ARCHAEOLOGICAL STUDIES (ARCG)

* ARCG 031a / EVST 030a / NELC 026a, Origins of Civilization: Egypt and Mesopotamia  Harvey Weiss
The origins of the earliest civilizations in Mesopotamia and Egypt along the Nile and Tigris-Euphrates Rivers explored with archaeological, historical and environmental data for the origins of agriculture, the classes and hierarchies that marked earliest cities, states and empires, the innovative monumental architecture, writing, imperial expansion, and new national ideologies. How and why these civilizational processes occurred with the momentous societal collapses at periods of abrupt climate change. Enrollment limited to first-year students. Prerequisites required; see under First-Year Seminar Program. HU, SO

ARCG 110a / HSAR 110a, Introduction to the History of Art: Global Decorative Arts  Edward Cooke
Global history of the decorative arts from antiquity to the present. The materials and techniques of ceramics, textiles, metals, furniture, and glass. Consideration of forms, imagery, decoration, and workmanship. Themes linking geography and time, such as trade and exchange, simulation, identity, and symbolic value. HU  o Course cr

ARCG 171a / ANTH 171a, Great Civilizations of the Ancient World  Anne Underhill
A survey of selected prehistoric and historical cultures through examination of archaeological sites and materials. Emphasis on the methodological and theoretical approaches by which archaeologists recover, analyze, and interpret the material remains of the past. SO

ARCG 222b / AFST 112b / NELC 112b / RLST 141b, Egyptian Religion through the Ages  John Darnell
Diachronic approach to topics in Egyptian religion. Religious architecture, evidence for protodynastic cults, foreigners in Egyptian religious celebrations, music and vocal expression in Egyptian religion, Re and Osiris, the Amarna interlude and the Ramesside solar religion, and the goddess of the eye of the sun. Readings in translation. HU

* ARCG 245a / NELC 243a, Archaeology of Ancient Egypt: An Introduction  Gregory Marouard
This seminar is an introductory class that examines in detail the archaeology of ancient Egypt following the chronological order of Egyptian history and covering almost 4000 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, offer an introduction to new fieldwork methods and approaches used in Egypt as well as a short history of this discipline. HU

* ARCG 246a / NELC 245a, 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 800 years of this crucial phase of the Egyptian civilization, starting with the late phase of the Early Dynastic state formation period (ca. 2850 BCE) to the First Intermediate period (ca. 2050 BCE), encompassing the 3rd to the 6th Dynasties. 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 in this specific field. This approach includes the study of the large mortuary complexes, from Saqqara to Dahschur, Giza Abu Rawash and Abusir, as well 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 deserted areas at the periphery of the Nile Valley are included to illustrate the extensive exchange network and the complex economy and administrative system established in order to support the major construction projects engaged during this 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 step of a series of chronological survey courses in Egyptian Archaeology. HU

* ARCG 255b / ANTH 255b / LAST 255b, Inca Culture and Society  Richard Burger
The history and organization of the Inca empire and its impact on the nations and cultures it conquered. The role of archaeology in understanding the transformation of Andean lifeways; the interplay between ethnohistoric and archaeological approaches to the subject. SO

ARCG 264a / ANTH 264a / SPAN 404a, Aztec Archaeology and Ethnohistory  Oswaldo Chinchilla Mazariegos
An anthropological and ethnohistorical examination of the Aztec civilization that dominated much of Mexico from the fourteenth century until the Spanish Conquest of 1521. SO

ARCG 267a / ANTH 267a, Human Evolution  Jessica Thompson
This course deals with scientific questions of human origins and evolution and what we think we know of our own ancestry over the past 6 million years. We begin with an overview of theories and techniques such as evolutionary theory, paleontology, archaeology, paleoenvironmental reconstruction, phylogenetic analysis, genetics, and functional morphology. We critically examine what key debates have taken place over the last century of exploration and discovery in human evolutionary research, learning how unconventional thinking and spectacular discoveries have shaped current knowledge of our origins. Students meet quirky historical characters, and the fossil relatives themselves to understand their morphology, life history patterns, locomotor repertoire, behavior, and dietary constraints. Students discover what a surprising amount of information scientists can discern from fragmentary fossils, and are brought up to date with the most current discoveries and debates in human evolution. Knowledge of introductory biological anthropology or biology are helpful. SO
* ARCG 301a / ANTH 301a, Foundations of Modern Archaeology  Richard Burger
Discussion of how method, theory, and social policy have influenced the development of archaeology as a set of methods, an academic discipline, and a political tool. Background in the basics of archaeology equivalent to one introductory course is assumed.  SO

