



Universitat de Lleida

DEGREE CURRICULUM
**HISTORY OF THE NEAR EAST
AND EGYPT**

Coordination: BOUSO GARCIA, MONICA

Academic year 2023-24

Subject's general information

Subject name	HISTORY OF THE NEAR EAST AND EGYPT			
Code	100067			
Semester	2nd Q(SEMESTER) CONTINUED EVALUATION			
Typology	Degree	Course	Character	Modality
	Bachelor's Degree in History	1	COMMON/CORE	Attendance-based
Course number of credits (ECTS)	6			
Type of activity, credits, and groups	Activity type	PRAULA		TEORIA
	Number of credits	3		3
	Number of groups	1		1
Coordination	BOUSO GARCIA, MONICA			
Department	GEOGRAPHY, HISTORY AND HISTORY OF ART			
Important information on data processing	Consult this link for more information.			
Language	Catalan (texts in Spanish, English and French)			

Teaching staff	E-mail addresses	Credits taught by teacher	Office and hour of attention
BOUSO GARCIA, MONICA	monica.bouso@udl.cat	6	Monday and Tuesday, from 15:00 to 16:00h Office 1.29

Subject's extra information

The objective of the course is to introduce the student in to the study of the ancient societies through the learning, in the first place, of: 1) the specific terminology and methodology of the diverse disciplines which study the past, and, 2) the tendencies, problems and approach of the current research of the cultures addressed in class.

Following this, we will explore the archaeology and history of the Ancient Near East, specifically dealing with Mesopotamia and Egypt, with the purpose of achieving a good comprehension of the main cultures originating in these regions and their developments, as well as recognising their influence on the later cultures and societies. We will identify their geographical and cultural diversity, both synchronically and diachronically, from the Neolithic period to the Iron Age. Special attention will be paid to the processes of formation of the complex societies such as the appearance of urbanism, writing and the state, among others themes. At the same time, we will examine, in particular the geography, society, economies, material culture, literature, funerary and religious customs of these regions through an interdisciplinary study of all the available sources of evidence (archaeology, textual, artistic and so on.)

Learning objectives

O1: To learn and use the terminology and the different techniques used in the study of history. Be able to search information from diverse sources from a critical perspective.

O2: To gain basic knowledge about the main historical periods of the area of study and their principal characteristics, as well as to understand the main sources from their study.

O3: To analyse and think critically about the textual, historiographical and archaeological sources as well as the interpretation of maps and graphics.

O4: To develop students' abilities to interpret, analyse and evaluate a range of evidence, and to organise and present information in a coherent and effective manner.

As well as to be able to use the technical terms and the key concepts addressed during the course adequately.

Competences

1. To demonstrate relevant knowledge and critical understanding of the basic historical methodology and terminology, as well as being able to consult and use the main bibliography correctly.
2. To learn and contextualise the diverse cultures of Ancient Near East and Egypt (including a critical appreciation of the contexts from which people, events, ideas and/or artefacts emerged) and achieve a good comprehension of the main sources for their study.
3. Be familiar with the primary sources and the literature most relevant to the subject: analyse and critically evaluate the sources (contributions, limitations, difficulties, and so on)
4. Be able to expose in a coherent and organised way both orally and written the acquired knowledge, as well as the correct use of the specific terminology of the discipline.

Subject contents

- **Syllabus of History of the Ancient Near East and Egypt**

Block I: Ancient Near East

Lesson 1. Introduction. Sources. Geographical and chronological frame. History of Assyriology (2 sessions)

Lesson 2. From the first villages to urban and complex societies in Mesopotamia (2 sessions)

2.1. The Ubaid phenomenon

2.2. The Uruk phenomenon

Lesson 3. The origin of Cuneiform writing (1 session)

Lesson 4. City-states and dynasties (2 sessions)

4.1. Early Dynastic Period

4.2. Old Akkadian or Sargonic Period

4.3. The Neo-Sumerian period: The Third Dynasty of Ur

Lesson 5. The appearance of the regional states (3 sessions)

5.1 Old Babylonian Period

5.2. The Ancient Near East during the second half of the second millennium

Lesson 6. The Ancient Near East during the first millennium: The Iron Age Empires (3 sessions)

