

ARCHAEOLOGY 101

Introduction to Archaeology

Course Info and Syllabus Brief 2007-08

<http://ddc.aub.edu.lb/arol101/>

Catalog Description

The world's archaeological resources are threatened and need rescue, protection and management. Archaeology studies this cultural heritage and rediscovers human experience from its origins to the present. What is the nature of archaeological evidence and how can it be saved?

Course Description

This course provides an introduction into the nature of cultural resources, including Lebanon's archaeological heritage. How past material remains together with their information can be retrieved depends on the quality of the context recording. Illicit digging for 'treasures' results in the destruction of sites, finds and contexts, and the illegal traffic in antiquities. Retrieving the past means telling its story and presenting it to the public. Recent successful excavations and presentations in Athens, London and elsewhere serve as models. The case study of Beirut will be used as a comparative example.

Course Objectives

The course is designed to present students with the nature of archaeological heritage and the problems of its preservation and public presentation. Students will learn how to look at archaeological sites and recognize their meaning. Their awareness of these cultural witnesses of people and their lives in the past will be increased, and their willingness to help in preserving these resources for the future will be tested on two visits to heritage sites in Beirut.

Course Expectations

- Students are expected to attend classes regularly and to participate in two 1/2 day excursions on 2 Saturdays of the semester. We shall visit two sites: the Beirut City Center and the National Museum of Lebanon or another museum in Beirut (see Course Outline and Syllabus for dates).
- A short oral or written report on an archaeological site or subject during the semester is optional.
- You are expected to gain information and some insight into the tasks and problems of managing archaeological heritage in the present.
- Course Handouts (see List in Course Outline) are obligatory reading material. Additional readings will be presented with each subject in class and in the Syllabus.

Attendance Policy

- Class sessions do not only present you with material. They should stimulate you to engage in discussions with your colleagues and the teacher about the subject of the particular class session and about your reading assignments (see List of Handouts in Course Outline). Therefore class sessions are essential and attendance is required.
- There is naturally room for a limited number of absences due to sickness or unavoidable other engagements. Students will be held responsible for the material or announcements made during the class session(s) s/he misses. If a large number of classes are missed, the student may be asked to drop the course. Exams should not be missed without a valid written excuse.

Evaluation System

- Students' work will be evaluated on the basis of her/his
- Attendance and participation in class and in the field trips (20-25 %),
 - One Midterm examination (30-35 %),
 - The Final examination (40-45 %).
 - * An optional class project or report (10-15 %)
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- Exams consist of two parts of equal value:
the identification of specific archaeological sites and artifacts (50 % of the grade),
and one essay question (50 % of the grade).
 - The Midterm will require you to have a general understanding of
what cultural heritage consists of, and what archaeologists do to retrieve,
record and analyze archaeological remains, illustrated by several test cases.
 - The Final Exam will include the material of the semester with emphasis on the post-midterm test cases.

COURSE SYLLABUS IN BRIEF

2007-2008 II

<http://ddc.aub.edu.lb/arol101/>

WEEKS 1-5: Cultural resources and archaeological context

Natural and cultural resources • Lebanon's Cultural Heritage and why it should be saved and protected • Archaeological Context information and the value of the past • Survey and excavation • The laws of archaeological stratigraphy • From excavation to presentation • Preparing for the site visits •

- ◆ **Handout 1:**
 - Cultural Resources & Archaeological Context
 - What do archaeologists do?
 - Who owns archaeological property?
 - The laws of archaeological stratification
 - Environmental or bioarchaeology

- ◆ **Handout 2:**
 - Excursions to the Beirut Central District (BCD)
 - Beirut: the pre- and post-war City Center
 - The Roman Baths
 - The '*Garden of Forgiveness*'
 - The Souks site: excavations, finds and their story
 - Models for presentation and integration of Archaeology in Lebanon
 - The National Museum and/or another Beirut museum

◆ March 15, 2008 (Saturday) • Excursion to a Beirut Museum and the Beirut CD
This date cannot be changed!

WEEKS 6–9: Preparation for site visits and models of presentation

The Museum of London in the City • Archaeology in the Athens Metropolitan subway (METRO) • The Parthenon marbles and Who owns archaeological property? • **Site visit handout**

- ◆ **Handout 3:**
 - BEIRUT: Case study Beirut – Model for Lebanon?
 - Ancient and medieval aromatherapy
 - Sacred Luxuries and the Byzantine Souk of Beirut
 - Models for presentation and themes for display

◆ March 27, 2008 (Thursday) • M I D T E R M • *This date cannot be changed!*

WEEKS 10–15: Beirut or ancient BERYTUS:

Archaeology and development in Downtown Beirut

Excavation and conservation of sites and their information • Leaving ruins *in situ* and/or 'excavating by record' • The site of the 3 churches & the '*Garden of Forgiveness*' • Integrating archaeology into the city: The '*Archaeological Trail*' • The Souks site: Byzantine shops in the Souks • Models for a 'Museum of Beirut'