ARCHAEOLOGICAL STUDIES

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COUNCIL ON ARCHAEOLOGICAL STUDIES

Anthropology  Richard Burger (Chair), Oswaldo Chinchilla, Thomas Fenn, Andrew Hill, William Honeychurch, Roderick McIntosh, Eric Sargis, Anne Underhill

Classics  Milette Gaifman, Andrew Johnston, Diana Kleiner

Geology & Geophysics  Ronald Smith

History  Valerie Hansen

History of Art  Edward Cooke, Jr., Mary Miller

Near Eastern Languages & Civilizations  John Darnell, Karen Foster, Eckart Frahm, Colleen Manassa, Harvey Weiss

Religious Studies  Stephen Davis

This special interdisciplinary major is supervised by the University’s Council on Archaeological Studies. Inquiries about the major may be addressed to the chair of the council, Richard Burger, Department of Anthropology, 10 Sachem Street, or to the director of undergraduate studies.

The major in Archaeological Studies provides a program of interdepartmental offerings covering prehistoric, early historic, and medieval cultures and cultural developments in the Old and New Worlds, and introduces students to the analytic tools that facilitate archaeological studies. The major is designed to expose students to a variety of archaeological research perspectives: anthropological, historical, art historical, and physical science. Also emphasized are substantive studies including (1) study of such prehistoric–early historic transformations as the origins of agriculture, cities and states, and early empires, and (2) study of the material culture, art, and architecture of prehistoric, early historic, and medieval cultures, including the iconography of ancient cultures, the relationship between art and society, ancient writing systems, and American historical archaeology.

Requirements of the major  The major consists of thirteen courses, including the senior project. The following six courses are required: an introductory survey; a summer course in field techniques or a Yale-affiliated summer research project, approved in advance by the director of undergraduate studies; the introductory laboratory course ARCG 316L; an advanced laboratory course; a theory course; and the senior research project ARCG 491. The remaining seven courses required for the major must be distributed among the six subject areas represented by the departments and programs offering courses multiple-titled with Archaeological Studies, with three of those seven courses falling in different departments and programs. The relevant departments and programs are Anthropology, Classics, Environmental Studies, Geology and Geophysics, History of Art, and Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations. Some courses may be applied to categories other than the ones in which they are listed in this bulletin, upon application to the director of undergraduate studies. For three of the seven archaeology electives students may, with permission of the director of undergraduate studies, substitute three courses from other departments in areas related to their research.

Students majoring in Archaeological Studies are strongly encouraged, but not required, to devote a second summer either to archaeological research in the field or to an additional field course in archaeology. Members of the Council faculty currently direct archaeological field projects in China, Egypt, Guatemala, Peru, Mali, Mongolia, Senegal, Syria, and Rome. Qualified majors are encouraged to apply for research positions with these projects.

Senior requirement  The final requirement for the major is a senior research project (ARCG 491) in some field of archaeology, preferably one involving more than one area or discipline.

Advising  Students majoring in Archaeological Studies should consult with the director of undergraduate studies at the beginning of each term.

REQUIREMENTS OF THE MAJOR

Prerequisites  None

Number of courses  13 term courses (incl senior project)

Specific course required  ARCG 316L

Distribution of courses  1 intro survey; 1 summer field techniques course or research project, as specified; 1 advanced lab; 1 theory course; 7 electives, at least 1 in each of 3 areas, as specified

Substitution permitted  For 3 electives, 3 courses related to research, with DUS permission

Senior requirement  Research project (ARCG 491)
Anthropology

* ARCG 031a / CLCV 059a / EVST 030a / HIST 020a / NELC 026a, Rivers and Civilization  
  Joseph Manning and Harvey Weiss  
The appearance of the earliest cities along the Nile and Euphrates in the fourth millennium B.C. Settlements along the rivers, the origins of agriculture, the production and extraction of agricultural surpluses, and the generation of class structures and political hierarchies. How and why these processes occurred along the banks of these rivers; consequent societal collapses and their relation to abrupt climate changes. Enrollment limited to freshmen. Preregistration required; see under Freshman Seminar Program.  

HU, SO

ARCG 171b / ANTH 171b, Great Civilizations of the Ancient World  
  Thomas Fenn  
A survey of selected prehistorical 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 172a / ANTH 172a, Great Hoaxes and Fantasies in Archaeology  
  William Honeychurch  
Examination of selected archaeological hoaxes, cult theories, and fantasies; demonstration of how archaeology can be manipulated to authenticate nationalistic ideologies, religious causes, and modern stereotypes. Examples of hoaxes and fantasies include the lost continent of Atlantis, Piltdown man, ancient giants roaming the earth, and alien encounters. Evaluation of how, as a social science, archaeology is capable of rejecting such interpretations about the past.  

SO

ARCG 228b / ANTH 223b, The Anthropology of War  
  Louisa Lombard, David Watts, and William Honeychurch  
An integrated anthropological perspective on human conflict and organized violence. Questions include the definition of war, the inevitability of war, lessons to be learned from archaeological evidence, and the effects of war on individuals and groups. Source material includes the study of human evolution and nonhuman primates, the archeological record, and ethnography of the contemporary world.  

SO

* 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, 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 271a / ANTH 271a, Human Ecology  
  Brian Wood  
Introduction to ways in which people use and relate to their physical and social environments in both the past and the present. Adaptations underlying humanity’s unique ecological niche; cultural diversity in subsistence and resource use; population growth and regulation; anthropogenic evolutionary and ecological change.  

