

ANTH2720 Archaeology of Hong Kong (2019-20)

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Lecture time: Tuesday 1:30-3:15 pm, Room NAH 11
Tutorial time: Tuesday 4:30-5:15pm, Room MMW 706

Course description

One could be forgiven for thinking that little of archaeological interest survives in Hong Kong's built-up and densely populated environment. But that could not be further from the truth. Contrary to the politically-motivated myth of 'a barren rock' as portrayed by the British in the 19th century, Hong Kong actually has a rich archaeological heritage spanning 6,000-7,000 years of human history. Who were the earliest inhabitants, where were they from, and what brought them to Hong Kong? This course reviews major archaeological discoveries in Hong Kong from the 1920s to the present, examines cultural developments from the Neolithic to the Qing Dynasty, and discusses the material culture, economies, social structures and (as far as is possible) the belief systems of Hong Kong's ancient peoples.

The course will also compare and contrast the evidence for prehistoric and historical cultural developments in Hong Kong with those occurring in South China and the wider Southeast Asian region. The significance of Hong Kong archaeology in the contexts of prehistoric and historical South China and Southeast Asia will also be evaluated. In addition, there will be an exploration of the tensions and potentials existing in Hong Kong between its development-driven economy and rich archaeological resource, as played out in the field of impact assessment archaeology. Finally, the notion of 'public archaeology' will be used to highlight how archaeological remains are 'packaged' and presented as heritage properties in contemporary Hong Kong, and as a means of situating our studies in their 'real world' context where the contrasting needs and aspirations of a diverse range of stakeholders must be addressed.

Topics of this course include the following:

- A bridge between two landmasses – the significance of Hong Kong archaeology.
- The landscape and natural resources of Hong Kong
- History of Hong Kong archaeology
- The early inhabitants of Hong Kong
- Why there was no state in Bronze Age Hong Kong?
- Peoples and their way of life in Hong Kong from Han dynasty to the colonial era.
- Cultural dynamics between Hong Kong, South China and Southeast Asia
- Balancing the needs of development and heritage conservation: 'impact assessment' archaeology
- Public archaeology in Hong Kong

Learning outcomes

After taking this course, students should:

- Understand the trajectory of pre/historical cultural development in Hong Kong;
- Understand the cultural exchanges and human diaspora between Hong Kong and adjacent areas;
- Know how material remains and associated archaeological data have been used to reconstruct past socio-economic lifeways in Hong Kong;
- Have developed the ability to apply multi-disciplinary, critical, and independent thinking.

Learning activities

Two 45-minute lectures and one 45-minute tutorial per week for one semester, plus a field trip to an archaeological site / landscape (tentative timing: Sunday 3rd November, destination TBA).

Grade Descriptors

Grade	Criteria for 1) the course and 2) for coursework
A	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1) Outstanding performance on all learning outcomes.2) The work has creatively synthesized course materials and key ideas in an original way. The argument is logical and cohesive, the discussion is well-organized, and the writing is clear. Concrete evidence is presented to support statements and claims made.
A-	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1) Generally outstanding performance on all (or almost all) learning outcomes.2) The work synthesizes course materials and key ideas in an original way, but there are areas for improvement.
B-range	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1) Substantial performance on all learning outcomes, OR high performance on some learning outcomes which compensates for less satisfactory performance on others, resulting in overall substantial performance.2) The work demonstrates a solid grasp of course materials and key ideas. There are areas for improvement with respect to building a cohesive argument, organizing the discussion, communicating clearly, and/or identifying relevant evidence.
C-range	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1) Satisfactory performance on the majority of learning outcomes, possibly with a few weaknesses.

	2) The work shows some effort, but course materials have not been sufficiently engaged. The argument and the writing is not clear, and/or there is no evidence presented to support statements and claims made.
D-range	1) Barely satisfactory performance on a number of learning outcomes. 2) The work shows little effort to engage with course materials. There are major problems with clarity of argument and writing.
F	1) Unsatisfactory performance on a number of learning outcomes, OR failure to meet specified assessment requirements. 2) The work has failed to respond to the assignment prompt.

Course assessment

(1) Participation: (10%)

Contribution to the class by doing the reading, preparing notes, asking questions and joining in / leading discussions in tutorials.

(2) Mid-term take-home exam: (30%)

Exam paper available on Blackboard 7pm Tuesday 15th October – completed papers with Veriguide receipts to be submitted to Dept. Office by 5pm Friday 25th October.

