

## **ARCH 416 | Archaeological drawing Spring 2025**

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### **Course Description**

One of the most important aspects of archaeological work, both in terms of fieldwork and in terms of the study of finds, is the proper documentation of all objects and material found. This, apart from thorough and systematic description and photography, includes the drawing of finds in a coherent and simple, but accurate and detailed, manner. This is done through archaeological drawing, a method of technical drawing that provides scholars with accurate drawings of objects, architectural members, and excavation sites, created following very precise conventions, that can greatly assist the documentation of all finds and of specific attributes necessary for their further study and preservation. Furthermore, it allows scholars to fully understand the form and nature of objects, leading to useful results in the field of artifact studies.

Drawings have been used by antiquarians and archaeologists since the early stages of the development of archaeology as a science, due to the need for illustrations in publications, but also for the documentation of finds in an era when photography was not as available as today. Since then archaeological drawing has developed into a highly technical craftsmanship, moving away from artwork and towards digital methods and files that can also be used by other modern archaeology resources. Nevertheless, the basis of archaeological drawing remains the use of analogic measurements and instruments and the subsequent digitization of the results, whereas in various specific forms of finds pencil and ink remains a necessary tool for archaeologists. This is precisely the field this course aims at dealing with.

### **Course Approach**

The aim of this hands-on course is to introduce students to the practicalities of archaeological drawing through explaining its principles and methods and through practicing on different types of material (pottery, small finds, lithic tools), including architecture and excavation in the field. Students are invited to understand why and how drawings are made and to use their skills to create accurate analogical and digital drawings, each time evaluating the different approach required for different types of objects. A very important aspect of the course is to make students be able to execute all necessary drawings with the use of basic measuring instruments and to be able to tackle all different material that they might encounter in the field and in the laboratory. The general approach focuses basically on the practice with objects through which all necessary aspects of the course will be taught.

### **Learning Objectives**

Upon the successful completion of the course by the end of the semester, students will have gained the necessary knowledge and performed enough practice to be able to:

- Have a clear comprehension of the different types and methods of archaeological drawing, their use, role, and importance in archaeology.
- Draw all types of pottery (sherds, intact vessels, large vessels), small finds (tools, metal finds etc.) and lithic tools with accuracy and following all necessary scientific conventions.
- Draw architectural members and excavation trenches by using simple, easily available tools.
- Ink finds manually and digitally (through Adobe Illustrator).
- Use correctly different types of digital files that contain drawings and choose the best according to the needs of each excavation and research.

### **Course Requirements**

Due to the hands-on nature of the course, there will be a small reading list of manuals mostly related with practical guidelines and examples on archaeological drawing, as well as some online resources that students can consult. Publications of archaeological finds will be used, but only as examples of the different uses (and misuses) of archaeological drawing.

Drawing tools, measuring instruments, paper etc. will be available to the students by the CYA. Students who will want to purchase their own equipment will receive a basic list of all necessary items in order to create their own working kit. Concerning digital tools, these will basically consider Adobe Photoshop and Illustrator that will be available at the CYA's computers during the period of the course and especially during the weeks of practice on such software.

Most of the course will take place in the classroom, but some visits to archaeological sites in Athens (at the city centre) will be done in order to practice on the drawing of field and architectural members drawing. These visits will take place towards the end of the course so sites will be open and there will be better weather and enough light to work.

The basic requirements of the course are as follows:

**a) Finds:** Using the skills taught in the course students will create drawings of various types of archaeological finds (pottery sherds, intact vessels, stone tools, small finds).

**b) Excavation and architecture:** Using the skills taught in the course students will create drawings of various excavation features and architectural members with the help of simple and analogic measuring instruments.

**c) Inking:** Using the skills taught in the course students will ink both manually and digitally specimens of the drawings they have already made in pencil.

**d) Understanding of objects and archaeological drawing:** Throughout the course students are required to understand why and how archaeological drawing takes place and to evaluate the correct method that has to be employed in each different find and situation, at the same time exercising their critical thinking about it.

