

ANTH 1710/UGEC 1633 Understanding Archaeology (2019-20)

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Lecture: Wednesday 12:30am-2:15 pm, NAH12

Tutorial 1: Wednesday 2:30-3:15pm, NAH401

Tutorial 2: Wednesday 4:30-5:15pm, NAH401

Tutorial 3: TBA

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. 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 and politics have been related to archaeology in the 21st 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 14th October, Monday, 5pm)

(3) Fieldtrip Report (10%) (Due date 8th November, Friday, 5pm)

(4) Final paper 1800-2000 words or individual & group video project (50%) (Due date 9th December, 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, 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 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 (4th Sep)

What is archaeology? The historical development of archaeology and overview

Required Reading:

Renfrew, C. & Bahn, Paul. 2016. *Archaeology: Theories, Methods and Practice*. 7th Ed. London: Thames & Hudson, pp. 21-37.

Week 2 (11th Sep)

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 (18th Sep)

Discovering archaeological sites: survey and excavation of sites and features

Required reading:

Renfrew, C. & Bahn, Paul. 2016. *Archaeology: Theories, Methods and Practice*. 7th Ed. London: Thames & Hudson, pp. 73-98,110-112.

Week 4 (25th Sep)

After the dig: classifying and dating the archaeological evidence

Required reading:

Renfrew, C. & Bahn, Paul. 2016. *Archaeology: Theories, Methods and Practice*. 7th Ed. London: Thames & Hudson, pp. 131-155.

Week 5 (2nd Oct)

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.

Part Two

Week 6 (9th Oct)

Digital Archaeology and Social Practice

Required reading:

Richardson, L. & Lindgren, S. 2017. Online Tribes and Digital Authority: What Can Social Theory Bring to Digital Archaeology? *Open Archaeology*, 3(1), pp. 139-148.

****Mid-term take home test:** paper uploaded to Wednesday 9th October 5pm—completed papers with Veriguide receipts to be submitted to Dept. Office by 5pm Monday 14th Oct.

Week 7 (16th Oct)

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.

Week 8 (23rd Oct)

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.

Week 9 (1st Nov, Friday)

Maritime Archaeology and Heritage Law

Guest lecture by Prof. Steven Gallagher (Faculty of Law, CUHK)

Topic: Chinese Shipwrecks, Treasure Hunters and the History of Underwater Cultural Heritage Regimes

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.

****Field Trip visit to an archaeological site/place in Hong Kong:** dates for this are **Saturday or Sunday 2nd /3rd Nov**—hand in short field trip report with Veriguide receipt by 5pm Friday 8th November.

Week 10 (6th Nov)

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 11 (13th Nov)

Archaeology and religion

Required reading:

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

Week 12 (20th Nov)

Archaeology and the general public

Required reading:

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

Week 13 (27th Nov)

Archaeology, politics and heritage management

Required reading:

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

****Final paper or individual & group video project:** completed papers with Veriguide receipts to be submitted to Dept. Office by 5pm Monday 9th December.

Further Readings:

Renfrew, C. & Bahn, Paul. 2015. *Archaeology Essentials: Theories, Methods and Practice*. 3rd 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*. 5th Edition, Abingdon: Routledge. (General reference book)

Orton, C. & Hughes, M. 2013. *Pottery in Archaeology*. 2nd Edition, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. (General reference book)

Recommended internet resources: 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

Discussion: questions about dating and interpreting the archaeological evidence

Week 5-8

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: questions about ethnoarchaeology

Week 11

Discussion: questions about archaeology and religion

Week 12

Discussion: public archaeology

Week 13

Discussion: archaeology and heritage management