(3) Fieldtrip report: (10%)

Assignment instructions available before the field trip on Sunday 3rd November, completed reports due in by 5pm Friday 8th November.

(4) Final take-home paper (approximately 2500-3000 words): (50%)

Essay question available on Blackboard 7pm Tuesday 12th November – completed papers with Veriguide receipts to be submitted to Dept. Office by 5pm Friday 6th December.

Submissions & academic honesty

As required by the university, students must submit a soft copy of their computer-generated text assignments to VeriGuide at a specified URL. The system will issue a receipt containing a declaration of honesty statement. Students should sign the receipt, print a hard copy of their assignment, and **submit the hard copy and the receipt to teachers for grading**. The university says that assignments without the receipt will NOT be graded.

The Chinese University of Hong Kong places very high importance on academic honesty, and adopts a policy of *zero tolerance* on cheating in examinations and plagiarism. Any such offence will lead to disciplinary action including possibly termination of studies at the University. Students should know how to properly use source material and how to avoid plagiarism. Students should read the detailed guidelines and examples for the acknowledgement of sources in the University's website at <http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/>, which also gives details of how to submit papers through Veriguide.

Medium of instruction: English

Lecture topics and reading materials

NB: Readings are broken down into “Required readings”, which are essential for the lectures and assessments, and “Recommended readings” that provide useful additional information.

Lecture 1 (Week 1; 4th September): **Introduction: course structure, objectives and methodology. Overview of Hong Kong archaeology.**

Required readings:

Dudgeon, D. & Corlett, R. (1994). *Hills and Streams: An Ecology of Hong Kong*. Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press. (Environmental history pp.16-23)

PlanD. (2002). *Landscape Value Mapping of Hong Kong, Final Report*, Hong Kong: Planning Department of the Hong Kong Government

http://www.pland.gov.hk/pland_en/p_study/prog_s/landscape/landscape_final/index.html

(Look at section 6.4: Overview of the landscape character of Hong Kong)

Recommended readings:

Stokes, E. (1995). *Hong Kong's Wild Places: An Environmental Exploration*. Hong Kong: Oxford University Press. (Introduction pp.xi-xiii)

McIntosh, M. and Williams, M. (eds.) (1994). *The Green Dragon – Hong Kong's Living Environment*. Hong Kong: Green Dragon Publishing.

Lecture 2 (Week 2; 11th September): **A brief history of Hong Kong archaeology.**

Required readings:

Bard, S. (1995). Archaeology in Hong Kong: a review of achievement, in Yeung, Chun-tong and Li Wai-ling (eds.) *Conference on Archaeology in Southeast Asia*: 383-396. Hong Kong: University Museum and Art Gallery, HKU.

AMO. (2007a). ‘Recent Archaeological Discoveries and Studies in Hong Kong’, *Kaogu* **6**: 3-9
(香港古物古蹟辦事處 2007 香港近年的考古發現與研究。《考古》2007 年第 6 期, 3-9 頁)

Recommended readings:

Meacham, W. (2009a). *The Archaeology of Hong Kong*. Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press. (Pages 10-65: sounds a lot but it is mostly pictures)

Lecture 3 (Week 3; 17th September): **Hong Kong's palaeoenvironment: a landscape full of resources?**

Required readings:

Fyfe, J.A., Shaw, R., Campbell, S.D.G., Lai, K.W. & Kirk, P.A. (2000). *The Quaternary Geology of Hong Kong*. Hong Kong: Geotechnical Engineering Office, HK Govmt. (Pages 17-21, 25-29 & 36-40)

Meacham, W. (2009a). *The Archaeology of Hong Kong*. Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press. (Pages 74-80)

Stokes, E. (1995). *Hong Kong's Wild Places: An Environmental Exploration*. Hong Kong: Oxford University Press. (Pages 1-11)

Recommended readings:

Lu, T. L.-D. (2007). Natural Resources and Subsistence Strategies in Prehistoric Hong Kong *Kaogu* (6): 36-45.)

(呂烈丹 2007 香港史前的自然資源和經濟形態。《考古》2007 年第 6 期，36-45 頁)

Morton, B. & Morton, J. (1983). *The Sea Shore Ecology of Hong Kong*. Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press. Pages 3-18).

Lecture 4 (Week 4: 24th September): Neolithic Hong Kong

Required readings:

AMO (1999). Excavation of the North Tungwantsai Site, Mawan Island, Hong Kong. *Kaogu* (6): 1-17.

