University of Gdańsk

Subject card

Subject name and code	Middle Ages History, PG_00200209		
Field of study	Archaeology		
Date of commencement of studies	October 2026	Academic year of realisation of subject	2028/2029
Education level	Bachelor's studies	Subject group	Obligatory subject group in the field of study
Mode of study	full-time studies	Mode of delivery	at the university
Year of study	3	Language of instruction	Polish
Semester of study	5	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	prof. dr hab. Rafał Kubicki	
	Teachers		

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

Educational Objectives: To familiarize students with the history of early medieval feudal centers of Mediterranean civilization (Arab-Muslim, Byzantine-Greek, Latin) and the Barbaricum zone (Norse, Slavic, Baltic, Ugro-Finnic, Turkic), the formation of Christian European civilization, and the genesis and political, territorial, socio-economic, and cultural development of the early Piast state (up to the mid-12th century).

Learning outcomes

Course outcome	Subject outcome	Method of verification
[ARCHL3_U08] Can independently plan and implement his/her own lifelong learning	Able to independently plan and pursue lifelong learning.	[SU1] oral statement/conversation/ discussion
[ARCHL3_U04] Can take part in a debate – present and evaluate various opinions and positions and discuss them using correctly professional terminology in the field of archeology	Able to participate in debates – present and evaluate various opinions and positions, and discuss them.	[SU1] 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	Knows and understands selected facts from early medieval history at an advanced level.	[SW1] oral statement/ conversation/discussion

Subject contents	Formation of New States and Cultural Centers after the Fall of Greco-Roman (Classical) Civilization Arab (Muslim) Caliphate: • The establishment and expansion of the Islamic Caliphate, its cultural and political influence in the Mediterranean and beyond. Byzantium: • The continuity of the Eastern Roman Empire, its political and cultural influence in the eastern Mediterranean. Germanic States in Western Europe and the Carolingian Empire: • The rise of Germanic kingdoms such as the Franks, and the establishment and significance of Charlemagnes empire. Ethnic and Cultural Situation Beyond the Former Roman Empire: Central, Southern, and Eastern Europe and Scandinavia up to the Early 11th Century: • Slavs and Germans: Settlement patterns and interactions. Economic and Social Relations in Early Medieval Central Europe: Feudalism in the Middle Ages: • Systems of land cultivation (fallow, two-field, and three-field systems). • Agricultural tools (ard and its variants, wooden plow, plow, harness, sickles, reaping hooks). • Agricultural production levels, livestock, hoe agriculture. • Forms of social bonds: kinship (tribe, clan, extended family, nuclear family) and neighborhood (territorial communities field, opole or settlement, tribe). Written Sources for the History of Central Europe in the Early Middle Ages: Latin Sources from the 6th to the 10th Centuries: • Jordanes, Fredegar, Paul the Deacon, Bavarian Geographer. Greek Sources from the 6th to the 10th Centuries: • Constantine Porphyrogenitus. German, Czech, and Danish Latin Sources: • Widukind, Thietmar, Adam of Bremen, Helmold, Cosmas, Saxo Grammaticus. Arab and Hebrew Sources: • Ibn Rustah, Ibn Fadlan, Ibrahim ibn Yaqub, al-Idrisi. Slavic Sources: • Lives of Cyril and Methodius, Primary Chronicle. Anglo-Saxon and Scandinavian Sources in Nordic Languages: • Chorography of King Alfred the Great, sagas, skaldic poetry, runic inscriptions. Sources for the History of Early Piast Poland: • Gallus Anonymus, Vincent Kadlubek, hagiographic sources. Foundations of the Critique of Authenticity and Reliability of Written Sources: Critical analysis of historical sources to determine their authenticity and credibility. Southern Slavs up to the Early 11th Century:

Term Southern Slavs (Danubian and Balkan Slavs) and their Geographical Range:

- Ethnic structure in the Balkans before the mid-5th century.
- Avars and their state (mid-6th to early 9th centuries).
- Stages of Slavic expansion in the Danube region and the Balkans.
- Bulgarian state, Carantanian state (Carantania), Croatian state, Serbian state.

Eastern Slavs and Norsemen:

Eastern Slavic Tribes and Their Settlements:

- Norsemen (Varangians) in Rus settlement, Volga and Dnieper trade routes, archaeological traces.
- Formation of the Old Russian state Norman theory.
- Strengthening and expansion of the Rus state Igor, Olga, Svyatoslav, Vladimir the Great, and the Christianization of Rus.

Western Slavs:

Term Western Slavs (Polabians, Polish-Pomeranian Tribes, Czechs, Slovaks, Great Moravians):

- Samo's State, Great Moravian State, mission of Cyril and Methodius Christianization of Great Moravia and the Slavic rite.
- Tribal structure of Polabia: Sorbs and Lusatians, Veleti and Obodrites.
- German expansion in Polabia.

