

SUBJECT TEACHING GUIDE

G215 - Ancient History I

Degree in History

Academic year 2023-2024

1. IDENTIFYING DATA					
Degree	Degree in History			Type and Year	Compulsory. Year 2
Faculty	Faculty of Humanities				
Discipline	Universal and European History Subject Area: Ancient History				
Course unit title and code	G215 - Ancient History I				
Number of ECTS credits allocated	6	Term	Semester based (1)		
Web					
Language of instruction	Spanish	English Friendly	No	Mode of delivery	Face-to-face

Department	DPTO. CIENCIAS HISTORICAS				
Name of lecturer	JUAN JOSE CEPEDA OCAMPO				
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Other lecturers	GIANMARCO GRANTALIANO				

3.1 LEARNING OUTCOMES
- Critical study of texts and archaeological documentation from the Ancient Near East and Pharaonic Egypt . Reading and understanding the sources: ancient states and their names, main institutions, official titles, counting systems of reigns.
- Synthesize information and compose summaries
- Ability to organise complex historical information in a coherent way, and to manage or use the teaching material provided throughout the course in order to solve problems and practical exercises related to the contents of the subject.
- Knowledge of the main historical events and processes in the Ancient Near East and Egypt.

4. OBJECTIVES

Know how to evaluate the usefulness and the degree of importance of the main documentary sources for the study of the Ancient Near East

To know the periodization of the Ancient Near East History. To obtain a synchronic overview of its historical and political dynamics, as well as its most relevant phenomena, processes and events.

Detailed knowledge of the most peculiar and determining geographic, ethnic, linguistic and cultural features of Ancient Near East and Egyptian civilizations.

To obtain an updated vision of the development of civilisations in the ancient Near East: political and social organisation, culture, religion, daily life. Recognise its main contributions and specific problems.

Exercise in commenting on historical documents.

6. COURSE ORGANIZATION	
CONTENTS	
1	INTRODUCTION TO THE HISTORY OF THE ANCIENT NEAR EAST. 1.1. Basic periodisation. The Bronze Age and cultural-historical periodisation. 1.2. The geographical setting. Mesopotamia and Syria; Anatolia; the Nile Valley. 1.3 Peoples, cultures and languages. Semitic-speaking peoples and their neighbours. The ethnic map of the Ancient World: the Semitic and Indo-European peoples
2	CITIES, TERRITORIES AND WRITING. 2.1. The urban revolution in Mesopotamia. Uruk. The invention of writing. 2.2. Written sources and archaeology. Writing systems. Monumental architecture and material culture. 2.3. Egypt. The process of formation of the first great centralised territorial state.
3	THE NEAR EAST IN THE THIRD MILLENNIUM: MESOPOTAMIA. 3.1. Sumer. Mesopotamia in the Archaic Dynastic period. The temple-city. The first states. Rivalries and hegemonies. 3.2. The process of urbanisation in upper Mesopotamia and Syria. Ebla and Mari. 3.3. Akkad. The formation of the kingdom. Sargon and Naram-Sin. Administration and trade. The outer peoples. 3.4. The third dynasty of Ur: the Neo-Sumerian age. Administration and economy.
4	EGYPT IN THE THIRD MILLENNIUM. 4.1. Archaic Egypt. Dynamics of centralisation and disintegration of the state. The Tinite dynasties, 4.2. The ancient kingdom and the first intermediate period. 4.3. The foundations of Pharaonic power. Structures of power and administration. Society and economy.
5	THE MIDDLE BRONZE AGE: LOW AND HIGH MESOPOTAMIA. Crisis and change in the second millennium. The fall of the kingdom of Ur. The Amorites. The Indo-European question. 5.2. The intermediate period of Isin and Larsa: political fragmentation. 5.3. The Paleo-Assyrian state and trade. Origin of the Assyrian kingdom and its institutions. Shamsi-Adad. The Karum of Kanesh. 5.4. Anatolia and the Aegean: the ancient Hittite kingdom. Unification and expansion.
6	MESOPOTAMIA AND SYRIA. THE PALAEOBABYLONIAN PERIOD. 6.1. Rise and fall of the kingdom of Mari. War and trade in Mesopotamia. The palace of Zimri-Lim. 6.2. Syria and Palestine. The kingdoms of Yamhad and Qatna. 6.3. Hammurabi of Babylon. The unification of Mesopotamia. Socio-political organisation. The Code of Hammurabi. Disintegration of the kingdom.
7	THE RECENT BRONZE. PALACE STATES AND THE INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL SYSTEM (1550-1150 BC). 7.1. Technological changes and their consequences. 7.2. The great powers club: a new regional political system. The expansion of territorial states on the periphery of Mesopotamia: Egypt in the New Kingdom, Mitanni and Khatti. Horizontal and vertical relations. The El Amarna archives and their period. Trade and Palatine culture. 7.4. Regional histories. Mitanni and Hittite Anatolia. Shuppiluliuma and the formation of the 'empire'.
8	THE END OF THE BRONZE AGE. 8.1. The small palace states: Syria, Palestine and the Aegean. 8.2. The Sea Peoples. The collapse of the regional system in the 12th century. From Mycenae to the Nile Delta. 8.3. The general consequences: crisis of the palatial system and internal migrations. 8.4. Political fragmentation: ethnic states and city states.
9	THE FIRST MILLENNIUM BC IN SYRIA AND PALESTINE. 9.1. The East around 1000 BC: power vacuums and innovations. Alphabetic writing, iron and riding animals. Cultivation and irrigation techniques. 9.2. The new states: Israel and the Aramaic kingdoms. 9.3. The Phoenicians.