Atha, M and Yip, K. (2016). *Piecing Together Sha Po: Archaeological Investigations and Landscape Reconstruction*. Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press. (Chapter 4: pages 39-62)

Recommended readings:

Meacham, W. (2009a). *The Archaeology of Hong Kong*. Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press. (Pages 81-109; see also map at front of book for site locations)

Chau H.W. (1993). Periodization of Prehistoric Culture of Pearl River Delta Area, in H.W. Chau (ed.) *Collected Essays on the Culture of the Ancient Yue People in South China*: 40-55. Hong Kong: Urban Council. (see also map of major sites on pages 16 & 17).

Shang, Z. and Mao Y. (1997). Periodization of the Neolithic Culture in Hong Kong and its Relations with that in the Zhujiang Delta. *考古學報 Acta Archaeologica Sinica* (3), pp.3-32.

Shang, Z. (2000). 再論香港新石器時代文化的分期與斷代 (Further Discussion on Hong Kong's Neolithic Culture), pp.33-46.

NB: No Class Week 5 (1st October) National Day holiday

Lecture 5 (Week 6: 8th October): Neolithic: wider contexts & connections.

Required readings:

Lu, T. L.-D. (2005). The Origin and Dispersal of Agriculture and Human Diaspora in East Asia, in L. Sagart, R. Blench & A. Sanchez-Mazas (eds.) *The peopling of East Asia: putting together archaeology, linguistics and genetics*: 51-62. London: Routledge.

Tsang, C.H. (2005). Recent discoveries at the Tapenkeng culture sites in Taiwan: implications for the problem of Austronesian origins, in L. Sagart, R. Blench & A. Sanchez-Mazas (eds.) *The peopling of East Asia: putting together archaeology, linguistics and genetics*: 63-76. London: Routledge.

Recommended readings:

Higham, C. (1996). *The Bronze Age of Southeast Asia*. Hong Kong: Cambridge University Press. (Pages 73-89)

Lecture 6 (Week 7: 15th October): Bronze Age Hong Kong.

Required readings:

Atha, M and Yip, K. (2016). *Piecing Together Sha Po: Archaeological Investigations and Landscape Reconstruction*. Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press. (Chapter 5: pages 63-85)

Meacham, W. 2009a. *The Archaeology of Hong Kong*. Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press. (Pages 110-129 and map of site locations in front of book)

Recommended readings:

AMO Web Site (regarding the Bronze Period):

http://www.amo.gov.hk/en/archaeology_pre01.php

AMO 2007a. Recent Archaeological Discoveries and Studies in Hong Kong, *Kaogu* 6: 3-9.

(香港古物古蹟辦事處 2007 香港近年的考古發現與研究。《考古》2007 年第 6 期, 3-9 頁)

Chau H.W. 1993. Periodization of Prehistoric Culture of Pearl River Delta Area, in H.W. Chau (ed.) *Collected Essays on the Culture of the Ancient Yue People in South China*: 40-55. Hong Kong: Urban Council. (see also map of major sites on pages 16 & 17).

Mid-term take-home exam

Lecture 7 (Week 8: 22nd October): Bronze Age: wider contexts & connections

Required readings:

Higham, C. 1996. *The Bronze Age of Southeast Asia*. Hong Kong: Cambridge University Press. (Pages 90-107)

Meacham, W. 2009a. *The Archaeology of Hong Kong*. Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press. (Pages 139-142)

Meacham, W. 2009b. *Rock carvings in Hong Kong*. Published by the author. (Especially pages 102-121)

Recommended readings:

Allard, F. 2004. Lingnan and Chu during the First Millennium BC: A Reassessment of the Core-Periphery Model, in S. Müller, T. O. Höllman, and P. Gui (eds.) *Guangdong: Archaeology and Early Texts*: 1-21. Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz Verlag

Meacham, W. 1993. Is an Anthropological Definition of the Ancient Yue Possible? in H.W. Chau (ed.) *Collected Essays on the Culture of the Ancient Yue People in South China*: 140-147. Hong Kong: Urban Council, the Shenzhen Museum & the Anthropological Museum, Zhongshan University.

Lecture 8 (Week 9; 29th October): **Neolithic-Bronze Age Subsistence Strategies**

Required readings:

Lu, T. L.-D. 2007. Natural Resources and Subsistence Strategies in Prehistoric Hong Kong, *Kaogu* 6: 36-45.

