

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

Code: 36910
Name: Arqueologia de Asia, Oceanía, y África subsahariana
Cycle: Undergraduate Studies
ECTS Credits: 6
Academic year: 2026-27

STUDY (S)

Degree	Center	Acad. year	Period
1014 - Grado en Arqueología	Facultat de Geografia i Història	1	First quarter

SUBJECT-MATTER

Degree	Subject-matter	Character
1014 - Grado en Arqueología	Arqueologia de Asia, Oceanía, y África subsahariana	BASIC

COORDINATION

GARCIA PUCHOL MARIA ORETO

REAL MARGALEF CRISTINA

SUMMARY

This course provides a comprehensive overview of the evolution of human societies in Africa, Asia, and Oceania, from the earliest dispersal processes of the genus Homo to the global connections established during the second millennium CE. Drawing on the theoretical and methodological frameworks of archaeology and paleoanthropology, the course examines human migrations ("Out of Africa"), the biological and cultural evolution of hominins, hunter-gatherer societies and their regional diversity, as well as the domestication of plants and animals and the emergence of the first food-producing economies. The course also explores the development of complex societies, states, and empires beyond traditional Eurocentric models, highlighting the distinctive historical trajectories of Africa, Asia, and Oceania. Finally, it examines exchange networks, trade routes, and interregional connections in order to understand the role of these continents in global history and to appreciate the diversity and non-linear nature of social and cultural change over time.

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 recommended that students have basic knowledge of the use of common office software applications (word processors, spreadsheets, presentation software, etc.), as well as the Virtual Classroom platform of the University of València, which constitutes the main learning support environment. It is also necessary to know how to locate and manage bibliographic references using the resources and services of the Library of the University of Valencia.

COMPETENCES / LEARNING OUTCOMES

1014 - Grado en Arqueología

Acquire basic foundations for the documentation, conservation and dissemination of archaeological heritage.

Acquire basic theoretical and methodological knowledge to reconstruct the past through the tools of recovery, documentation and analysis of the archaeological record.

Acquire general knowledge of the evolution of climatic and ecological conditions.

Analyse social processes over time from perspectives that affect gender equality.

Be able to transmit information, ideas, problems and solutions to both specialised and non-specialised audiences.

Collaborate effectively in work teams, assuming responsibilities and leadership roles and contributing to collective improvement and development.

Communicate effectively, both orally and in writing, adapting to the characteristics of the situation and the audience.

Contribute to designing, developing and implementing solutions that address social demands, taking the Sustainable Development Goals as a reference.

Demonstrate critical and self-critical thinking within the field of study, considering aspects such as professional ethics, moral values and the social implications of the different activities carried out.

Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of social inequalities based on sex and gender within this specific field of study; integrate the different needs and preferences based on sex and gender into the design of solutions and problem solving.

Develop basic analytical skills to address problem solving in professional practice.

Develop critical thinking and reflective skills for understanding information sources, developing hypotheses and interpreting them.

Develop skills for independent learning that enable the expansion of acquired knowledge.

Emphasise gender perspective as a fundamental pillar for the advancement of knowledge.



Handle relevant sources of information for historical and archaeological research (written sources, cartographic sources, databases, electronic resources).

Identify the periods and materiality related to historical evolution from prehistory to the contemporary era.

Implement the skills needed for planning and managing work schedules.

Integrate knowledge of history with archaeological data from a diachronic perspective.

Interpret materiality through a process combining information from different disciplines (archaeology, history, history of art).

Know the sciences that investigate the evolution of humanity, particularly history, as a pillar for understanding and reconstructing the past.

Learn autonomously, making informed decisions in different contexts, issuing judgements based on experimentation and analysis and transferring knowledge to new situations.

Maintain an attitude of commitment and active participation as a basis for teamwork.

Maintain the scientific rigour appropriate to the basic information provided by a historian.

Possess the ability to gather and interpret relevant historical data.

Promote teamwork as a basis for achieving collaborative work.

Promote technological, social or cultural progress, in academic and professional contexts, within a society based on knowledge and respect for: a) fundamental rights and equal opportunities for women and men, b) the principles of equal opportunities and u

Propose creative and innovative solutions to complex situations or problems within the field of knowledge to respond to diverse professional and social needs.

Recognise construction materials and elements, including structures of varying development and complexity throughout history.

Recognise main elements of material culture considering a broad diachronic perspective from prehistory to the contemporary era.

Recognise the importance of collaboration between the sciences dedicated to heritage studies in order to generate synergies for the enhancement of cultural heritage.

Recognise the importance of continuing education in order to update analytical techniques and advance knowledge in the field of humanities.

Recognise the potential of the analysis of biological remains (animal, plant or human remains) resulting from archaeological work.

Recognise the temporal evolution of the archaeological record and its spatial and social dimensions.

Strengthen commitment to ecological values, assuming their significance for the development of



contemporary societies.

Study economic systems and their socio-ecological consequences throughout different historical stages.

Understand archaeological science as a discipline that allows us to investigate and hypothesise about past societies through the application of archaeological methodology.

Understand archaeology as a discipline that integrates techniques developed in other sciences for the advancement of knowledge.

Understand new trends in archaeological interpretation as a basis for developing the theoretical framework of research.

Understand the importance of developing critical thinking when addressing social interpretations, committed to the major challenges of today's societies and with emphasis on equality, ecology and sustainable development.

Understand the social importance of archaeological work in promoting knowledge and reflection on the past and its potential to produce relevant information about human evolution.

DESCRIPTION OF CONTENTS

1. Introduction

Review of the bibliography and the course syllabus. Objectives, scope of the course, and theoretical framework. Chronological and geographical context of the study.