**e) Exams and tests:** There will be no final exam at the end, but after each part of the course students will create a final drawing of a find and apply all knowledge and experience in it. These tests will be done throughout the semester according to the progress of the course, but they will roughly correspond to the last day of each thematic unit.

**f) Participation:** Active class participation will be essential and students will be partially evaluated by the frequency and quality of their questions and their participation in the in-class discussions.

## Class Field Work

The lessons related with the drawing of excavation and architecture will take place in actual archaeological sites of Athens (most preferably sites that are at a walking distance from the CYA).

## Evaluation and Grading

As noted above, this is a hands-on focused course and most of the work will be done in the classroom or in the field, with the thorough participation of the students and the execution of a series of drawing during the duration of the lessons that will be their basic assignments. These will include:

Assignment 1: 3 small diagnostic pieces of pottery.

Assignment 2: 2 pieces of decorated pottery.

Assignment 3: 2 intact vessels.

Assignment 4: 4 small objects.

Assignment 5: 1 stone tool.

Assignment 6: 1 architectural member.

Assignment 7: inking 2 of the drawings they have already produced manually.

Assignment 8: inking 2 of the drawings they have already produced digitally.

## Percentages

Your grade for this course will be based on the following distribution:

All assignments will count for 10 % of the overall grade, with an additional 20% added for participation.

The possibility of a small written essay is offered, that can replace two of the drawing assignments.

## Evaluation Criteria

Evaluation will be made through the ability of the students to comprehend and apply the guidelines for drawing the objects. Archaeological drawing is not based on artwork but on the application of purely technical measurements that can be taught and observed. The same stands for the manual and digital inking.

## CYA Regulations and Accommodations

### Attendance Policy

CYA regards attendance in class and on-site (in Athens or during field study trips) as essential. Absences are recorded and have consequences.

### Use of Laptops

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

## Class Schedule

Class Day	Topic / Readings / Assignments Due
1	<p><b>Introduction to archaeological drawing</b>  <i>Description</i>            This first introductory lesson will basically explain why and how we employ archaeological drawing. It will, through the visual presentation of various examples, explain the fundamental concepts and principle of archaeological drawing, the different forms it can take, the different styles and methods applied, and also give a brief history of archaeological drawing and its impact in modern archaeology. It will also discuss the application of reconstruction drawings in archaeology in relation to the basic illustration trends of each period.  <i>Suggested essay (optional)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Go through a major publication of archaeological material, describe, and evaluate the methods employed for illustrating objects and other finds.</li> </ul>
2	<p><b>Basic methodology</b>  <i>Description</i>            In this lesson we start the actual hands-on part of the course by focusing on the drawing of pottery. We begin by going through all necessary tools and familiarizing with them, as well as with the basic rules of material handling, and then begin the drawing of simple forms of pottery</p>
3	<p><b>Pottery drawing 1: simple forms</b>  <i>Description</i>            In this lesson we deal with the drawing of the basic and simple forms of pottery sherds: undecorated rims, handles and bases.</p>
4	<p><b>Pottery drawing 2: simple forms</b>  <i>Description</i>            Continuing the practice with simple pieces we started in the previous lesson.</p>
5	<p><b>Pottery drawing 3: decorated pottery sherds</b>  <i>Description</i>            Continuing the practice on small pieces of pottery by dealing with decorated pieces.</p>
6	<p><b>Pottery drawing 4: decorated vessels</b>  <i>Description</i>            Introduction to the drawing of intact vessels and practice with small intact vessels.</p>
7	<p><b>Pottery drawing 5: decorated vessels</b>  <i>Description</i>            Practice with small intact vessels and introduction to larger vessels and scale drawing.</p>
8	<p><b>Pottery drawing 6: large vessels</b>  <i>Description</i>            Drawing large vessels in scale.</p>
9	<p><b>Pottery drawing 7: large vessels</b>  <i>Description</i>            Drawing large vessels in scale.</p>
10	<p><b>Object drawing 1: Introduction</b>  <i>Description</i>            This lesson will be the introduction on how to draw small objects. The methodology and guidelines will be given and practice will begin.  <i>The lessons will not take place due to the tutor's programmed absence from the country. It will be made up at a time convenient for the course.</i></p>
11	<p><b>Object drawing 2: reliefs</b>  <i>Description</i>            Continuing the practice on object drawing and introducing the methods to draw reliefs.</p>
12	<p><b>Object drawing 3: statuettes and similar object</b>  <i>Description</i>            Continuing the practice on object drawing and introducing statuettes.</p>
13	<p><b>Object drawing 4: stone tools</b></p>