10	THE EASTERN EMPIRES (1150-539 BC). Assyria. The consolidation of a great kingdom in the 10th-10th centuries BC. 10.2. Patterns of Assyrian imperialism. The great expansion and the provincial system (8th-7th centuries BC). 10.3. The fall of Assyria: Babylon and the eastern periphery. 10.1. The Neo-Babylonian Empire.
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7. ASSESSMENT METHODS AND CRITERIA

Description	Type	Final Eval.	Reassessn	%
Continuous Assessment	Work	No	Yes	30,00
Final exam	Written exam	Yes	Yes	60,00
Active participation in classroom practices	Others	No	No	10,00
TOTAL				100,00
Observations				
Evidence of plagiarism will be graded with 'Suspenso:0'. In the event that the student chooses route 18-B of the Regulations of the Evaluation Processes of the University of Cantabria in the extraordinary exam session, he/she must inform the teacher before the beginning of the extraordinary exam period and will take an exam consisting of the development of a topic (50%) + commentary on a literary or epigraphic text, an archaeological plate or a historical map (50%). In the case of students with special needs recognised by SOUCAN, the teacher will assess the application of the recommendations of this body as far as possible, in order to allow the assessment of these students with the same guarantees as the rest.				
Observations for part-time students				
Nothing				

8. BIBLIOGRAPHY AND TEACHING MATERIALS

BASIC
SANMARTÍN ASCASO, J., SERRANO, J. M.: Historia Antigua del próximo Oriente. Mesopotamia y Egipto, Madrid, ed. Akal, 2003.
GRIMAL, N., Historia del Antiguo Egipto: Madrid, ed. Akal, 1996.
PADRÓ, J.: Historia del Egipto faraónico, Madrid, ed. Alianza, 1996.
The Routledge Dictionary of Egyptian Gods and Goddesses (G. Hart), London-New York, 2007.
VAN DE MIEROOP, M.: Historia del Próximo Oriente Antiguo (ca. 3000-323 a.C.), Madrid, ed. Trotta, 2020.
PÉREZ LARGACHA, A: Historia antigua de Egipto y del Próximo Oriente, Madrid, ed. Akal, 2007.