

## **ANTH 1710/UGEC 1633 Understanding Archaeology (2021-22)**

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Lecture: Wednesday 10:30am-12:15 pm, NAH 114

Tutorial 1: Wednesday 12:30-1:15pm, UCC 105

Tutorial 2: Wednesday 1:30-2:15pm, UCC 105

Tutorial 3: Wednesday, 2:30-3:15pm, UCC 104

### **Course Outline**

What is archaeology? Do Hollywood movies such as the popular *Indiana Jones* and *Tomb Raider*, *Lara Croft* represent archaeologists and their work? This course aims to give students a basic knowledge and understanding of archaeology so as to broaden their academic horizon and be useful in their future life and career. The course will highlight several interdisciplinary connections with, such as, history, sociology, cultural studies and integrating sciences among others. The course will also discuss how our societies have changed, and why “the past” can be a social/public/personal issue in modern societies, such as the recent public debate about the archaeological excavation at To Kwa Wan of the Shatin to Central Link and the rest of the world - it illustrates how "archaeology" has been used by different stakeholders to maximize their interests and for social, political and economic goals, and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on archaeological practices. No prior knowledge of archaeology is required for this course.

**Part One:** will focus on the basic concepts and research methods of archaeology, the historical development of archaeology and critical review of the public image of ‘archaeology’. Students will be introduced to the discoveries of archaeological sites, classification and interpretation of the archaeological evidence after the dig.

**Part Two:** will guide students to discuss how our societies have changed, and why “the past” can be a social/public/personal issue in modern societies. We will focus on how maritime history, business, gender, religion, ethnicity, politics and COVID-19 pandemic have been related to archaeology in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

This is a required course within the Program of Anthropology, Minor in Archaeology

and part of the General Education curriculum. Students from any Program are welcome to take this course.

### **Learning outcomes**

After taking this course, students are expected to:

1. Have a basic understanding of what archaeology is and how it relates to the goals of understanding and explaining the human past;
2. Have achieved an understanding of the diversity of the archaeological evidences and how archaeologists analyse and interpret material remains on the developments of humans and cultures;
3. Know how archaeology is relevant to contemporary societies and be able to apply key archaeological knowledge within their own fields of study;
4. Develop their capacity for inter-disciplinary and critical thinking;
5. Broaden their academic horizons and knowledge.

### **Learning activities**

2-hour lectures and 1-hour tutorial per week for one semester, including a field trip to visit an archaeological site/place in Hong Kong.

### **Course Requirements**

#### **(1) Participation (10%)**

**(2) Mid-term take-home test (30%)** (Due date 28<sup>th</sup> February, Monday, 5pm)

**(3) Fieldtrip Report (10%)** (Due date 28<sup>th</sup> March, Monday, 5pm)

**(4) Final paper 1800-2000 words or individual & group video project (50%)** (Due date 25<sup>th</sup> April, Monday, 5pm).

### **Medium of instruction**

Cantonese, but if there are students who cannot understand Cantonese in the class, then the medium will be in English. The tutorials will be conducted in Cantonese, Mandarin and/or English.

### **Submissions & academic honesty**

As required by the university, from Sept. 2008, 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 and **submit the soft copy and the receipt to blackboard to teachers for grading**. The university says that assignments without the receipt will NOT be graded.

Please check the website "Honesty in Academic Work" at:  
<http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/> for more information on plagiarism  
and on how to submit papers through VeriGuide

### **Feedback for evaluation**

Emails and discussions will be used as feedback strategies during the course to collect feedback from students.

### **Lecture topics and reading materials**

**NB:** Required readings are essential for the lectures and tutorial and further readings provide useful additional information or alternative perspectives.

Students are expected to finish all the weekly readings before the lecture and tutorial.

## **Part One**

### **Week 1 (12<sup>nd</sup> Jan)**

What is archaeology? The historical development of archaeology and overview

#### Required Reading:

Renfrew, C. & Bahn, Paul. 2016. *Archaeology: Theories, Methods and Practice*. 7<sup>th</sup> Ed. London: Thames & Hudson, pp. 21-37. (e-book)

### **Week 2 (19<sup>th</sup> Jan)**

Critical review of the Public image of 'archaeology' created by Hollywood movies

#### Required Reading:

Haley, Shawn 2003. *The Romance of Archaeology*, pp.1-24.

<http://www.shawnhaley.ca/pdf/romance.pdf>

### **Week 3 (26<sup>th</sup> Jan)**

Discovering archaeological sites: survey and excavation of sites and features

#### Required reading:

Renfrew, C. & Bahn, Paul. 2016. *Archaeology: Theories, Methods and Practice*. 7<sup>th</sup> Ed. London: Thames & Hudson, pp. 73-98,110-112. (e-book)

### **Week 4 (2<sup>nd</sup> Feb) Public Holiday – Lunar New Year Holiday**

### **Week 5 (9<sup>th</sup> Feb)**

After the dig: classifying and dating the archaeological evidence

#### Required reading:

Renfrew, C. & Bahn, Paul. 2016. *Archaeology: Theories, Methods and Practice*. 7<sup>th</sup>

Ed. London: Thames & Hudson, pp. 131-155. (e-book)

### **Week 6 (16<sup>th</sup> Feb)**

How to interpret the archaeological evidence

Renfrew, C. & Bahn, Paul. 2016. *Archaeology: Theories, Methods and Practice*. 7th Ed. London: Thames & Hudson, pp. 52-56,128-130. (e-book)

### **Part Two**

### **Week 7 (23<sup>rd</sup> Feb)**

Archaeology and Social Practice during the COVID-19 pandemic

#### Required readings:

Mate, Geraldine and Ulm, Sean. 2021. Working in archaeology in a changing world: Australian archaeology at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, *Australian Archaeology* 87 (3), 229-250.