(呂烈丹 2007 香港史前的自然資源和經濟形態。《考古》2007 年第 6 期, 36-45 頁)

Yang, X., Barton, H.W., Wan, Z., Li, Q., Ma, Z., Li, M., Zhang, D., and Wei, J. 2013. Sago-Type Palms Were an Important Plant Food Prior to Rice in Southern Subtropical China, *PLoS One* 8(5): e63148. (<http://www.plosone.org/article/info%3Adoi%2F10.1371%2Fjournal.pone.0063148>)

Recommended readings:

Lu, T. L.-D. 2005. The prehistoric and historic environments, vegetations and subsistence strategies at Sha Ha, Sai Kung, in AMO (eds.) *The Ancient Culture of Hong Kong – Archaeological Discoveries in Sha Ha, Sai Kung*: 57-64. Hong Kong: Government Logistics Department.

Rogers, P.R. 1995. Subsistence continuity in the prehistory of south coastal China, in C.T. Yeung & W.L. Li (eds.) *Archaeology in Southeast Asia*: 467-478. Hong Kong: University Museum and Art Gallery, HKU.

Field Trip (tentative date: Sunday 3rd November, destination TBA)

Lecture 9 (Week 10; 5th November): **Qin-Tang dynasties.**

Required readings:

Atha, M. and Yip, K. (2016). *Piecing Together Sha Po: Archaeological Investigations and Landscape Reconstruction*. Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press. (Chapter 6: pages 86-133 – especially 86-94 & 126-129)

Au, K. F. & Tung, P.M., 1998. Ancient Salt-Working in the Hong Kong Shenzhen Region. *Journal of the Hong Kong Archaeological Society (JHKAS)*, **14**: 81-87.

Meacham, W. 2009a. *The Archaeology of Hong Kong*. Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press. (130-156)

Recommended readings:

Atha, M. 2014. A military and civilian cemetery of the mid to late Tang maritime trade? Ground penetrating radar (GPR) surveys and excavations at San Tau, North Lantau, Hong Kong. In S.S.K. Siu, R.S.K. Yau, J.C.L. Chow, P.S.H. Wong and H. C. Kwok (eds.) *Collected Essays of the International Conference on Historical Imprints of Lingnan: Major Archaeological Discoveries of Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macau*. Hong Kong: Museum of History, pp.176-217. NB: Read all if you have time but especially pp.176-188 and pp.213-217.

Atha, M., Lai, W.W.L., and Chang, R.K.W. (2016) 'GPR Surveys and Excavation Ground-Truthing at the San Tau Backbeach Site, Hong Kong'. Proceedings of the GPR2016 Conference, PolyU, Hong Kong. ieeexplore.ieee.org/document/7572635/

Cameron, H. 1992. Tang dynasty lime kilns, *JHKAS* **13**: 102-108.

Li, L.L. 2009. Studies on 5-10 centuries' brine-kilns in Hong Kong, *JHKAS* **16**: 94-103.
(李浪林 2009 香港南朝至唐代煮鹽遺址的研究。《香港考古學會會刊》2003-2008 年第 16 期，94-103 頁)

Ting, J.S.P., Szeto, N.Y.Y., Ma, R.M.K. and Fung, C.H. (eds) (2005). *Lei Cheng Uk Han Tomb*. Hong Kong: Hong Kong Museum of History

Lecture 10 (Week 11: 12th November): Song-Qing dynasties.

Required readings

Atha, M and Yip, K. (2016). *Piecing Together Sha Po: Archaeological Investigations and Landscape Reconstruction*. Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press. (Chapter 7: pages 134-158)

ERM (2017). *Archaeological Excavation Report for Sacred Hill Area (Phases 1 to 3 Archaeological Works) Volume 4 - Section 6*. Unpublished Excavation report.

Recommended readings:

AMO Pamphlet 2008 'Wun Yiu Site and Fan Sin Temple':

http://www.amo.gov.hk/form/pamphlet7_2008_7.pdf

AMO Web Site (Remnants of the South Gate of Kowloon Walled City):
http://www.amo.gov.hk/en/monuments_62.php

Lam, P. 1988. Late 15th to Early 16th Century Blue and White Porcelain from Penny's Bay, *JHKAS* **12**: 146-163

Meacham, W. 2009a. *The Archaeology of Hong Kong*. Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press. (Pages 157-178)

Wong, S. 2006. A preliminary study of the ceramics of the Song-Yuan period unearthed from Hong Kong, *Bulletin of the Indo-Pacific Prehistory Association* **26**: 140-146

Lecture 11 (Week 12: 19th November): **Archaeological Heritage Management in Hong Kong.**

Required readings:

