ARCHAEOLOGICAL STUDIES

10 Sachem Street, 203.432.3670
http://archaeology.yale.edu
M.A.

Chair and Director of Graduate Studies
Richard Burger (Anthropology)

Professors Richard Burger (Anthropology), Edward Cooke, Jr. (History of Art; American Studies), John Darnell (Near Eastern Languages & Civilizations), Stephen Davis (Religious Studies; History), Eckart Frahm (Near Eastern Languages & Civilizations), Milette Gaifman (History of Art; Classics), J.G. Manning (Classics; History), Roderick McIntosh (Anthropology), Nadine Moeller (Near Eastern Languages & Civilizations), Eric Sargis (Anthropology; Ecology & Evolutionary Biology), Anne Underhill (Anthropology), David Watts (Anthropology), Harvey Weiss (Near Eastern Languages & Civilizations; School of the Environment)

Associate Professors Oswaldo Chinchilla (Anthropology), William Honeychurch (Anthropology), Andrew Johnston (Classics; History)

Lecturers, Research Associates, and Research Scientists Ellery Frahm (Anthropology), Gregory Marouard (Near Eastern Languages & Civilizations), Lucy Salazar (Anthropology), Catherine Skinner (Earth & Planetary Sciences)

The aim of the program is to give students the academic background needed for careers in museums, cultural resource management, and teaching in community colleges and secondary schools. It also provides the opportunity for teachers, curators, and administrators to refresh themselves on recent developments in archaeology. In addition, the program enables some of our students to strengthen their background in archaeology before applying to Ph.D. programs. The program is administered by Yale’s Council on Archaeological Studies, with faculty from the departments of Anthropology, Classics, Earth & Planetary Sciences, History, History of Art, Near Eastern Languages & Civilizations, and Religious Studies.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS FOR THE M.A. DEGREE

Courses are drawn from the graduate programs of the participating departments and from those undergraduate courses that are also open to graduate students. Eight courses are required. Unless previously taken for credit, these will include the archaeological laboratory overview; at least one additional laboratory course; a course related to archaeology in two of the following three groups: (1) Anthropology; (2) Classics, History, History of Art, Near Eastern Languages & Civilizations, or Religious Studies; (3) Earth & Planetary Sciences, Ecology & Evolutionary Biology, or Environment; and four electives. All students are required to participate in an approved summer field project. In addition, each student will write a master’s thesis. Degree candidates are required to pay a minimum of one year of full tuition. Full-time students can complete the course requirements in one academic year, and all students are expected to complete the program within a maximum period of three academic years.

For further information, visit the Archaeological Studies website, http://archaeology.yale.edu. Inquiries may be directed to Director of Graduate Studies, c/o Registrar, Archaeological Studies, Department of Anthropology, Yale University, PO Box 208277, New Haven CT 06520-8277, or via email, samantha.ware@yale.edu.

COURSES

ARCG 500b / CLSS 808b / NELC 500b, Environmental History of West Asia, Egypt, and the Mediterranean Harvey Weiss
The new linkages of high-resolution paleoclimate and archaeological and epigraphic records revise earlier historiography for the major disjunctions, including societal genesis, collapse, habitat tracking, and technological and ideological innovations, from 4000 to 40 BCE across west Asia, Egypt, and the Aegean. The seminar synthesizes speleothem and lake, marine, and glacial core records for abrupt climate changes and coincident societal adaptations previously unexplained.

ARCG 539a / NELC 539a, Era of the Pyramids: Archaeology and Material Culture of the Old Kingdom, Egypt Gregory Marouard
This seminar examines in detail the Old Kingdom period, covering about eight hundred years of this crucial phase of the Egyptian civilization, from the late phase of the Early Dynastic state formation period (ca. 2850 BCE) to the First Intermediate period (ca. 2050 BCE), encompassing the Third to the Sixth Dynasty. The course is based on an archaeological approach and is not a language or history course. All major archaeological sites of this period are investigated through the scope of material culture, art, and architecture, using as much as possible information from recent excavations and discoveries. The approach includes the study of the large mortuary complexes, from Saqqara to Dahshur, Giza, Abu Rawash, and Abusir, as well as several settlement sites from the central state capital in the Memphite region, the lower and upper provinces to the Egyptian borders. Several aspects of the connections established by Egypt with its neighboring areas such as Nubia and the Levant and desert areas at the periphery of the Nile Valley are included to illustrate the extensive exchange network and the complex economy and administrative system established to support the major construction projects of the period. Material culture, artistic aspects, and typologies (within an overview of reliefs and statuary), craft productions, everyday life activities, and burial practices are addressed. This course constitutes the first in a series of chronological survey courses in Egyptian archaeology.
ARCG 645a / NELC 627a, Archaeology of Ancient Egypt: An Introduction  Gregory Marouard
This seminar examines in detail the archaeology of ancient Egypt following the chronological order of Egyptian history and covering almost 4,000 years, from the late Neolithic period to the end of the Greco-Roman period. The aim is not only to give a comprehensive overview of major sites and discoveries but also to use as much as possible information from recent excavations, discuss problems and priorities concerning this field, and offer an introduction to new fieldwork methods and approaches used in Egypt as well as a short history of this discipline.