Ives, Sarah. 2021. An Excavation of the COVID-19 Pandemic, *Sapiens* 21, May, 2021  
<https://www.sapiens.org/archaeology/pandemic-archaeology/>

**\*\*Mid-term take home test:** paper uploaded to Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 5pm—completed papers with Veriguide receipts to be submitted to blackboard by 5pm Monday 28<sup>th</sup> February.

### **Week 8 (2<sup>nd</sup> March)**

Archaeology and business in the “World System”

#### Required reading:

Renfrew, C. & Bahn, Paul. 2016. *Archaeology: Theories, Methods and Practice*. 7th Ed. London: Thames & Hudson, pp. 357-370. (e-book)

### **Week 9 (9<sup>th</sup> March)**

Archaeology and gender

#### Required reading:

Solometo, J., & Moss, J. 2013. Picturing the Past: Gender in National Geographic Reconstructions of Prehistoric Life, *American Antiquity* 78(1), 123-146. (e-book)

### **Week 10 (16<sup>th</sup> March)**

Maritime Archaeology

#### Required reading:

Domingues, Francisco. C. 2011. “Maritime History and Maritime Archaeology.” In Alexis Catsambis, Ben Ford and Donny L. Hamilton eds. *the Oxford Handbook of*

*Maritime Archaeology*. Oxford, New York: Oxford University Press, pp.907-916. (e-book)

**\*\*Field Trip visit to an archaeological site/place in Hong Kong:** dates for this are **Saturday or Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> /20<sup>th</sup> March**—hand in short field trip report with Veriguide receipt to blackboard by 5pm Monday 28<sup>th</sup> March.

### **Week 11 (23<sup>rd</sup> March)**

Ethnoarchaeology

#### Required reading:

Supriya Varma & Jaya Menon. 2017. Households at Work: An Ethnoarchaeological Study of Variation in Ceramic Production in North India, *Ethnoarchaeology* 9:1, 3-29.

### **Week 12 (30<sup>th</sup> March)**

Archaeology and religion

#### Required reading:

Renfrew, C. & Bahn, Paul. 2016. *Archaeology: Theories, Methods and Practice*. 7th Ed. London: Thames & Hudson, pp. 413-425. (e-book)

### **Week 13 (6<sup>th</sup> April) Reading Week**

### **Week 14 (13<sup>rd</sup> April)**

Archaeology, heritage management and the general public

#### Required reading:

Renfrew, C. & Bahn, Paul. 2016. *Archaeology: Theories, Methods and Practice*. 7th Ed. London: Thames & Hudson, pp. 556-564, 572-584. (e-book)

**\*\*Final paper or individual & group video project:** completed papers with Veriguide receipts to be submitted to blackboard by 5pm Monday 25<sup>th</sup> April.

#### Further Readings:

Renfrew, C. & Bahn, Paul. 2015. *Archaeology Essentials: Theories, Methods and Practice*. 3<sup>rd</sup> Ed. London: Thames & Hudson.

Adkins, L. & R. 1989. *An Introduction to Archaeology*. London: Chartwell Books, pp. 9-93.

Bahn, P. 1996. *The Cambridge Illustrated History of Archaeology*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. (General reference book)

Drewett, P. L. 1999. *Field archaeology: an introduction*. London: Routledge, pp.1-30.  
Fagan, B. 2005. *A Brief History of Archaeology: Classical Times to the Twenty-first Century*. Upper Saddle River: Pearson Prentice Hall. (General reference book)  
Greene, K. & Moore, T. 2010. *Archaeology: An Introduction*. 5<sup>th</sup> Edition, Abingdon: Routledge. (General reference book)  
Orton, C. & Hughes, M. 2013. *Pottery in Archaeology*. 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. (General reference book)  
Recommended internet resources: [www.archaeology.org](http://www.archaeology.org)

**Topics for tutorials:**

**Week 1**

No tutorials. Students to prepare and read reading for Lecture 1.

**Week 2**

Discussion: basic concepts of archaeology, colonialism and archaeology

**Week 3**

Discussion: whether any impact of Hollywood movies on our understanding of archaeology

**Weeks 4**

Public Holiday – Lunar New Year Holiday

**Week 5**

Discussion: questions about dating and interpreting the archaeological evidence

**Week 6-8**

No tutorials: will be replaced by a field trip to an archaeological site/place in Hong Kong.

**Week 9**

Discussion: archaeology and gender

**Week 10**

Discussion: maritime archaeology

**Week 11**

Discussion: questions about ethnoarchaeology

**Week 12**

Discussion: questions about archaeology and religion

**Week 13**

Reading Week. No tutorials. Students to prepare and read reading

**Week 14**

Discussion: public archaeology and heritage management