Atha, M and Yip, K. (2016). *Piecing Together Sha Po: Archaeological Investigations and Landscape Reconstruction*. Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press. (Chapter 2: pages 16-28)

Sun, K. 2007. On Contract Archaeology in Hong Kong, *Huaxia Kaogu* (Cathaysian Archaeology) 2007-**4**: 42-46
(孫德榮 2007 試論香港的合約考古。《華夏考古》2007 年第 4 期, 42-46 頁)

Sun, K. 2011. 'The unclaimed baggage: who owns HK's archaeological heritage?' *Huaxia Kaogu* (Cathaysian Archaeology) 2011-**1**: 139-145

Recommended readings:

Du Cros, H. and Lee, Y-s F. 2007. *Cultural Heritage Management in China: Preserving the Cities of the Pearl River Delta*. London & New York: Routledge (pages 34-47)

Antiquities & Monuments Ordinance (Chapter 53)

http://www.legislation.gov.hk/blis_ind.nsf/WebView?OpenAgent&vwpg=CURALLENGDOC*21*100*53.1#53.1 (See especially sections 2, 2A, 2B, 3, 11-14 inclusive)

Environmental Impact Assessment Ordinance (EIAO): Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment (CHIA)
<http://www.epd.gov.hk/eia/english/guid/index5.html>

Lu, T. 2009. Heritage Conservation in Post-Colonial Hong Kong, *International Journal of Heritage Studies* **15** (2-3): 258-272

Lecture 12 (Week 13: 26th November): **Public Archaeology in Hong Kong** (1st 45 minutes); **Review and Discussion** (2nd 45 minutes).

Required Readings:

Merriman, N. 2004. 'Introduction'. In N. Merriman (ed.) *Public Archaeology*. Routledge: London (pp.1-17).

Recommended Readings:

Renfrew, C. and Bahn, P. 2012. *Archaeology: Theories, Methods and Practice*. London & NY: Thames and Hudson (pp.535-566).

Skeates, R., Carman, J. and McDavid, C. 2012. 'Introduction'. In R. Skeates, C. McDavid and J. Carman, (eds.) *The Oxford Handbook of Public Archaeology*. OUP: Oxford (pp.1-10).

Websites:

AMO Archaeology pages (<http://www.amo.gov.hk/en/archaeology.php>)

AMO Heritage Discovery Centre (<http://www.amo.gov.hk/en/hdc.php>)

Tutorial topics:

Lecture 1 (Week 1 – 3rd September): No tutorial – do preparatory reading.

Lecture 2 (Week 2 – 10th September): **General Class Discussion:** 'What are the positive and negative aspects of Hong Kong's history of archaeological work?'

Lecture 3 (Week 3: 17th September): **General Class Discussion:** 'Hong Kong's palaeoenvironment: a landscape full of resources or a major constraint on early human activity?'

Lecture 4 (Week 4: 24th September): **Selected Reading** AMO (1999): 'What does the Ma Wan site really tell us about Late Neolithic society?'

NB: No Class Week 5 (1st October) **National Day holiday**

Lecture 5 (Week 6: 8th October): **Selected Reading** – Tsang, C.H. (2005): 'Does the HK-PRD Neolithic support or challenge the idea of a diaspora of Austronesian-speaking peoples from China, via Taiwan, the Philippines, and out into the Pacific?'

Lecture 6 (Week 7: 15th October): **Selected Reading** – AMO (2007b) 'Why is the Sha Po New Village plateau such an interesting Bronze Age site?'

Lecture 7 (Week 8: 22nd October): **General Class Discussion:** 'Was Bronze Age HK a chiefdom-level society?'

Lecture 8 (Week 9; 29th October): **Selected Reading** – Yang et al. (2013): 'Why does Xincun, Taishan provide such an important contrast with Sha Ha, Sai Kung – how to interpret the evidence?'

Field Trip (tentative date: Sunday 3rd November, destination TBA)

Lecture 9 (Week 10; 5th November): *Selected Reading* – Atha (2014): ‘What is so unusual about the San Tau cemetery site and its investigation?’

Lecture 10 (Week 11: 12th November): *Selected Reading* – ERM (2017): ‘How should we assess the present and future significance of the Kowloon Bay (To Kwa Wan) area in terms of the local and wider Southern Song-Yuan period?’

Lecture 11 (Week 12: 19th November): *General Class Discussion*: ‘How can we improve Hong Kong’s management of its archaeological heritage?’

Lecture 12 (Week 13: 26th November): No tutorial due to final take-home paper