University of Gdańsk

Subject card

Subject name and code	Theory of Archaeology, PG_00200224		
Field of study	Archaeology		
Date of commencement of studies	October 2026	Academic year of realisation of subject	2026/2027
Education level	Master'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	3.0
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	43.0	75

Subject objectives	the student's acquaintance with the specificity and tasks of archaeology in the contemporary discourse on the past

Learning outcomes

Course outcome	Subject outcome	Method of verification
[ARCHMU2_K01] Is ready to critically evaluate his/her knowledge and received content	The student is ready to critically evaluate the knowledge he possesses and acquires.	[SK4] test/exam - oral or written
[ARCHMU2_U01] Is able to use the knowledge he possesses, formulate and solve complex and unusual theoretical and practical problems through: - proper selection of sources and information derived from them, evaluation, critical analysis, synthesis and presentation of this information, - selection and application of appropriate methods and tools, including advanced information and communication techniques, - adaptation of existing methods and tools or development of new ones	The student is able to use the acquired knowledge through the appropriate selection of sources and information derived from them, their critical analysis and synthesis, the application of existing or the development of new methods and tools.	[SU4] test/exam - oral or written
[ARCHMU2_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	The student is ready to recognize the importance of knowledge in solving problems and to seek expert opinions in the event of difficulties in solving a problem on his or her own.	[SK4] test/exam - oral or written
[ARCHMU2_W03] Knows to an in-depth degree the terminology, theories, methodology and tools of description in the field of archaeology and related sciences	The student knows the specialized terminology, methodology and description tools in the field of archaeology and auxiliary sciences.	[SW4] test/exam - oral or written
[ARCHMU2_W02] Has an in-depth knowledge of the connections between archaeology and other sciences, allowing to integrate the achievements of various disciplines in the study of a selected era	The student has in-depth knowledge of the connections between archaeology and other disciplines, allowing him or her to integrate and synthesize achievements.	[SW4] test/exam - oral or written
[ARCHMU2_U02] Is able to formulate and test hypotheses related to complex problems specific to archaeology	The student is able to formulate and test hypotheses related to simple research problems.	[SU4] test/exam - oral or written
[ARCHMU2_W08] Knows and understands the economic, legal, ethical and other conditions of various types of professional activity related to archaeology, including the principles of intellectual property protection	The student knows and understands the ethical conditions of various types of professional activity of an archaeologist.	[SW4] test/exam - oral or written
[ARCHMU2_K06] Is ready to fulfil professional roles responsibly, taking into account changing social needs, including contributing to the advancement of the discipline, upholding the professional ethos, and observing and promoting the principles of professional ethics	The student is ready to perform professional roles responsibly, taking into account changing social needs, including: developing the achievements of the profession and observing and developing the principles of professional ethics.	[SK4] test/exam - oral or written

Subject contents

Basic issues: science, types of science, inference and explanation. Archaeology as a historical science. Theory of the archaeological source. Archaeological culture. Paradigms in archaeology.

Prerequisites and co-requisites

Basic knowledge of archaeology

Assessment methods and criteria

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

Recommended reading	Basic literature	Johnson M., Teoria archeologii. Wprowadzenie, Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Jagiellońskiego, 2013 Tabaczyński S. (red.), Kultury archeologiczne a rzeczywistość dziejowa, Warszawa, 2000 Tabaczyński S., Marciniak A., Cyngot D., Zalewska A. (red.), Przeszłość społeczna. Próba konceptualizacji. Wydawnictwo Poznańskie, 2012 Zalewska A., Teoria źródła archeologicznego i historycznego we współczesnej refleksji metodologicznej, Lublin, 2005
	Supplementary literature	Hodder I. (ed), Archaeological Theory Today, Polity, 2010
	eResources addresses	
Example issues/ example questions/ tasks being completed	1. Demarcation of science from other spheres of human activity2. Characteristics of historical sciences3. Archaeological culture - scope and understanding of the concept4. Reductive reasoning5. Explanation in historical sciences	
Work placement	Not applicable	

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