University of Gdańsk

Subject card

Subject name and code	Introduction to General Prehistory - classes, PG_00200152		
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	credit
Conducting unit	Institute of Archaeology -> Faculty of History -> Rector		
Name and surname of lecturer (lecturers)	Subject supervisor	dr Łukasz Pospieszny	
	Teachers	dr Łukasz Pospieszny dr Andrzej Kasprzak	

Lesson types	Lesson type	Lecture	Tutorial	Laboratory	Project	Seminar	SUM
	Number of study hours	0.0	30.0	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	This course will provide students with an introductory overview of prehistoric archaeology in both a European and Polish context. Particular emphasis will be placed on the dynamics of material culture change.

Learning outcomes

Course outcome	Subject outcome	Method of verification
[ARCHL3_K02] Is ready to recognize the importance of knowledge in solving cognitive and practical problems and to consult experts in case of difficulties in solving the problem on his own in aspect of office analyses and field work	The student is ready to acknowledge the significance of knowledge in solving cognitive and practical problems related to the cultural development of communities inhabiting Polish lands and Europe in prehistory. They are able to seek expert opinions in case of difficulties with independent problem-solving in both laboratory and fieldwork. They can appropriately formulate questions related to general issues in prehistoric archaeology.	[SK1] oral statement/conversation/ discussion
[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	The student is familiar with and comprehends the general framework for dividing prehistory and the fundamental characteristics of its individual units (epochs, cultures - range, dating, indicators).	[SW4] test/exam - oral or written
[ARCHL3_W05] Has knowledge of the main issues in the prehistory of Europe from a comparative perspective	The student possesses knowledge of comparative prehistory in Europe and Poland. They demonstrate an understanding of the distinctions between different eras.	[SW4] test/exam - oral or written
[ARCHL3_K01] Is ready to critically evaluate his/her knowledge and received content	The student is prepared to critically evaluate their existing knowledge of the prehistory of Poland and Europe. They are able to verify newly acquired knowledge in this field.	[SK2] presentation/project/paper/ report
[ARCHL3_U08] Can independently plan and implement his/her own lifelong learning	The student is able to independently plan and conduct their own learning of prehistory in the context of choosing their future interests/research specializations in the field of archaeology.	[SU8] observation of student's independent or team work

Subject contents

Introduction to concepts such as: prehistory, protohistory, archaeology, and archaeological sources.

Discussion of the prehistory of the World, Europe, and Poland in chronological order with a particular emphasis on:

1. Anthropogenesis and the beginnings of human culture

2. Economic and social changes that constitute significant milestones in the development of human communities (neolithization, the dissemination of bronze, iron, and the evolution of agricultural techniques)

3. The role of environmental factors in the context of the dynamics of changes within human communities during various prehistoric periods.

4. Familiarizing students with the basic categories of key artifacts characteristic of different prehistoric periods.

5. Recognizing individual archaeological cultures based on the features of burial rites, settlement forms and characteristic artefacts.

Prerequisites and co-requisites

Knowledge of geography and history (earliest human history and ancient history), the ability to critically compare different categories of data and identify relationships.

Assessment methods and criteria

Subject passing criteria	Passing threshold	Percentage of the final grade
Evaluation of in-class work	51.0%	50.0%
A colloquium covering the entire course material	51.0%	50.0%

Recommended reading	Basic literature	Kaczanowski P., Kozłowski J. K. Najdawniejsze dzieje ziem polskich, Wielka historia Polski, t. 1,1998, Kraków. Kozłowski J.K. (red.) Prehistoria, Encyklopedia historyczna świata, t. 1, 1999, Kraków. Kozłowski J.K. (red.) Wielka Historia Świata. Świat przed "rewolucją" neolityczną, 2004, Kraków. Bogucki P., Crabtree P. J. (red.) Ancient Europe 8000 B.C.–A.D. 1000: Encyclopedia of the Barbarian World, 2004, New York. Urbańczyk P. (red.) The Past Societies 1-5. Polish lands from the first evidence of human presence to the Early Middle Ages, 2017, Warszawa.
	Supplementary literature	Ciesielska A., Społeczeństwa Europy pradziejowej. Podręcznik dla studentów archeologii i historii, 2011, Poznań. Ostoja- Zagórski J., Najstarsze dzieje ziem polskich, 2005, Bydgoszcz. Rozmus D. Powrót do Laetoli. Z rozważań nad początkami człowieka i prawa, 2020, Kraków.
	eResources addresses	
Example issues/ example questions/ tasks being completed	1. Anthropogenesis, 2. Paleolithic, Epipaleolithic, and Mesolithic, 3. Neolithic and Neolithization, 4. Eneolithic and Megalithic Cultures, 5. Subneolithic, 6. Early Bronze Age, 7. Late Bronze Age and Early Iron Age	
Work placement	Not applicable	

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