

ARCH 330 | Archaeology Beyond Stones:

Colonialism and Decolonization, Gender, Social Inequality, Climate Change, Migration and Mobility, Food, and Other Key Concepts in Modern Archaeology

Fall 2024

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Office hours: Immediately after class or by appointment

Course Description

In the last quarter-century, the discipline of archaeology has undergone a dramatic transformation. While traditional practices such as excavating ancient sites and documenting and analyzing ancient art and architecture remain integral to the field, modern archaeology has drastically expanded its scope.

Today archaeology encompasses a wide range of topics, from decenterization of academic discourse to food, from computer games to refugee studies. In this spirit, this course explores key themes and concepts in modern archaeology, moving beyond the traditional focus on ancient artifacts and monuments to examine how the discipline informs our understanding of critical issues in human societies, both past and present.

Through global case studies and class discussions, students will investigate how archaeological approaches illuminate diverse questions, including gender, social inequality, culinary customs, slavery, migration, climate change, and societal collapse.

The course will also encourage students to critically engage with archaeology's complex relationships with colonialism, nationalism, and the concept of "Western Civilization." Students will delve into current debates surrounding the decolonization of the discipline, pseudoarchaeology, looted artifacts in Western museums, and archaeological ethics.

Learning Goals

By the end of the course,

- Students will have developed a nuanced understanding of archaeology as a discipline that is deeply engaged in contemporary debates and issues, with a powerful ability to inform and challenge our views of both the past and the present.
- They will be equipped with critical skills for evaluating archaeological evidence and claims, and for understanding the relevance of archaeology to a wide range of fields, including history, anthropology, political science, sociology, and modern cultural studies.

Course Requirements and Assessment

20% - Class Contribution

This is a discussion-based course. Students will be assigned different, complementary readings and will take turns leading class discussions. The class contribution grade is based on demonstrated reading knowledge, active participation in discussions, and attendance.

20% - Take-home Quizzes

There will be 4 take-home quizzes throughout the semester to assess understanding of the course material.

25% - Case Study Presentation

Students will give a presentation on an archaeological case study of their choice related to one of the themes covered in the course.

25% - Case Study Paper

Students will write a 3000-word paper (excluding bibliography) providing an in-depth analysis of the case study from their presentation.

10% - Archaeological Awareness Poster

Students will create an engaging poster or infographic aimed at the general public that highlights how archaeology is relevant to a contemporary issue of your choice. The poster should demonstrate archaeology's potential to provide unique insights into the topic or raise awareness on how archaeological knowledge might be abused by political or pseudoscientific groups.

Policy on Assignments and Make-up Work

Details about quizzes and other assignments will be given in advance. I will accept no late assignments or make-up quizzes unless discussed with me in advance.

400 Level Upgrade Requirements: In order to upgrade the course level to 400, if you choose to do so, 25% additional academic work will be required. Please discuss the available options with the instructor.

CYA Attendance Policy

CYA regards attendance in class and on-site (in Athens or during field study trips) as essential, so attendance at all scheduled meetings is required. All absences are recorded and have consequences that may affect your grade.

Academic Accommodations

Students are required to submit an official letter from the office at their school that handles academic accommodations (generally the Office of Disability Services), or to have that office send a letter. Students who have submitted such a letter to CYA should also talk to their professors individually to discuss how these accommodations will work in each specific course.

Accessibility

This course requires students to give a verbal presentation in front of the class as part of their assessment.

Policy on Original Work

Plagiarism is literary theft. As such, it is a serious offense which will not be tolerated either at your home institution or at CYA. Plagiarism on an examination or in a paper will result in an F for the course. You must cite the author of any and all ideas that you use that are neither common knowledge nor your own idea. If you are in doubt, it is safest to cite the source. Your work should be original and reflect your own ideas and thoughts. If you are unsure about what counts as original work, please consult your professor and check the Student Handbook.

Use of Laptops, Tablets, and Phones

In-class or on-site use of laptops and other devices is permitted if that facilitates course-related activities such as note-taking, looking up references, etc. Laptop or other device privileges will be suspended if they are not used for class-related work.