	<p><i>Description</i> An introduction of the methodology of drawing stone tools and similar finds. Practice on the first samples. <b>Venue: British Archaeological School labs to work with original lithic tools (TBC).</b></p>
14	<p><b>Object drawing 5: stone tools</b> <i>Description</i> Continuing the practice on drawing stone tools. <b>Venue: British Archaeological School labs to work with original lithic tools (TBC).</b></p>
15	<p><b>Excavation and architecture drawing 1: introduction</b> <i>Description</i> In this lesson we will go through the basic principles and methodology of executing excavation and architecture plans using the old techniques. We will familiarize with the tools and discuss what is to be drawn and why.</p>
16	<p><b>Excavation and architecture drawing 2: practice</b> <i>Description</i> This lesson will take us out in the open (weather permitting) to visit an archaeological site in the centre of Athens and to start practicing with the drawing of excavation and architecture.</p>
17	<p><b>Excavation and architecture drawing 3: practice</b> <i>Description</i> Continuation of the practice in excavation and architecture in an archaeological site.</p>
18	<p><b>Excavation and architecture drawing 4: practice</b> <i>Description</i> Continuation of the practice in excavation and architecture in an archaeological site.</p>
19	<p><b>Manual and digital inking 1: introduction</b> <i>Description</i> In this lesson we will discuss the methodology and purposes of the inking of finds, the different methods that can be applied and introduce the basic tools for manual and digital inking (Adobe Illustrator and AutoCAD).</p>
20	<p><b>Manual and digital inking 2: practice</b> <i>Description</i> Practice of inking finds by hand.</p>
21	<p><b>Manual and digital inking 3: practice</b> <i>Description</i> Practice of inking finds by hand.</p>
22	<p><b>Manual and digital inking 4: practice</b> <i>Description</i> Practice of inking finds digitally by using Adobe Illustrator.</p>
23	<p><b>Manual and digital inking 5: practice</b> <i>Description</i> Practice of inking finds digitally by using Adobe Illustrator.</p>
24	<p><b>Recap</b> <i>Description</i> This will be the final lesson of the season in which a summary of everything that has been done will be given. There will be questions, discussion, and a general evaluation of the course.</p>

*N.B.: The course schedule, in terms of subjects and readings, may be subject to change to benefit student learning and to keep up to date with current research.*

## **COURSE BIBLIOGRAPHY**

- Adkins, L., and Adkins, R. 1989. *Archaeological Illustration*, Cambridge Manuals in Archaeology.
- Griffiths, N., Jenner, A., and Wilson, C. 2007. *Drawing Archaeological Finds: A Handbook*, Archetype Books.
- Piggott, S. 1978. *Antiquity Depicted, Aspects of Archaeological Illustration*, London: Thames and Hudson
- Steiner, M. 2005. *Approaches to Archaeological Illustration: A Handbook*, Practical Handbooks in Archaeology No 18, Council for British Archaeology.

## **DIGITAL RESOURCES**

<https://www.wessexarch.co.uk/archaeological-services/artefact-publication-illustration>

[https://www.scran.ac.uk/packs/exhibitions/learning\\_materials/resources/main-text.pdf](https://www.scran.ac.uk/packs/exhibitions/learning_materials/resources/main-text.pdf)

<https://www.digitScotland.com/drawing-on-the-past-why-do-we-need-illustrations-in-archaeology/>

[https://www.archaeologists.net/sites/default/files/CIfA-A5%20pottery%20paper\\_final\\_web.pdf](https://www.archaeologists.net/sites/default/files/CIfA-A5%20pottery%20paper_final_web.pdf)

<http://www.bajr.org/BAJRGuides/32.%20Archaeological%20Illustration%20-%20Small%20Finds/Guide32.pdf>