University of Gdańsk

Subject card

Subject name and code	Material Finds Analysis of Ancient Greece and Rome, PG_00200183		
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	2	ECTS credits	1.0
Learning profile	academic	Assessment form	credit
Conducting unit	Division of Mediterranean Archaeology -> Institute of Archaeology -> Faculty of History -> Rector		
Name and surname of lecturer (lecturers)	Subject supervisor	dr Dawid Borowka	
	Teachers	dr Dawid Borowka	

Lesson types

Lesson type	Lecture	Tutorial	Laboratory	Project	Seminar	SUM
Number of study hours	15.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	15

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	15	2.0	8.0	25

Subject objectives

The course introduces students to the main categories of sources used in the archaeology of ancient Greece and Rome and the principles of assessing their evidential value. It explains the significance of provenance, context, dating and preservation, and approaches to comparing archaeological evidence, texts and visual representations. It develops the ability to distinguish source evidence from interpretation and to formulate conclusions that acknowledge the limitations of the available material.

Learning outcomes

Course outcome	Subject outcome	Method of verification
[ARCHL3_W03] Has advanced, structured detailed knowledge in selected areas of Polish and general archaeology	Knows the characteristics of selected material, written and iconographic sources concerning the Greek and Roman worlds. Understands the possibilities and limitations of their use in studying settlement, everyday life, the economy, religion and funerary practices.	[SW1] oral statement/ conversation/discussion
[ARCHL3_W02] Has advanced, chronologically and thematically organized general knowledge of archaeology	Knows the main categories of sources used in the archaeology of ancient Greece and Rome, their chronological and geographical variation, and the significance of their production, preservation and discovery for their evidential value.	[SW1] oral statement/ conversation/discussion
[ARCHL3_U01] Is able to apply acquired knowledge to formulate and, through the appropriate selection of information sources and their critical analysis and synthesis, solve typical and selected more complex problems in the field of archaeology, as well as prepare content related to archaeological heritage	Can select and critically compare sources relevant to a given research question, taking account of their provenance, context and dating. Distinguishes source evidence from interpretation and justifies conclusions, identifying evidential limitations and the need for additional sources.	[SU1] oral statement/conversation/ discussion

Subject contents

The lectures examine categories of sources used in the archaeology of ancient Greece and Rome and the principles of their critical assessment. Selected examples explain the relationship between a research question, the available evidence and the scope of possible conclusions.

The proposed lectures comprises:

1. Sources and research questions in case of homeric Greece. Source categories and their interrelationships.

2. Archaeological context and preservation.

3. Artefacts as sources.

4. Architecture, settlement and space.

5. Literary sources.

6. Inscriptions and other types of written sources.

7. Coins and visual representations.

8. Comparing sources and course review. Discussion of a selected problem using several source categories. Assessment of agreement and discrepancies, the certainty of conclusions and the evidence required for further verification.

Prerequisites and co-requisites

Basic knowledge of ancient history and geography at secondary-school level. Ability to use maps and read academic texts. Greek and Latin written sources are discussed using translations.

Assessment methods and criteria

Subject passing criteria	Passing threshold	Percentage of the final grade
Oral assessement	51.0%	100.0%

Recommended reading	Basic literature	1. C. Mee, Greek Archaeology: A thematic approach, Wiley-Blackwell, Chichester, West Sussex, U.K., 2011. 2. Wipszycka, E. (red.) 2001. Vademecum historyka starożytnej Grecji i Rzymu. Źródłoznawstwo starożytności klasycznej. T. 1–2. Wyd. 2 zmienione. Warszawa: PWN. 3. J. DeRose Evans (ed.), A companion to the archaeology of the Roman Republic, Wiley Blackwell, Chichester, West Sussex, UK, 2013 4. D. S. Potter (red.), A companion to the Roman Empire, Wiley-Blackwell, Chichester, West Sussex, 2010.
	Supplementary literature	1. M. Beard, SPQR. Historia starożytnego Rzymu, N. Radomsk, Dom Wydawniczy Rebis, Poznań, 2022. 2. J.A. Ostrowski, Starożytny Rzym. Polityka i Sztuka, Warszawa-Kraków, Wydawnictwo Naukowe PWN 1999. 3. Alcock, S. E., Osborne, R. (red.) 2012. Classical Archaeology. Wyd. 2. Wiley-Blackwell. 4. Bodel, J. (red.) 2001. Epigraphic Evidence: Ancient History from Inscriptions. Routledge.
	eResources addresses	Supplementary https://www.uni-heidelberg.de/fakultaeten/philosophie/zaw/cms/ - https://www.britishmuseum.org/collection - https://numismatics.org/ocre/ - https://edh.ub.uni-heidelberg.de/ - https://www.perseus.tufts.edu/hopper/ -
Example issues/ example questions/ tasks being completed	The oral assessment comprises an answer to a problem-based question and an analysis of a source or a short set of sources. The material may include an artefact photograph, a plan, an archaeological context description or a text in translation. Assessment considers identification of the source type, attention to provenance and context, quality of argumentation, distinction between evidence and interpretation, recognition of limitations and appropriate terminology.	
Work placement	Not applicable	

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