6.1. The Neo-Assyrian Empire

6.2. Neo-Babylonian Empire

6.3. The Persian Empire

Lesson 7. Society. Urbanism. Institutions. Law. Overseas relations (1 session)

Lesson 8. Economies. Subsistence. Craftwork. Trade and exchange (1 session)

Lesson 9. Religious and funerary practices (1 session)

Lesson 10. Literature. Knowledge. Art (1 session)

Block II. Egypt

Lesson 1. Introduction. Sources. Geographical and chronological frame. History of Egyptology (1 session)

Lesson 2. The Predynastic period (1 session)

Lesson 3. The origin of the hieroglyphic writing (1 session)

Lesson 4. The Early Dynastic Period (1 session)

- Lesson 5. The Old Kingdom (1 session)
- Lesson 6. First Intermediate Period (1 session)
- Lesson 7. The Middle Kingdom (1 session)
- Lesson 8. Second Intermediate Period (1 session)
- Lesson 9. The New Kingdom (2 sessions)
- Lesson 10. Third Intermediate Period (1 session)
- Lesson 11. Society. Settlement archaeology and urbanism. Institutions, Overseas relations (1 session)
- Lesson 12. Economies. Subsistence. Craftwork. Trade and exchange (1 session)
- Lesson 13. Religious and funerary practices. (1 session)
- Lesson 14. Literature. Knowledge. Art (1 session)

Methodology

Activity	CODIFICACION / description / typology TPD	O*	G*	HP*	HNP*
Magistral class (M)	Presentation of the themes, collective discussion about the diverse sources (texts, maps, artefacts, plans and so on)	1,2,3,4		60	80,5
Seminaries (S)	Mandatory seminar with the Library				
Activities (A)	Diverse activities about the contents	1,2,3,4		5	5
Academic work (T)	An oral exposition An academic papers.	1,2,3,4		5	22
Tutorial (Tut)	One mandatory and discretionary tutorial hours			5	5
Others (AA)					
Evaluation (AV)					
TOTAL				75	112,5

Evaluation

mechanisms of evaluation	codification / description-criteria / typology TPD	observations	O*	Activity	%*
Assistance and participation (As)	The regular attendance and participation in class will be positively valued.		1,2,3,4		
Evaluation (TA) (Exam)	Two written tests		1,2,3,4		25 25
Inform (In) / Academic works (T)	An oral exposition One written paper		1,2,3,4		25 25
Others (A)	One mandatory seminar				

TOTAL					100
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Alternative evaluation

<< *Students who combine their degree with a full time job or a part-time job with schedules coinciding with classes have the right to ask for alternative assessment within 5 days after the beginning of the semester. For information, please send an e-mail to lletres.secretariacentre@udl.cat or ask for information at the Faculty's office (Secretaria de la Facultat de Lletres).* >>

Bibliography

- **Bibliography**

General:

AAVV (1998) *Cambridge Ancient History*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Darvill, Timothy (2008; online 2009) *The Concise Oxford Dictionary of Archaeology*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Fagan, Brian M. (1996; online 2004) *The Oxford Companion to Archaeology*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

López, Jesús; Sanmartín, Joaquín (1993) *Mitología y religión del Oriente Antiguo I, Egipto, Mesopotamia*. Sabadell: AUSA.

Raaflaub, Kurt A., ed. (2016) *The adventure of the human intellect : self, society, and the divine in ancient world cultures*. Chichester, West Sussex, UK ; Malden, MA, USA : John Wiley & Sons, Ltd.

Sasson, Jack M., ed. (2000) *Civilizations of the Ancient Near East*. Peabody (Ma.): Hendrickson Publishers.

Serrano, José Miguel; Sanmartín, Joaquín (1998) *Historia antigua del Próximo Oriente: Mesopotamia y Egipto*. Madrid: Akal.

Collections of ancient texts online:

CDLI: The Cuneiform Digital Library Initiative.

ETCSRI: Electronic Text Corpus of Sumerian Royal Inscriptions.

Per a fonts epigràfiques i papirologiques egípcies el portal: <http://www.trismegistos.org>.