Fall 2024 Tentative Schedule

#	Date	Topic	Readings & Other Sources
	Sep 5-7	Field Study Delphi and Ancient Olympia	
1	Sep 10	Archaeology and This Course Syllabus Introduction to Course	
2	Sep 12	Archaeology of Gender I Introduction to gender studies in archaeology <i>Case Studies</i> : Neolithic Çatalhöyük, ancient Maya, ancient Egypt, Viking burials, colonial Australia	Bolger 2012 Matić 2024 Middleton 2023 Zsolnay 2017
3	Sep 17	Archaeology of Gender II Archaeology of Gender in Ancient Greece Guest Lecturer: Dr. Kristen Mann	Koloski-Ostrow and Lyons 2003 Olsen 2014 Siekierka et al. 2021
	Sep 18-21	Field Study Crete	
4	Sep 24	Archaeology of Inequality I Emergence of State & Social Hierarchy Is Social Inequality Inevitable? <i>Case Studies</i> from Anatolia, Balkans, Aegean, Americas	Cerasuolo 2021 Graeber and Wengrow 2021 Green et al. 2023 Scott 2017
5	Sep 26	Archaeology of Inequality II Archaeology of Rank and Social Class Archaeology of Slavery: Ancient Mediterranean Archaeology of Slavery: North America	Forsdyke 2021 Joshel and Petersen 2015 Marshall 2015 Singleton 2016
6	Oct 1	Archaeology of Food I <i>Tell me what you eat, I will tell you who you are!</i> Culinary customs and diet in the ancient world Archaeobotany and the plants	Madella et al. 2014 Pearsall 2015 Wilkins and Nadeau 2015
7	Oct 3	Archaeology of Food II Archaeozoology and the animals Archaeology of food garbage & bones Guest Lecturer: Dr. Flint Dibble	Albarella et al. 2017 Twiss 2019
8	Oct 8	Archaeology of Migration and Mobility I Out of Fashion and Back Again: Why Are Migration Studies Controversial? Migration And Mobility in The Archaeological Record aDNA and Isotope Analyses – A New Era	Antony 1990 Daniels 2022 Hofmann et al. 2024 Reich 2018
9	Oct 10	Archaeology of Migration and Mobility II <i>Case Studies</i> from Europe, Asia, & Americas Archaeology and Language Dispersals	Bellwood 2014 Driessen 2014 Hofmann et al. 2023
10	Oct 15	Archaeology of Environment I What is Environmental Archaeology? How to Reconstruct Ancient Environments What Do We Learn from Environmental Studies About Ancient Societies?	Balaam and Racham 2017 Pollard et al. 2023 Turney et al. 2014
11	Oct 17	Archaeology of Environment II Archaeology of Climate Change Archaeology of Resilience: How did humans Respond to Climate Change?	Cooper and Sheets 2012 Davies et al. 2013 Fisher et al. 2022
12	Oct 22	Archaeology of Collapse I What is <i>Societal Collapse</i> ? Introduction to Comparative <i>Collapsology</i> Detecting Social Change in the Archaeological Record	Cunningham and Driessen 2021 Faulseit 2016 Riede and Sheets 2020
13	Oct 24	Archaeology of Collapse II <i>Case Studies</i> from Europe, Mesoamerica, India, East Asia, Near East	Middleton 2017 Middleton 2020 Schwartz and Nichols 2010

			Wilt et al. 2013
	Oct 25-Nov 3	Fall Break	
14	Nov 5	Archaeology of the 20th and 21st centuries I What is <i>Contemporary Archaeology</i> ? Archaeology of the Spanish Civil War Archaeology of WWI & WWII	Graves-Brown et al. 2013 Harrison and Scholfield 2010 Gonzalez-Ruibal 2024
15	Nov 7	Archaeology of the 20th and 21st centuries II <i>The Tucson Garbage Project</i> <i>The Van Project</i> Archaeology of the <i>Occupy</i> Movement Archaeology of the Refugees in the Aegean Sea	Martin 2023 McGuire 2020 Myers 2011 Rathje and Murphy 1992
	Nov 12-15	Field Study Peloponnese	
16	Nov 19	Archaeology and Colonialism History of Archaeology and Archaeology as a Tool for Colonialism Colonial Archaeological Practice and Looted and Stolen Artifacts in Western Museums Digital Cultural Heritage and Colonialism Today	Cipolla and Hayes 2020 Diaz-Andreou 2007 Lyons and Papadopoulos 2002 Effros and Lai 2018
17	Nov 21	Archaeology and Decolonizing & Decentering the Discipline Decolonization and Decenterization Debate in Archaeological Theory <i>Decolonize the Syllabi!</i> Theory and Practice in Modern Archaeological Teaching Archaeology and the “Western Civilization” The Backlash: Archaeology, Classics, and the <i>Culture Wars</i>	Appiah 2016 Bruchac 2014 Butterfield 2020 Futo Kennedy et al. 2020 Mac Sweeney 2023
18	Nov 22 (Make-up class)	Archaeology and Nationalism Archaeology as A Nation-building Tool Archaeology, Nazism, & the 20 th century Fascism Archaeology and Contemporary Ethno-nationalists & White Supremacists: <i>Case studies</i> from Europe, America, Near East, and Asia	Chapoutot 2016 Diaz-Andreou 1996 Greenberg and Hamilakis 2022 Kohl and Fawcett 1995 Roche and Demetriou 2017
19	Nov 26	Archaeology and Ethics of Burial Excavations The Contribution of Burial Excavations to Our Understanding of the Human Past: A Global Introduction <i>Sorry for Disturbing You, Friend: Ethics of Digging Up Eternal Resting Grounds</i> <i>Case Studies</i> : Israel, United States, Europe	Alex 2018 Sandis 2014 Squires et al. 2020
	Nov 28-Dec 1	Thanksgiving Break	
20	Dec 3	Archaeology and Pseudoarchaeology The Origins of Pseudoarchaeology <i>Ancient Aliens, Hunting Atlantis and Ancient Apocalypse</i> Archaeology in the Age of Post-Truth: Social Media and the Spread of Conspiracy Theories Pseudoarchaeology and Racism	Card and Anderson 2016 Dibble 2022 Fagan 2006 Holtorf 2005
21	Dec 5	Archaeology and Popular Culture <i>You are Digging the Dinosaurs, Right?</i> Cargo Pants and Fedoras: Public Perception of Archaeology and the Archaeologist Archaeology in Computer Games and Movies Are Archaeology and Ancient Studies Still Relevant in the Modern World?	Cipolla et al. 2023 Moshenska 2017 Moshenska 2024 Reinhard 2018
22	Dec 6	Archaeology and Student Presentations	

	(Make-up class)	<i>Case Studies on Course Themes</i>	
23	Dec 10	Archaeology and Student Presentations <i>Case Studies on Course Themes</i>	
24	Dec 12	Archaeology and Student Presentations <i>Case Studies on Course Themes</i>	
	Dec 19	Final Paper Due, 5 PM	

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