ARCG 701a / ANTH 701a, Foundations of Modern Archaeology  Richard Burger
How method, theory, and social policy have influenced the development of archaeology as a set of methods, an academic discipline, and a political tool. Prerequisite: a background in the basics of archaeology equivalent to one of the introductory courses.

ARCG 714b, The Archaeology of Religion  Richard Burger
The course explores archaeological approaches to the study of religion. While the term “religion” is hard to define, it is generally agreed that religious phenomena occur in almost all cultures and that this realm played a significant part in most prehistoric cultures. In order to provide a broad vision of this theme, the course begins by considering influential schools of thought on the definition, origins, and social significance of religious behavior. It then reviews a variety of methods that scholars may use to reconstruct ancient beliefs and rituals. It assesses the applicability and success of these methodologies across the broad spectrum of ancient cultures representing differing degrees of sociopolitical complexity. Finally, we explore case studies from a diverse range of ancient societies and consider the impact of religious behaviors within their broader cultural contexts.

ARCG 716La / ANTH 716La, Introduction to Archaeological Laboratory Sciences  Ellery Frahm
Introduction to techniques of archaeological laboratory analysis, with quantitative data styles and statistics appropriate to each. Topics include dating of artifacts, sourcing of ancient materials, remote sensing, and microscopic and biochemical analysis. Specific techniques covered vary from year to year.

ARCG 726b / ANTH 726b, Ancient Civilizations of the Eurasian Steppes  William Honeychurch
Peoples of the steppe zone, stretching from Eastern Europe to Mongolia, have played a pivotal role in Old World prehistory, though much about their societies and lifeways is still shrouded in mystery. The archaeology of this macro-region has developed rapidly since the 1990s, and this course presents an overview of major topics and debates in the region based on what archaeologists currently know about Eurasian steppe societies of the past.

ARCG 754b / ANTH 754b, Statistics for Archaeological Analysis  William Honeychurch
An introduction to quantitative data collection, analysis, and argumentation for archaeologists. Lectures, readings, and exercises emphasize the exploration, visualization, and analysis of specifically archaeological data using simple statistical approaches. No prior knowledge of statistics is required.

ARCG 758a, Chavin and the Origins of Peruvian Civilization.  Richard Burger
The development of early complex society in Peru during the Early Horizon is examined along with its antecedents during the Preceramic and Initial periods. This seminar focuses on the problems of elucidating the sociopolitical organization of these societies and the factors responsible for their transformation. General theories of the origins of complex society are critically reviewed in light of the Peruvian case. Also ANTH 758.

ARCG 773a / ANTH 773a / NELC 588a, Climate Change, Societal Collapse, and Resilience  Harvey Weiss
Collapse documented in the archaeological and early historical records of the Old and New Worlds, including Mesopotamia, Mesoamerica, the Andes, and Europe. Analysis of politicoeconomic vulnerabilities, resiliencies, and adaptations in the face of abrupt climate change, anthropogenic environmental degradation, resource depletion, “barbarian” incursions, or class conflict.

ARCG 782b / ANTH 782b, Advanced Archaeological Theory  Roderick McIntosh
Review of the intellectual history of archaeology, with readings from the Enlightenment to the present. Emphasis on the tension between science, mysticism, and nationalism in the interpretation of prehistoric processes.

ARCG 785b / ANTH 785b, Archaeological Ceramics I  Anne Underhill
Ceramics are a rich source of information about a range of topics including ancient technology, cooking practices, craft specialization, regional trade, and religious beliefs. This course provides a foundation for investigating such topics and gaining practical experience in archaeological analysis of ceramics. Students have opportunities to focus on ceramics of particular interest to them, whether these are low-fired earthen wares, or porcelains. We discuss ancient pottery production and use made in diverse contexts ranging from households in villages to workshops in cities. In addition we refer to the abundant ethnoarchaeological data about traditional pottery production.

ARCG 787b / ANTH 787b / HSAR 804b, East Asian Objects and Museums: Collection, Curation, and Display  Anne Underhill
This course explores the East Asian art and anthropological collections at Yale’s museums and at other major museums in North America and East Asia. Students study collections and their histories; gain experience in museum practices; and learn from specialists through class visits to other relevant museums in the United States.

ARCG 797a / ANTH 797a, Archaeology of East Asia  Anne Underhill
Introduction to the findings and practice of archaeology in China, Japan, Korea, and southeast Asia. Methods used by archaeologists to interpret social organization, economic organization, and ritual life. Attention to major transformations such as the initial peopling of an area, establishment of farming villages, the development of cities, interregional interactions, and the nature of political authority.
ARCH 864a / ANTH 864a, Human Osteology  Eric Sargis
A lecture and laboratory course focusing on the characteristics of the human skeleton and its use in studies of functional morphology, paleodemography, and paleopathology. Laboratories familiarize students with skeletal parts; lectures focus on the nature of bone tissue, its biomechanical modification, sexing, aging, and interpretation of lesions.