Baltic Peoples:

Original Habitats of the Balts (Upper and Central Dnieper Basin):

- Division into Western and Eastern Balts.
- Western Balts (Prussians) settlements, territorial structure.
- Eastern Balts (Lithuanians, Samogitians, Latvians, Curonians, Selonians, Semigallians) settlements and territorial structure.
- Truso, Wiskiauty, Grobin Norman trading emporia in the Baltic region.
- Polish and Rus contacts with the Balts.
- German expansion into Baltic lands.

Ugro-Finnic Peoples:

Origin and Classification of Ugro-Finnic Peoples:

- Geographical environment of northeastern Europe.
- Ugro-Finnic peoples in the oldest written sources.
- Permic group, Volga group, Finnic group.
- Subjugation of the Volga and Permic groups by Kievan Rus.
- The Finnic group between Rus, Livonia, Sweden, and Denmark.
- Territorial structures settlement, kilegunda, maakanda.
- Economic and social systems.
- Role of Ugro-Finns in long-distance trade.

Turkic Peoples in Southeastern Europe (Caspian-Black Sea Steppe):

General Characteristics of Turkic Peoples:

- Huns, Eastern Avars, Khazars, Pechenegs, Cumans.
- State of the Volga Bulgars.

The First Piast State:

Tribes in Polish Lands in the Mid-9th Century (Bavarian Geographer):

- Migrations from Polish lands (Veleti, Obodrites, Chorbats-Croats).
- Gallus Anonymus and Vincent Kadlubek on the oldest history of Poland.
- The problem of the Licikaviki.
- Widukind and Thietmar on the state of Mieszko I.
- Baptism of Poland causes and effects.
- Document Dagome iudex and its significance.
- Unification of Poland by Boleslaw Chrobry.
- Christianization missions (Pechenegs, Prussians).
- Relations with Germany and Rus.
- Coronation of Boleslaw Chrobry and its significance.
- Reign of Mieszko II disintegration and reunification of Poland.

The Second Piast State:

Crisis of the 1030s, Its Interpretation (Decentralizing Social Movement and/or Pagan Reaction) and Consequences (Continuation or Discontinuity):

- Rebuilding the state by Casimir the Restorer.
- Reign of Boleslaw the Bold Poland in the papal camp, conflict with Bishop Stanislaus and its consequences.
- Reign of Wladyslaw Herman Poland in the imperial camp, internal conflicts.
- Unification of the country by Boleslaw the Wrymouth.
- Relations with Germany, conquest of Pomerania.
- Testament of Boleslaw the Wrymouth.

Organization of the Early Piast State (up to the Mid-12th Century):

Patrimonial Nature of the Monarchy:

- Financial, military, and territorial organization (grod system).
- Service settlements and their functions.
- Social groups knighthood and its internal division, peasantry, serfs.
- Processes of feudalization large estates and dependent population.
- Suburbia and their productive character craftsmanship or trades.
- Economic development of Poland in the 10th-12th centuries.
- Church organization development of bishoprics (968, 1000, 1075, 1124) and monasteries (Benedictines, Cistercians, Premonstratensians), beginnings of parish organization.
- Cultural role of the Church in Poland (literature, Romanesque architecture and art).

Prerequisites and co-requisites

Knowledge of medieval history at the high school (matura) level.

Assessment methods and criteria

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

Recommended reading

Basic literature	T. Manteuffel, Historia powszechna. Średniowiecze, Warszawa 1990. B. Zientara, Historia powszechna średniowiecza, Warszawa 1994. R. Michałowski, Historia powszechna. Średniowiecze, Warszawa 2009. J. Strzelczyk, Historia powszechna. Średniowiecze, Poznań 2001. R. Collins, Europa wczesnośredniowieczna 300-1000, Warszawa 1996.
Supplementary literature	Lech Leciejewicz, Nowa postać świata. Narodziny cywilizacji średniowiecznej, Wrocław 2000. Jerzy Strzelczyk, Źródła wczesnośredniowieczne (do końca XII wieku)- stan i potrzeby edytorskie, w: Pytania o średniowiecze. Potrzeby i perspektywy badawcze polskiej mediewistyki, red. W. Fałkowski, Warszawa 2001. Kultura Polski średniowiecznej X-XIII w., pod red. Jerzego Dowiata, Warszawa 1985. Sławomir Gawlas, O kształt zjednoczonego Królestwa. Niemieckie władztwa terytorialne a geneza społecznoustrojowej odrębności Polski, Warszawa 1996. Henryk Łowmiański, Początki Polski, t. 3-6,1-2, Warszawa 1967-1985. Henryk Łowmiański, Religia Słowian i jej upadek (w. VI-XII), Warszawa 1979.
eResources addresses	

Example issues/ example questions/ tasks being completed	Economic fundamentals and organization of the second Piast state (from the 1040s). Byzantium and the Arabs in the 7th to 10th centuries. Political rivalry and mutual cultural influences. The establishment of the Carolingian Empire and its administrative and governmental organization.
Work placement	Not applicable

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