SO

ARCG 294b / ANTH 294b, The Ancient Maya  
  Oswaldo Chinchilla Mazariegos  
Introduction to the archaeological study of ancient Maya civilization in southern Mexico and northern Central America. Maya origins and modes of adaptation to a tropical forest environment; political history of the Classic Maya and competing theories about their collapse; overviews of Maya art, calendar, and writing.  

SO

ARCG 316Lb / ANTH 316Lb, Introduction to Archaeological Laboratory Sciences  
  Roderick McIntosh and Thomas Fenn  
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 320b / ANTH 320b / EVST 321b / MMES 320b / NELC 320b, From Babylon to Bush  
  Harvey Weiss  
Analysis of Mesopotamian transformations from the earliest agriculture villages to the earliest cities, states, and civilization, to the earliest empires, as well as the region-wide collapses that punctuated these developments. Forces that drove these uniquely early Mesopotamian developments. Essential archaeological questions, including why each transformation happened, developed, and evolved. The end of the Ottoman empire and the British (1917) and American (1991, 2003) invasions.  

HU, SO

* ARCG 385a / ANTH 385a, 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 397b / ANTH 397b, 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 410b / ANTH 410b, Ethnohistory and Archaeology  
  Roderick McIntosh  
Review of the major problems and methodologies associated with the use of ethnohistory by archaeologists. The construction of a historical imagination. Sources include colonial and “visitor” documents, peoples’ written descriptions of themselves, oral traditions, classic ethnographies, and writings in art history.  

SO
* ARCG 429a / ANTH 429a, Integrating Remote Sensing in Archaeology  William Honeychurch and Andrew Womack
Introduction to satellite and geophysical remote sensing in anthropology. Focus on integrating this data with other techniques and databases for manipulation and application to archaeological research. Some experience with geographical information systems (GIS) helpful but not required. SO

* ARCG 450b / ANTH 450b, Analysis of Lithic Technology  Oswaldo Chinchilla Mazariegos
Introduction to the analysis of chipped and ground stone tools, including instruction in manufacturing chipped stone tools from obsidian. Review of the development of stone tool technology from earliest tools to those of historical periods; relevance of this technology to subsistence, craft specialization, and trade. Discussion of the recording, analysis, and drawing of artifacts, and of related studies such as sourcing and use-wear analysis. SO

ARCG 464b / ANTH 464b, 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. SO

Classics

ARCG 161b / CLCV 161b / HSAR 247b, Art and Myth in Greek Antiquity  Milette Gaifman
Visual exploration of Greek mythology through the study of ancient Greek art and architecture. Greek gods, heroes, and mythological scenes foundational to Western culture; the complex nature of Greek mythology; how art and architecture rendered myths ever present in ancient Greek daily experience; ways in which visual representations can articulate stories. Use of collections in the Yale University Art Gallery. HU

ARCG 252a / CLCV 175a / HSAR 252a, Roman Architecture  Diana Kleiner
The great buildings and engineering marvels of Rome and its empire. Study of city planning and individual monuments and their decoration, including mural painting. Emphasis on developments in Rome, Pompeii, and central Italy; survey of architecture in the provinces. HU

Environmental Studies

* ARCG 473b / ANTH 473b / EVST 473b, Abrupt Climate Change and Societal Collapse  Harvey Weiss
The coincidence of societal collapses throughout history with decadal and century-scale drought 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

Geology and Geophysics

* ARCG 362b / EVST 362b / G&G 362b, Observing Earth from Space  Ronald Smith
A practical introduction to satellite image analysis of Earth’s surface. Topics include the spectrum of electromagnetic radiation, satelliteborne 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

History of Art

ARCG 238a / HSAR 238a / NELC 107a, Buried Cities: Thera, Pompeii, and Herculaneum  Karen Foster
Study of three ancient cities buried by volcanic eruptions—Thera in c. 1530 B.C. and Pompeii and Herculaneum in A.D. 79—with emphasis on their architecture, wall paintings, and small finds in cultural and historical context. HU

Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations

* ARCG 001b / NELC 001b, Egypt and Northeast Africa: A Multidisciplinary Approach  Staff
Examination of approximately 10,000 years of Nile Valley cultural history, with an introduction to the historical and archaeological study of Egypt and Nubia. Consideration of the Nile Valley as the meeting place of the cultures and societies of northeast Africa. Various written and visual sources are used, including the collections of the Peabody Museum and the Yale Art Gallery. Enrollment limited to freshmen. Preregistration required; see under Freshman Seminar Program. WR, HU

ARCG 244a / NELC 109a / RLST 245a, The Age of Akhenaton  Staff
Study of the period of the Egyptian pharaoh Akhenaton (reigned 1353–1336 B.C.E.), often termed the Amarna Revolution, from historical, literary, religious, artistic, and archaeological perspectives. Consideration of the wider Egyptian, ancient Near Eastern, African, and Mediterranean contexts. Examination of the international diplomacy, solar theology, and artistic developments of the period. Reading of primary source material in translation. HU
Advanced Research Courses

* ARCG 471a and ARCG 472b, Directed Reading and Research in Archaeology  Oswaldo Chinchilla Mazariegos
Qualified students may pursue special reading or research under the guidance of an instructor. A written statement of the proposed research must be submitted to the director of undergraduate studies for approval.

* ARCG 491a or b, 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.