2. Origins and Hunter-Gatherer Societies

Study of human dispersals out of Africa (*Homo erectus* and *Homo sapiens*) and their expansion into Asia and Oceania. Analysis of Palaeolithic societies, their technologies, subsistence strategies, and environmental adaptations. Comparison of cultural trajectories in Africa, Asia, and Oceania, including early symbolic expressions.

3. Domestication of Plants and Animals

Analysis of the processes of neolithisation and the emergence of agriculture and farming within the geographical scope of the course. Study of the main centres of agricultural innovation and diffusion of crops, domesticated animals, and new technologies through exchange networks.

4. Early Complex Societies

Study of the increasing social complexity during the Holocene in Africa, Asia, and Oceania. Analysis of new forms of political and economic organisation. Comparison of historical trajectories that differ from those of Europe and the Near East.

5. States, Empires, and Global Connections

Analysis of the first states and empires in Africa and East Asia. Study of their political and economic organisation and material culture. Examination of trade networks and global contacts during the second millennium CE. Analysis of the Silk Road, trans-Saharan trade, and Indian Ocean commerce. Discussion on



the role of Africa, Asia, and Oceania in global history.

WORKLOAD

PRESENCIAL ACTIVITIES

Activity	Hours
Theory	30,00
Other activities	15,00
Classroom practices	15,00
Total hours	60,00

NON PRESENCIAL ACTIVITIES

Activity	Hours
Attendance at other activities	0,00
Individual or group project	0,00
Independent study and work	45,00
Preparation of lessons	0,00
Preparation for assessment activities	45,00
Resolution of case studies	0,00
Total hours	90,00

TEACHING METHODOLOGY

1) Lectures (30h)

Theoretical sessions will be conducted in the classroom through structured lectures delivered by the teaching staff, aimed at introducing the main historical, archaeological, and paleoanthropological processes covered in the course. Special emphasis will be placed on the chronological and geographical contextualisation of the content, as well as on the presentation of current scholarly debates. The classes will be supported by visual materials (digital presentations, maps, diagrams, archaeological record images, graphs, and, where appropriate, audiovisual resources). Students will be required to complete the recommended readings for each topic in advance, with the aim of fostering active participation and a deeper critical understanding of the course content.

2) Practical Sessions (15 hours)

Practical sessions will take place during scheduled class hours and will focus on the application of the theoretical knowledge acquired in the course. Activities will include the analysis and discussion of maps, stratigraphic sequences, archaeological materials, written sources where appropriate, and key scholarly articles. Students will also be introduced to the basic use of digital tools and online resources for the retrieval and management of archaeological information. The aim of these sessions is to develop students' skills in critical reading, data interpretation, and the construction of well-founded arguments based on archaeological evidence.

3) Complementary Activities (15 hours)



The course may include complementary learning activities, such as specialised seminars, guest lectures, or visits related to the course topics. These activities are intended to broaden students' perspectives on the course content and to provide exposure to current research developments in the field. Where appropriate, students may be required to submit a brief report or commentary, the requirements of which will be communicated in advance.

4) Tutorials

Students may attend the scheduled tutorial and office hours offered by the teaching staff to discuss any aspect of the course, including questions related to the preparation of assignments and other assessed work. They may also contact the teaching staff via the official University email system. Tutorial schedules will be announced on the first day of class and will also be available on the Virtual Classroom for each course group.

EVALUATION

Assessment for this course will be based on continuous evaluation and will combine the assessment of theoretical knowledge with the practical application of the course content throughout the term.

1. Final Written Examination (50%)

The final examination will assess:

- Knowledge and understanding of the course contents.
- The ability to analyse and interpret documents, maps, images, and archaeological materials.
- The appropriate use of the discipline-specific terminology.
- Analytical, argumentative, and synthesis skills.
- The quality of written expression, including coherence, clarity, and spelling.
- To pass the course, students must obtain a minimum mark of 5 out of 10 in the final written examination. If this minimum mark is not achieved, the marks obtained in the remaining assessment components will not be included in the final grade, although they will be retained for the re-examination period.

2. Practical Activities (30%)

They include exercises carried out during practical sessions, commentaries on materials or texts, and, where appropriate, short written assignments related to the course content, which will be specified at the beginning of the course.

3. Complementary activities (20%)

Participation in seminars, lectures, or other course-related learning activities will be assessed through a brief report or specific assignment, the characteristics of which will be communicated to students in



advance. Complementary activities are non-recoverable, and the grade obtained during the course will be retained. Assessment will place particular emphasis on:

- The correct application of theoretical concepts.
- Critical analysis and interpretation.
- The appropriate use of academic sources and bibliography.
- Marks obtained for this component will remain valid only for the academic year in which they were obtained.

Re-examination (Second Assessment Period)

- Written examination (50%): As in the first examination period, students must obtain a minimum score of 5 out of 10 in order to pass the course.
- Practical activities (30%): Most practical activities may be retaken. The grades obtained by students who complete the practical activities and submit the corresponding assignments during the first examination period will be retained. If no previous grade is available, alternative assessment methods will be provided whenever feasible. Both these alternative assessment methods and any non-recoverable activities will be specified at the beginning of the course.
- Complementary activities (20%): In general, complementary activities may not be retaken. However, the grades obtained by students who complete them during the first examination period will be retained.

Regarding the student's obligations if they use AI in assessable activities and for the declaration of responsibility for the use of AI, see the "Guia d'actuació per a l'ús responsable de la intel·ligència artificial (IA) en les activitats docents i d'avaluació a la Universitat de València" at the following link: <https://www.uv.es/graus/normatives/Guia_actuacio_IA_UV.pdf>

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