ARCHAEOLOGICAL STUDIES

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This 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 (richard.burger@yale.edu), Department of Anthropology, 10 Sachem St., or to
the director of undergraduate studies (DUS).

The major in Archaeological Studies provides a program of interdepartmental
offerings covering prehistoric, early historic, medieval, and other 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 scientific. Also emphasized are substantive studies including (1) study
of prehistoric–early historic transformations such 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 twelve term courses, including the senior project. In addition,
students must participate in a Yale-affiliated summer research project, or that of
another archaeological field school approved in advance by the DUS. The following
five courses are required: an introductory survey; 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 subject areas represented by the departments and programs
offering courses multiple-titled with Archaeological Studies, with three of those seven
courses found in different departments and programs. The relevant departments and
programs are Anthropology, Classics, Earth and Planetary Sciences, Environmental
Studies, History, History of Art, Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, and
Religious Studies. With the permission of the DUS, a course may be counted toward
a subject area other than the one(s) under which it is listed. For three of the seven
archaeology electives students may, with permission of the DUS, substitute courses
from other departments in areas related to their research.

Field research In addition to being the base for several faculty field projects around
the globe, the Council on Archaeological Studies takes as its principal mission the
encouragement of multiple field experiences. Our undergraduate majors are required
to participate in at least one intensive summer field school. Approval is required, and
costs are often subsidized by the Council. Students are encouraged to participate in each
other’s field projects, thereby learning about the greatest number of cultures and areas
possible, while experiencing a diverse array of field situations.

Students are strongly encouraged but are not required, to devote a second summer to
archaeological research, either in the field or in a laboratory. Council faculty currently
direct archaeological field projects in China, Egypt, Guatemala, Peru, Mongolia, Armenia, and Italy. 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 DUS at the beginning of each term.

SUMMARY OF MAJOR REQUIREMENTS

Prerequisites None

Number of courses 12 term courses (incl senior project)

Specific course required ARCG 316L (intro lab)

Distribution of courses 1 intro survey; 1 advanced lab; 1 theory course; 7 electives, at least 1 in each of 3 areas, as specified

Field requirement 1 summer field techniques course or research project, as specified and approved by the DUS

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

Senior requirement Research project (ARCG 491)

COUNCIL ON ARCHAEOLOGICAL STUDIES

Anthropology Richard Burger (Chair), Oswaldo Chinchilla, Ellery Frahm, William Honeychurch, Roderick McIntosh (Emeritus), Eric Sargis, Jessica Thompson, Anne Underhill, David Watts

Classics Andrew Johnston, Diana Kleiner (Emeritus)

Earth and Planetary Sciences Ronald Smith

History Joseph Manning

History of Art Edward Cooke, Jr., Milette Gaifman

Near Eastern Languages & Civilizations John Darnell, Karen Foster, Eckart Frahm, Gregory Marouard, Nadine Moeller, Harvey Weiss

Religious Studies Stephen Davis