6
Academic year: 2025-26

STUDY (S)

Degree	Center	Acad. year	Period
1005 - Degree in History	Facultat de Geografia i Història	2	First quarter

SUBJECT-MATTER

Degree	Subject-matter	Character
1005 - Degree in History	Universal prehistory	COMPULSORY

COORDINATION

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SUMMARY

The subjects Ancient Universal Prehistory (PUa) and Recent Universal Prehistory are part of a general subject dedicated to the knowledge of Prehistoric Humanity; both are included in the second year of the Degree in History at the University of Valencia.

PUA presents a general panorama of the socio-cultural evolution of prehistoric Humanity, prior to the development and expansion of the farming economies. With this objective, a presentation of the main theories about the formation and development of human societies prior to food production is addressed, as well as the documentary bases used by Archeology during the study of prehistoric hunter-gatherer-fishermen societies.



Due to historical and geographical proximity, greater attention will be paid to the Old World regions and especially to Africa and Europe.

PREVIOUS KNOWLEDGE

RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER SUBJECTS OF THE SAME DEGREE

There are no specified enrollment restrictions with other subjects of the curriculum.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS

It is advisable for students to have experience in office software (word processing, spread sheets, presentations, etc.), the use of the Virtual Classroom platform and to know how to search for bibliographic resources in the library of the University of Valencia.

COMPETENCES / LEARNING OUTCOMES

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Be able to learn autonomously.

Be able to make abstractions, to analyse and to synthesise.

Be able to read historiographic texts or original documents in another language.

Be able to use information-gathering tools such as bibliographic catalogues, archival inventories and electronic references.

Be aware of the ongoing nature of historical debate and research.

Be sensitive to environmental issues.

Have decision-making capacity.

Have problem-solving skills.

Show commitment to the principle of equal opportunities for men and women.

Show creativity.

DESCRIPTION OF CONTENTS

Commentary on the bibliography and the teaching guide. Limits and objectives of the subject. General



1. Presentation

chronological table. Humanity from the perspective of evolutionary, historical and sociocultural studies.

2. The first hominids and their expansion in temperate latitudes

Hominids and genus Homo: chronological and paleoenvironmental framework. Genus characteristics: bipedalism, childbirth and social behaviour. Consolidation of humans in Asia and Europe: adaptation and cultural transmission. The Lower Palaeolithic: technology and economy of the first hominids.

3. The evolutionary path to Neanderthals: the Middle Paleolithic

The environment before the last great interglacial: the middle Pleistocene. The consolidation of human settlement in Europe: archaic Homo Sapiens (Homo heidelbergensis and H. Neanderthalensis). Characterization of technology and the economy. Social organization: habitat and mobility.

4. Modern human behaviour

Archaic/Modern: the discussion on the first signs of modernity. Anatomically modern humans and the colonization of the planet by Homo sapiens sapiens. Transition and cohabitation in Europe.

5. The European Upper Palaeolithic

The landscapes and cold fauna of the Pleniglacial. Geographic variability and evolution of technological traditions. The specialized hunting economies. Forms of social and political organization of hunters: anthropological models and their archaeological use. Paleolithic art, personal adornment, and burial practices: symbolism, identity, and interaction.

6. The last hunter-fisher-collectors: Epipaleolithic and Mesolithic

The beginning of the current interglacial: the Holocene. Colonization of the north and new adaptations in emerging forests: economic diversification. The new funeral practices: the necropolis.

WORKLOAD

PRESENCIAL ACTIVITIES

Activity	Hours
Theory	30,00
Other activities	15,00
Classroom practices	15,00



Total hours	60,00
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NON PRESENCIAL ACTIVITIES

Activity	Hours
Attendance at other activities	0,00
Individual or group project	20,00
Independent study and work	70,00
Preparation of lessons	0,00
Preparation for assessment activities	0,00
Resolution of case studies	0,00
Total hours	90,00

TEACHING METHODOLOGY

A) Lectures attendance:

1) Theoretical lectures (30 hours): in the classroom, lecturers expose the essential aspects of the subject, systematize the basic contents and provide references for the exam preparation. Classes will be organized through text discussion, image projection using PowerPoint presentations and / or videos, etc. It is crucial that, prior to each lesson, students read all the contents recommended by the lecturer (handbook, exercises, etc.).

2) Practical classes (15 hours): the lecturer proposes different practical exercises for each topic in the classroom. If any supplementary material is required, it will be provided to students through the Virtual Classroom. For some subjects, the students themselves will search for appropriate readings (papers or books from the bibliographical list).

3) Attendance to seminars, workshops or complementary activities (15 hours): students will participate in activities scheduled by the Faculty and lecturers (visits, seminars and conferences). Complementary activities can be evaluated: in that case, each teacher will indicate the evaluation method and criteria in the supplementary Teaching Guide.

B) Tutorial classes: Students may attend the tutorial classes that teachers program to resolve queries or concerns about any aspect related to the subject. The timetables are indicated in the Virtual Classroom and on the board of the Department of Prehistory, Archaeology and Ancient History.



EVALUATION

On the first call:

Theory: The evaluation of the theoretical part of the subject will consist a 70% of the final grade. Mastery of the general scheme of the evolution of prehistoric societies, the capacity for relationship and synthesis, and conceptual precision, as well as the capacity for analysis and expository clarity, will be especially valued.

Practical works = 20% of the final mark. The final grade in this section will be the proportional calculation of those obtained in the different works, as indicated in the annex of each group.C

omplementary activities = 10% of the final grade.

It will be necessary to obtain a minimum score of 5 out of 10 in each part (theory, practical and complementary) so that the average can be calculated.

The students will deliver the work and materials on the scheduled dates through the Virtual Classroom. Those who do not participate in these actions will not have this proportional part of the final grade.

On the second call:

Those who have not passed any part of the subject may take an extraordinary exam (70%) and a test of all the practices (20%), following the criteria established for the first call (minimum score of 5 out of 10). It will not be possible to recover the complementary activities section.

Detected plagiarism (copying from sources without mentioning: books, papers, internet, etc...) will directly determine the final grade of failing (grade 0) in the subject.

The grade "Merit with Distinction" can be awarded to students who have obtained a grade equal to or greater than 9.0. This grade may be awarded for every twenty students within a group.

REFERENCES

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