

ANTH1710/UGEC1633 Understanding Archaeology

Term 1

Lecture time: Mondays 14:30 – 16:15 (9/9 – 25/11) UCC_C2

Tutorial time: TUT/01 16:30 – 17:15 UCC_208

TUT/02 17:30 – 18:15 UCC_208

TUT/03 18:30 – 19:15 UCC_208

Instructor: Chris Cheung (christina.cheung@cuhk.edu.hk)

TA: TBC

Textbook: Renfrew & Bahn (2016) *Archaeology: Theories, Methods, and Practice* (Seventh edition). Thames and Hudson. ISBN: 978-0-500-29210-5

<https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/cuhk-ebooks/detail.action?docID=5906397>

Course description: Archaeology is a fascinating and unique field of study that focuses on recovering and interpreting material remains left behind by past peoples. In order to derive meaning from ancient structures, artifacts, and even biological remains, and use them to understand dynamic human behaviour in the past – archaeologists have developed specific research methods and analyses to help them in their quest to better understand our human story. This course provides an introduction to the different methods, theories, and concepts employed by archaeologists, as well as an overview of how our ideas about early human ancestors and diverse cultures throughout the world have changed over time. More importantly, this course aims to remind you that while archaeologists are primarily concerned with the past, our history is also relevant to the present and future as archaeologists study issues that continue to impact our societies, such as social inequality, environmental change, and political conflict.

Learning outcomes:

By the end of this course, students will:

- Have a foundational understanding of some key archaeological methods and theories.
- Become familiar with the procedures of archaeological research, including surveying, excavation, dating, and other analytical techniques.
- Demonstrate an understanding of how archaeological remains may be studied to help gain a range of information on past societies.
- Demonstrate an understanding of how different types of archaeological remains can be studied and allow archaeologists to reconstruct different aspects of past lives, including environments, technology, trade, social conditions, and etc.
- Appreciate the range and diversity of past human societies.
- Be mindfully aware of ethical considerations in archaeology.

Course structure and learning activities:

One 1 hour 45 min lecture and one 45-min tutorial per week for one semester. Tutorial will take various forms, including a field trip (exact date TBC).

Course assessment and polices:

The final grade for the course is based on:

1) Field trip report		15%
2) Tutorial report		15%
3) In-class assessments x 2	20% x 2	40%
4) Group project		20%

Field trip report (20%)

Students will write a 3 – 4-page report on the field trip. More direction will be provided in class and during the excursion. This is due **7th Oct**, before the end of the day.

Tutorial report (20%)

Students may pick one tutorial activity they find most interesting, and write a 3 – 4 page report on the activity. More direction will be provided in class and during tutorials. This is due **11th Nov**, before the end of the day.

In-class assessments (20% x 2)

These assessments will be based heavily on the lectures, and your notes from the in-class lectures will be your primary study materials. Reading the associated chapter(s) from the textbook is highly recommended. The assessments will take place during the tutorial on **14th Oct and 18th Nov**.

Group project (20%)

You will form into groups of no more than four students per group. Each group will choose a subfield of archaeology to work on. The goal of this project is to create a creative output to introduce the chosen subfield to non-specialists. The format of the output is flexible, e.g., poster, pamphlet, cartoons, videos, etc. The output will be graded by a panel of experts and non-experts. More direction will be provided in class and during tutorials. This is due **22nd Nov**.

Submission and 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, 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.

Please check the website “Honesty in Academic Works” at:
<http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/>

for more information on plagiarism and on how to submit papers through VeriGuide.

Grade descriptors

Grade	Overall course
A	Outstanding performance on all learning outcomes.
B	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.
C	Satisfactory performance on the majority of learning outcomes, possibly with a few weaknesses.
D	Barely satisfactory performance on a number of learning outcomes.
F	Unsatisfactory performance on a number of learning outcomes, OR failure to meet specified assessment requirements.

Weekly schedule (this syllabus is subject to change)

Date	Lecture Topic
Sept 2	<i>No class</i>
9	1. Introduction to Archaeology: background, history, and theory Reading: textbook chapter 1 Tutorial: <i>no tutorial</i>
16	2. Looking for history: site formation processes, survey and excavation methods Reading: textbook chapters 2 and 3 Tutorial: Lab session 1 – profile of an archaeological feature
23	3. Putting a date on it: stratigraphy and dating methods Reading: textbook chapter 4 Tutorial: Lab session 2 – dendrochronology

30	4. Ancient technology Reading: textbook chapter 8
	Tutorial: Lab session 3 – recording ceramic patterns
Oct 7	5. Life-history approach Reading: textbook chapters 11 and 12
	Tutorial: Lab session 4 – human osteology
14	6. Subsistence and diet Reading: textbook chapter 7
	Tutorial: In-class assessment 1
21	7. Environmental Archaeology Reading: textbook chapter 6
	Tutorial: Lab session 5 – processing soil samples from an archaeological site
28	8. Special focus: Archaeobotany Reading: <i>to be confirmed</i>
	Tutorial: Lab session 6 – reading the seeds
Nov 4	9. Social archaeology Reading: textbook chapter 5
	Tutorial: Group project preparation
11	Mobility and connectivity Reading: textbook chapter 9
	Tutorial: Group project preparation
18	10. Ideology, symbolism, and cognitive archaeology Reading: textbook chapter 10
	Tutorial: In-class assessment 2
25	12. Who owns the past? Ethics and controversies Reading: textbook chapters 14 and 15
	Tutorial: Group project showcase!