ARCG 316La / ANTH 316La, 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 326b / ANTH 326b, Ancient Civilizations of the Eurasian Steppes  William Honeychurch
Examination of peoples of the steppe zone that stretches from Eastern Europe to Mongolia. Overview of what archaeologists know about Eurasian steppe societies, with emphasis on the Neolithic, Bronze and Iron, and medieval ages. Attention both to material culture and to historical sources. Topics range from the domestication of the horse to Genghis Khan’s world empire, including the impact these events had on neighboring civilizations in Europe and Asia.  SO

* ARCG 362b / EPS 362b / EVST 362b, Observing Earth from Space  Xuhui Lee
A practical introduction to satellite image analysis of Earth’s surface. Topics include the spectrum of electromagnetic radiation, satellite-borne radiometers, data transmission and storage, computer image analysis, the merging of satellite imagery with GIS and applications to weather and climate, oceanography, surficial geology, ecology and epidemiology, forestry, agriculture, archaeology, and watershed management. Prerequisites: college-level physics or chemistry, two courses in geology and natural science of the environment or equivalents, and computer literacy.  QR, SC

* ARCG 374a / ANTH 374a / LAST 374a, Origins of Andean Civilization  Richard Burger
The diversity of early Andean complex societies and their transformations during the first two millennia B.C. Special attention to the Chavin civilization of the northern Peruvian highlands, including its art, technology, socioeconomic organization, territorial expansion, and cultural antecedents. Emphasis on recent research and on explanatory models that have been used to explain the emergence of complexity in pre-Hispanic Peru.  SO RP

* ARCG 385b / ANTH 385b, Archaeological Ceramics  Anne Underhill
Archaeological methods for analyzing and interpreting ceramics, arguably the most common type of object found in ancient sites. Focus on what different aspects of ceramic vessels reveal about the people who made them and used them.  SO

** ARCG 387b / ANTH 387b, East Asian Objects and Museums  Anne Underhill
Exploration of East Asian art and anthropological collections at Yale’s museums and at other major museums in North America and East Asia. Through study of the pioneers who created these collections and the formation history of the collections, students consider the meaning and importance of contemporary museum practice. A student-curated exhibition in conjunction with Yale University Art Gallery. Trips to regional museums and attendance at Yale sponsored conference on Korean Art and Photograph Collections.  SO

* ARCG 391b / ANTH 391b, Paleoclimate and Human Response  Roderick McIntosh
The recursive interaction of climate change with human perception and manipulation of the landscape. Mechanisms and measures of climate change; three case studies of historical response to change at different scales. Prerequisite: an introductory course in archaeology.  SO

* ARCG 397a / ANTH 397a, 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.  SO

* ARCG 417a / ANTH 417a, Maya Hieroglyphic Writing  Oswaldo Chinchilla Mazariegos
Introduction to the ancient Maya writing system. Contents of the extant corpus, including nametags, royal and ritual commemorations, dynastic and political subjects, and religious and augural subjects; principles and methods of decipherment; overview of the Maya calendar; comparison with related writing systems in Mesoamerica and elsewhere in the ancient world.  SO

* ARCG 454b / ANTH 454b, Statistics for Archaeological Analysis  William Honeychurch
An introduction to quantitative data collection, analysis, and argumentation for archaeologists. Emphasis on the exploration, visualization, and analysis of specifically archaeological data using simple statistical approaches. No prior knowledge of statistics required.  QR

ARCG 464a / ANTH 464a / E&EB 464a, 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.  SC, SO

* ARCG 473a / ANTH 473a / EVST 473a / NELC 473a, Climate Change, Societal Collapse, and Resilience  Harvey Weiss
The coincidence of societal collapses throughout history with decadal and century-scale abrupt climate change events. Challenges to anthropological and historical paradigms of cultural adaptation and resilience. Examination of archaeological and historical records and high-resolution sets of paleoclimate proxies.  HU, SO
* ARCG 491a, Senior Research Project in Archaeology  Oswaldo Chinchilla Mazariegos
Required of all students majoring in Archaeological Studies. Supervised investigation of some archaeological topic in depth. The course requirement is a long essay to be submitted as the student’s senior essay. The student should present a prospectus and bibliography to the director of undergraduate studies no later than the third week of the term. Written approval from the faculty member who will direct the reading and writing for the course must accompany the prospectus.