

ANTH1710/UGCE1633 Understanding Archaeology

Term 2

Lecture time: Wednesdays 10:30 – 12:15 (11/1 – 19/4) UCC-C5

Tutorial time: TUT/01 Wednesdays 12:30 – 13:15 (11/1 – 19/4) UCC 109

TUT/02 Wednesdays 13:30 – 14:15 (11/1 – 19/4) UCC 109

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

TA: Alvin Ao (alvin1998515@gmail.com)

Office hours: Mondays 13:00 – 14:00 NAH 322 (CC);

Wednesdays 14:30 – 15:30 NAH 406 (AA)

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 to the Hong Kong Heritage Discovery Center.

Course assessment and polices:

The final grade for the course is based on:

1) Reaction papers	5% x 3	15%
2) Tutorial report	10%	10%
3) Excursion report	10%	10%
4) Group presentation	15%	15%
5) Midterm Exam	20%	20%
6) Final Exam	30%	30%

Reaction paper (5% x 3)

Throughout the course, students will submit three reaction papers, each worth 5%. Students may choose any three of the weekly topics discussed in class. The reaction papers should be brief essays (~1 page) in which the students are expected to outline, and reflect on, some of the ideas that they think are important, or useful about that week's readings.

Tutorial report (10%)

Students may pick one tutorial activity they find most interesting, and write a one-page report on the activity. More direction will be provided in class and during tutorials.

Excursion report (10%)

Students will write a one-page report on the field trip. More direction will be provided in class and during the excursion.

Group presentation (15%)

During the second or third tutorial, students will be asked to form small groups of no more than four people per group. Each group may pick a popular film/show of your choice involving one or more archaeologists (there will be discussion so that no two groups will present on the same movie). After watching the film/show, students will be asked to identify, critique, and analyse at least three counts of improper practice conducted by the archaeologist(s) in the movie, then offer alternative actions they should have taken instead. Each group will present their response during the last two tutorials (~ 15 mins).

Midterm and final exams (20 + 30%)

The exams will be based heavily on the lecture material, 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.

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.
A-	Generally outstanding performance on all (or almost 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.

Weekly schedule (this syllabus is subject to change)

Week	Date	Lecture Topic	Chapter
1	Jan 11	1. Introduction to Archaeology: background, history, and theory	1
2	18	2. Looking for history: site formation processes, survey and excavation methods	2 and 3
3	25	Lunar New Year	
4	Feb 1	3. Putting a date on it: stratigraphy and dating methods	4
5	8	4. Social archaeology	5
6	15	5. Environmental archaeology	6
7	22	6. Subsistence and diet	7
8	Mar 1	7. Technology	8
9	8	Reading Break	
10	15	8. Mobility, Trade, and Exchange	9
11	22	9. Ideology, symbolism, and Cognitive archaeology	10
12	29	10. Life-history approach	11, 12
13	April 5	Ching Ming Festival	
14	12	11. Big data archaeology Gattiglia 2015, Think big about data: Archaeology and the Big Data challenge. Archäologische Informationen 38: 113-124 https://doi.org/10.11588/ai.2015.1.26155	
15	19	12. Who owns the past? Ethics and controversies.	14, 15
	TBA	Final Exam	

Topics for tutorials:

Week 1: No tutorial

Week 2: Lab session – stratigraphy of a bin

Week 3: Lunar new year

Week 4: Lab session – dendrochronology

Week 5: Excursion

Week 6: No tutorial

Week 7: Midterm Exam

Week 8: Lab session – ceramics

Week 9: Reading Break

Week 10: Lab session – palaeobotany

Week 11: No tutorial

Week 12: Lab session – interpreting the past

Week 13: Ching Ming Festival

Week 14: Group presentations

Week 15: Group presentations