COURSE DATA

DATA SUBJECT

Code: 43124
Name: Seminar. Household and funerary archaeology in the western mediterranean
Cycle: Master's Degree
ECTS Credits: 3
Academic year: 2025-26

STUDY (S)

Degree	Center	Acad. year	Period
2143 - Master's Degree in Archaeology	Facultat de Geografia i Història	1	Second quarter

SUBJECT-MATTER

Degree	Subject-matter	Character
2143 - Master's Degree in Archaeology	Introduction to research and professional practice in archaeology	ELECTIVES

COORDINATION

MACHAUSE LOPEZ SONIA

AURA TORTOSA JOAN EMILI

BLASCO MARTIN MARTA

SUMMARY

This seminar is included inside the subject ¿Introduction to professional and research activities in Archaeology¿, made up of a total of 5 elective seminars (students will choose 4 of them). The main aim of these elective seminars is to get a more in-depth research training by gaining insight from several perspectives, methodologies and backgrounds.

It is essential to approach archaeological studies from a multidisciplinar perspective (social, gender, queer, biological, anthropological) in order to better understand the dynamics of past human groups. The combination of archaeological, bioarchaeological, archaeometric and molecular data allows us to understand the transversality of the archaeological record and its ability to answer the questions raised. Funeral practices are a main indicator of the cognitive capacity and cultural variability of human populations. Domestic and funeral spaces are ideal places to study with a multidisciplinary approach with the aim of getting to know better the people who used them. It is in these spaces where the interpersonal and social relationships of past human groups are expressed.

This seminar introduces students to the characteristics of these proxies and the issues they are able to raise. It also helps to shed light on the people and social groups through the archaeological record by reason of their sex, gender roles, age, social status and kinship. It also introduces them to the potential that archaeological sciences and biomolecular anthropology have in the study of human remains to obtain information about their lifeways (diet, provenance, territorial mobility, breastfeeding and weaning) and thus be able to articulate the research agenda around their day-to-day life and around the cosmovision expressed in the funerary world.

PREVIOUS KNOWLEDGE

RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER SUBJECTS OF THE SAME DEGREE

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

OTHER REQUIREMENTS

Students must have completed at least 20 credits obligatory for the Master.

COMPETENCES / LEARNING OUTCOMES

DESCRIPTION OF CONTENTS

1. Seminar. Domestic and Funerary Archeology in the Mediterranean

This seminar will deal with different aspects and issues associated to prehistoric and archaeological research linked to the Master¿s research topics. Its main objective is for the students to ponder on specific archaeological cases from a domestic and funeral perspective that, ideally, could be linked to the topic of their Master¿s Thesis.

This seminar is divided into several learning sessions. The first one will be the course presentation, during which the main objectives and contents of the course will be shared with the students, as well as the recommended readings required to participate in the theoretical-practical lectures. During the following sessions, a first block on funerary archeology and a second block on domestic archaeology will be taught. To end the course, the students will present specific case studies that will be discussed collectively in the classroom.

2. Tutored Work

The course assignment will be carried out by the students under the supervision of a teacher. This assignment will be aimed at developing the skills of the students to confront research case studies and problems. The topics of these assignments will be agreed between students and teachers at the individual level and based on the research interest of the former.

This assignment implies an approach to an archaeological topic by the students, if possible linked to their Master¿s thesis topic, which will be done based on the published literature and/or empirical sources. The assignment will end up with the preparation of a 10-minute presentation that will be addressed to the whole class.

WORKLOAD

PRESENCIAL ACTIVITIES

Activity	Hours
Theory	15,00
Total hours	**15,00**

NON PRESENCIAL ACTIVITIES

Activity	Hours
Attendance at other activities	0,00
Individual or group project	20,00
Independent study and work	2,00
Preparation of lessons	38,00
Preparation for assessment activities	0,00
Resolution of case studies	0,00
Total hours	**60,00**

TEACHING METHODOLOGY

This course will consist of lectures given by the teachers, as well as presentations by the students. Readings will be provided to students in order to promote a deeper insight (both at the individual and collective level) on the subjects studied.

EVALUATION

The assessment of this seminar course will be based on a 10-minute presentation that will be presented in the classroom in front of both students and teachers.In order to pass the course, students should attend at least to 80% of the lectures. Class participation will be taken into account.