Atlas:

- ArchAtlas Project, Department of Archaeology University of Sheffield

<http://www.archatlas.dept.shef.ac.uk/project/mission.php>

- Digital Atlas of Egyptian Archaeology.

<http://leadr.msu.edu/projects/fall-2014-3/daea/>

Journals

Akkadica

American Journal of Archaeology

Anatolica

Anatolian Studies

Antiquity

Aula Orientalis

Biblical Archaeologist

Bulletin of the American Schools of Oriental Research

Cambridge Archaeological Journal

Iraq

Journal of Ancient Near Eastern Religions

Journal of Anthropological Archaeology

Journal of Cuneiform Studies

Journal of Near Eastern Studies

Journal of the American Oriental Society

Levant

Near Eastern Archaeology

Paleorient

Reallexikon der Assyriologie

Revue d'Assyriologie

Sumer

World Archaeology

Ancient Near East:

Akkermans, Peter M.M.G., and Schwartz, Glenn M. (2003) *The Archaeology of Syria. From Complex Hunter-Gatherers to Early Urban Societies (ca. 16,000-300 BC)*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Aruz, Joan; Graff, Sarah B., and Yelena Rakic, eds. (2014) *Assyria to Iberia: at the dawn of the classical age*. New York: The Metropolitan Museum of Art; New Haven; London: distributed by Yale University Press.

Ascalone, Enrico (2006) *Mesopotamia*. Barcelona: Electa.

Bottéro, Jean (2001) *La religión más antigua: Mesopotamia*. Madrid: Ed. Trotta.

Bottero, Jean y Kramer, Samuel Noah (2004) *Cuando los dioses hacían de hombres: mitología mesopotámica*. Tres Cantos (Madrid): Akal.

Cline, Eric H. (2015) *1177 a.C.: el año en que la civilización se derrumbó*. Barcelona: Crítica.

Crawford Harriet (2015) *The city of the Moon God*. London: Bloomsbury Academic Series.

- Kramer, Samuel Noah (2010) *La historia empieza en Sumer. 39 primeros testimonios de la historia escrita*. Madrid: Alianza Editorial.
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- Liverani, Mario (1995) *El Antiguo Oriente. Historia, Sociedad y Economía*. Barcelona: Crítica.
- _____ (2003) *Relaciones Internacionales en el Próximo Oriente Antiguo 1600-1100 A.C.* Barcelona: Edicions Bellaterra.
- _____ (2006) *Uruk. La primera ciudad*. Barcelona: Bellaterra.
- Margueron, Jean-Claude (1996) *Los Mesopotámicos*. Madrid: Cátedra.
- McMahon, Augusta & Crawford, Harriet, eds. (2014) *Preludes to urbanism : the late Chalcolithic of Mesopotamia, in honour of Joan Oates*. Cambridge : McDonald Institute for Archaeological Research.
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- Postgate, J. N. (1999) *La Mesopotamia arcaica: sociedad y economía en el amanecer de la historia*. Madrid: Ed. Akal.
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- Sallaberger, Walther and Schrakamp, Ingo, eds. (2015) *History & philology. ARCANE: associated regional chronologies for the ancient Near East and the eastern Mediterranean; III*. Turnhout: Brepols.
- Sanmartín, Joaquín (1999) *Códigos legales de tradición babilónica*. Madrid: Trotta; Barcelona: Edicions de la Universitat de Barcelona.
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Egypt:

- Assmann, Jan (2005) *Death and Salvation in Ancient Egypt*. Ithaca and London: Cornell University Press.
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- David, Rosalie (2004) *Religión y magia en el Antiguo Egipto*. Barcelona: Crítica.
- Grimal, Nicolas (2004) *Historia del Antiguo Egipto*. Madrid: Akal.
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- Kemp, Barry J. (2006) *100 jeroglíficos. Introducción al mundo del Antiguo Egipto*. Barcelona: Crítica.
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Quirke, Stephen (1992) *Ancient Egyptian Religion*. London: British Museum Press.

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Woods, Christopher, ed. (2010) *Visible Language. Inventions of writing in the Ancient Middle East and beyond*. Chicago: Oriental Institute Museum Publications 32.