University of Gdańsk

Subject card

Subject name and code	Introduction to General Prehistory - lecture, PG_00200153		
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 Andrzej Kasprzak	
	Teachers	dr Andrzej Kasprzak	

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

This course will provide students with an introductory understanding of prehistoric archaeology, encompassing both a European-wide perspective and a specific focus on the territories of Poland.

Learning outcomes

Course outcome	Subject outcome	Method of verification
[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.	[SU4] 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.	[SK4] test/exam - oral or written
[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

Subject contents	Lecture Topics Outline of Prehistory of the World, Europe, and Poland: Anthropogenesis and the Beginnings of Human Culture, Economic and Social Changes, the Influence of Environmental Factors on the Dynamics of Change, Familiarizing Students with the Basic Categories of Key Artefacts for Different Periods of Prehistory 1. Introduction 2. Chronology and Periodization 3. Anthropogenesis 4. Lower, Middle, and Upper Paleolithic 5. Late Paleolithic and Mesolithic 6. Neolithic in the Near East, Neolithization of Europe 7. Neolithic (continued) and the Chalcolithic 8. Early Bronze Age 9. Late Bronze Age and the Hallstatt Period 10. La Tène Period 11. Written Sources for the Pre-Roman and Roman Periods 12. Cultures of the Younger Pre-Roman Period 13. Roman Period in Pomerania 14. Roman Period in Central and Southern Poland 15. Migration Period and the Beginning of the Early Middle Ages
Prerequisites and co-requisites	Knowledge of geography and history (the earliest human history and ancient history).

Assessment methods and criteria

Subject passing criteria	Passing threshold	Percentage of the final grade
exam (grading criteria according to the University of Gdańsk Study Regulations)	51.0%	100.0%

Recommended reading

Basic literature	nie dotyczy
Supplementary literature	nie dotyczy
eResources addresses	

Example issues/ example questions/ tasks being completed	Geological epochs (Neogene: Miocene, Pliocene; Quaternary: Pleistocene, Holocene) and their dating Archaeological epochs (Stone Age: Paleolithic, Mesolithic, Neolithic; Bronze Age, Iron Age) and their dating The beginnings of the Danubian Neolithic / Linear Pottery Culture (distribution, dating, key sites in Poland, types of settlements, basic artifacts, forms and decoration of pottery, main economic features) Archaeological cultures in Pomerania in the pre-Roman period and the period of Roman influence - characteristics (range, burial rites, chronology, material culture) Antique sources concerning the territory of the present Polish lands (Tacitus, Ptolemy, Jordanes)
Work placement	Not applicable

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