REFERENCES

- ADAMS, R.L.; KING, S.M. (2011): ¿Residential Burial in Global perspective¿. Archaeological Papers of the American Anthropological Association, 20 (1), pp. 1-16.
- BEASLEY, M.M.; SOMERVILLE, A.D. (Eds.) (2023): Exploring Human Behavior Through Isotope

Analysis. Applications in Archaeological Research. Ed. Springer, New York.
- BELARTE, C. (Ed.) (2009): L¿espai domèstic i l¿organització de la societat a la protohistòria de la Mediterrània occidental (Ier mil·lenni aC). Ed. Departament de Prehistòria, Història Antiga i Arqueologia de la Universitat de Barcelona - Institut Català d'Arqueologia Clàssica, Barcelona.
- BINFORD, L.R. (1971): ¿Mortuary practices: their study and their potential¿. En: James Brown (Ed.) Approaches to the social dimensions of mortuary practices. Memoirs of the Society for American Archaeology 25, pp. 6-29.
- BONET, H.; SORIA, L.; VIVES-FERRÁNDIZ, J. (2011): ¿La vida en las casas. Producción doméstica, alimentación, enseres y ocupantes¿. En: Bonet Rosado, H.; Vives-Ferrándiz, J. (Eds.) La Bastida de les Alcusses 1928-2010. Ed. Museu de Prehistòria de València, Valencia, pp. 139-176.
- COLTOFEAN-ARIZANCU, L.; GAYDARSKA, B.; MATI¿, U. (Eds.) (2021): Gender Stereotypes in Archaeology. A short reflection in image and text. Ed. Sidestone Press, Leiden.
- CRUZ BERROCAL, M. (2009): ¿Feminismo, teoría y práctica de una arqueología científica¿. Trabajos de Prehistoria 66 (2), pp. 25-43.
- GRAU MIRA, I.; ABAD-ESPAÑA, A. (2023): ¿Vida cotidiana, prácticas domésticas y uso social del espacio entre los grupos iberos. Una lectura microespacial de El Cabeço de Mariola (siglos II-I a. C.)¿. Pyrenae 42 (2), pp. 35-57.
- GRÜNBERG J. M.; GRAMSCH, B.; LARSSON, L.; ORSCHIEDT, J.; MELLER, H. (Eds.) (2016): Mesolithic Burials. Rites, symbols and social organisation of Early post-glacial communities. Ed. Landes Museum fu¿r Vorgeschitche, Halle.
- HERRÁN SUBIÑAS, M.; HIGUERO PLIEGO, A.; MORAL DE EUSEBIO, E. (2021): ¿¡Ha habido maricones toda la historia de la humanidad! Arqueología queer, o cómo cuestionar los sesgos cisheteronormativos¿. En: Jiménez Martín, D. (Ed.): La primera mentira: mitos y relatos distorsionados en la enseñanza de la Historia. Ed. Postmetropolis, pp. 55-74.
- LALUEZA-FOX, C. (2018): La forja genètica d¿Europa. Una nova visió del passat de les poblacions humanes. Ed. Catàlisi, Barcelona.
- LULL, V.; PICAZO, M. (1989): ¿Arqueología de la Muerte y estructura social¿. Archivo Español de Arqueología 62, pp. 5-20.
- PETTIT, P.B. (2011): The Palaeolithic origins of human burials. Ed. Rouledge, New York.
- PEÑALVER, T. (2022): La arquitectura doméstica de las ciudades romanas del territorio valenciano. Ed. Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas, Madrid.
- PRADOS TORREIRA, L; LÓPEZ RUIZ, C. (Eds.) (2008): Arqueología del Género. 1er Encuentro Internacional en la UAM. Ed. Universidad Autónoma de Madrid, Madrid.
- SÁNCHEZ ROMERO, M. (2022): Prehistorias de mujeres: Descubre lo que no te han contado sobre nosotras. Ed. Destino, Barcelona.
- RICHARDS, M.P.; BRITTON, K. (Eds.) (2020): Archaeological Science: An Introduction. Ed. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge.
- RIEL-SALVATORE, J.; GRAVEL-MIGUEL, C. (2013): ¿Upper Palaeolithic Mortuary Practices in Eurasia: A Critical Look at the Burial Record¿. En: Tarlow, S.; Nilsson Stutz, L. (Eds.) The Oxford Handbook of the Archaeology of Death and Burial. Ed. Oxford University Press, Oxford.
- ZILHÃO, J.; TRINKAUS, E. (2002): Portrait of the artist as a child: The Gravettian human skeleton from the Abrigo do Lagar Velho and its archeological context. Trabalhos de Arqueologia 22, Lisboa.