University of Gdańsk

Subject card

Subject name and code	Introduction to Archaeology - lecture, PG_00200151		
Field of study	Archaeology		
Date of commencement of studies	October 2026	Academic year of realisation of subject	2026/2027
Education level	Bachelor's studies	Subject group	Obligatory subject group in the field of study Subject group related to scientific research in the field of study
Mode of study	full-time studies	Mode of delivery	at the university
Year of study	1	Language of instruction	Polish
Semester of study	1	ECTS credits	2.0
Learning profile	academic	Assessment form	exam
Conducting unit	Institute of Archaeology -> Faculty of History -> Rector		
Name and surname of lecturer (lecturers)	Subject supervisor	dr hab. Seweryn Rzepecki	
	Teachers	dr hab. Seweryn Rzepecki	

Lesson types							
	Lesson type	Lecture	Tutorial	Laboratory	Project	Seminar	SUM
	Number of study hours	30.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	30
	E-learning hours included: 0.0						

Learning activity and number of study hours					
	Learning activity	Participation in didactic classes included in study plan	Participation in consultation hours	Self-study	SUM
	Number of study hours	30	2.0	18.0	50

Subject objectives	Introduction to the basic issues of the discipline. Placing archaeology in the context of historical and anthropological sciences. Shaping the understanding of archaeological sources and source-creating processes. Presenting the history of archaeological interpretations as the history of perceiving the diversity of archaeological sources linked in turn to the concepts of archaeological narrative. Introduction to the protection of archaeological heritage and the perception of the social context of archaeology.

Learning outcomes

Course outcome	Subject outcome	Method of verification
[ARCHL3_W01] Knows and understands selected facts, objects and phenomena in archaeology, as well as theoretical approaches used to explain the relationships between them, and has structured general knowledge in the humanities	Student knows and understands the place of archaeology among other fields of science, defines the most important stages in the development of the discipline and describes the differences between the leading theoretical trends. Can present the basic dating methods used in archaeology, describe the processes of forming archaeological sites. Distinguishes basic relics at archaeological sites, including the categories of mobile and immobile sources. Explains the importance of archaeological research for the protection of cultural heritage and building knowledge about the past.	[SW4] test/exam - oral or written
[ARCHL3_K01] Is ready to critically evaluate his/her knowledge and received content	Is ready to critically evaluate the knowledge he/she possesses and the content he/she receives in the field of basic archaeology.	[SK4] test/exam - oral or written
[ARCHL3_W07] Knows and understands contemporary social, cultural and civilizational dilemmas related to the protection and interpretation of archaeological heritage	student knows and understands the role of archaeological research in the cultural development of humanity and explains the differences in the status of archaeology in various cultural circles of the modern world, taking into account the political or religious context.	[SW4] test/exam - oral or written [SW1] oral statement/ conversation/discussion
[ARCHL3_U08] Can independently plan and implement his/her own lifelong learning	Student solves basic issues in the field of archaeological studies in a skillful manner by selecting and verifying data. Is able to assess the correctness of the source bases and methodological interpretations in archaeology.	[SU4] test/exam - oral or written
[ARCHL3_W04] Knows the main directions of archaeological research, such as processual archaeology, cognitive archaeology, contextual archaeology, gender studies	Knows different paradigms and understands their importance in the process of building interpretations and archaeological narratives.	[SW4] test/exam - oral or written

Subject contents

What is archaeology? Between the humanities and the natural sciences. Basic concepts of archaeology and auxiliary sciences of archaeology. Narratives in archaeology: classical evolutionism, historical-cultural archaeology, diffusionism and migrationism, functionalism and processual archaeology, structuralism, cognitive archaeology. post-processual archaeology. The limits and future of archaeology. Archaeological sources and source-creating processes, Archaeological excavations as a way of learning about the past. Dating in archaeology. Analyzing the past. From arte- to ecofacts, Classifications in archaeology. The social context of archaeology. Who does the past belong to? Archaeology of identity. protection of archaeological heritage. Ethics in archaeology.

Prerequisites and co-requisites

Basic knowledge of universal prehistory, ability to read independently.

Assessment methods and criteria

Subject passing criteria	Passing threshold	Percentage of the final grade
exam/test	51.0%	100.0%

Recommended reading

Basic literature	Ashmore, W., R.J. Sharer, R.J., 2008. Odkrywanie przeszłosci. Wprowadzenie do archeologii. Krakow: Avalon. Renfrew, C., Bahn, P., 2002. Archeologia. Teorie, metody, praktyka. Proszynski i s-ka. Johnson, M., 2013. Teoria archeologii. Wprowadzenie. Krakow: Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Jagiellonskiego
Supplementary literature	Barnard, A., Antropologia. Zarys teorii i historii. Warszawa: Panstwowy Instytut Wydawniczy, 2006
eResources addresses	

Example issues/ example questions/ tasks being completed	1. What is science?2. What is the source of knowledge in archaeology?3. What is a paradigm? What are the basic paradigms used in archaeology?4. Basic principles of archaeological heritage protection.5. The social context of archaeology.
Work placement	Not applicable

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