

## **AROL 101 Introduction to Archaeology**

Course Instructor: Helga Seeden

### **1. Course Contents**

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 and understood 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 also means telling its story/ies and presenting them to the public. Successful excavations and presentations in Athens, London and elsewhere serve as models. Beirut provides a comparative case study.

### **2. General Instructional Objectives/Goals:**

After completing this course, students will have acquired some knowledge of world cultural resources and archaeological heritage in Lebanon. They will be familiar with the problems of heritage protection and public presentation. Their willingness to help preserving these resources for the future will be tested on visits to a variety of heritage sites and collections.

### **Specific Learning Outcomes**

- Awareness of cultural heritage by getting to know and evaluate sites and presentations
- Acquisition of basic information about what archaeologists do
- Ability to discuss, interpret and explain surviving aspects of the past in the present
- Familiarity with needs and options for cultural heritage management
- Appreciation of efforts to save and protect heritage

### **3. Suggested Readings**

*Berytus Archaeological Studies* (AUB archaeology journal since 1934).

Volumes 43 (1997-1998), 46 (2001-2) and 49 (2004-5) are entirely dedicated to the Beirut souks excavations.

Fisk R 1993 'The biggest supermarket in Lebanon. A journalist investigates the plundering of Lebanon's heritage.'  
*Berytus* 39 (1991): 243-52.

McManamon F P & Hatton A (eds) 2000 *Cultural Resource Management in Contemporary Society: Perspectives on Managing and Presenting the Past*. OWA 33. (London: Routledge). Chapter 14: 'Lebanon's archaeological heritage on trial in Beirut: What future for Beirut's past?'

Perring D 2010 *Archaeology in Conflict: Beirut*.

Special readings (HO) 1: Cultural resources, archaeological context and their retrieval

Special readings (HO) 2: Athens and Beirut – two case studies

Special readings (HO) 3: Beirut sites and museums

Special readings (HO) 4: Model Beirut? The pre- and post war city center sites, finds and their 'stories'

### **4. Grading Criteria**

Students' work will be evaluated on the basis of:

- Regular attendance and participation in class and in the field trips (20%)
- One midterm examination (25%),
- Class project (report or presentation) (15 %)
- The final examination (40%)

The site and museum visits are obligatory for all students

### **5. Course Policy**

Class sessions are essential and attendance is required. Students will be held responsible for the material discussed and any announcements made during the session(s) they miss. Repeated unexcused absences may lead to the student being dropped from the course. Makeup exams will only be given to students with a valid written excuse. For definitions of cheating and plagiarism as well as the consequences thereof see the AUB 'Student Code of Conduct' in the Student Handbook.

## 6. Course Syllabus

- Week 1: Natural & Cultural Resources**  
Tuesday Course expectations, policy and evaluation  
Thursday Natural and cultural resources  
• Readings: (Handout [=HO] 1) Cultural Resources & their natural contexts
- Week 2: Cultural Resources & Archaeological Context**  
Tuesday Why should archaeological heritage be saved, protected and managed?  
Thursday Lebanon's archaeological heritage (summary account)  
• Readings: (HO 1) UNESCO bylaws. Sample achievements.
- Week 3: Archaeological fieldwork brief**  
Tuesday Survey & excavation: mapping sites and 'digging up the past'  
Thursday The environmental dimension: Bioarchaeology  
• Readings: (HO 1) Laws of archaeological stratification  
Environmental or bioarchaeology
- Week 4: Case study Athens & the Olympic Games story**  
Tuesday Athens Metro excavations and 'The City beneath the City' exhibitions  
Thursday Station exhibits and the Acropolis Museum  
• Readings: (HO 2): Model Athens - Metro archaeology; Acropolis Museum and Parthenon marbles. Stampolidis 2000, Introduction
- Week 5: Lebanon's Cultural Heritage: What future for the country's past?**  
Tuesday Immobile and mobile remains and the threats they face  
Thursday Interpreting the past for possible meanings in the present  
• Readings: (HO 2) Standing buildings and excavated sites  
Fisk R 1993; McManamon ed. 2000 ch. 14
- Week 6: From Athens to Beirut – Reports/presentations**  
Tuesday Museum collections: the RMPM case  
Thursday National museums, city, site and local museums  
• Readings: (HO 3) The National Museum story. RMPMuseum HO & *National Museum Guide*
- |                  |                                |
|------------------|--------------------------------|
| <b>Saturday:</b> | Heritage on-site: experience 1 |
|------------------|--------------------------------|
- Week 7: Midterm exam and discussion**
- Week 8: Postwar reconstruction and archaeology**  
Tuesday Archaeology and development in the Beirut city center  
Thursday The pre- and postwar city and the archaeological dilemma  
• Readings: Perring 2010
- Week 9: Beirut and Archaeology in the City Center**  
Tuesday Excavation is controlled destruction  
Thursday Leaving ruins in situ and/or excavation 'by record'  
• Readings: (HO 3) Beirut Souks excavations
- Week 10: What remains? - Reports/presentations**  
Tuesday Ottoman and medieval buildings and other sources  
Thursday Roman and pre-roman remains  
• Readings: (HO 3) Recent and ancient sites
- Week 11: Integrating Archaeology into the City: a model idea**  
Tuesday Byzantine Shops, and 'The House of Fountains'  
Thursday Themes for display: 'Shopping in Byzantine Beirut'  
• Readings: (HO 4) The Beirut Souks proposal

Saturday: Heritage on-site: experience 2

Week 12: Model Beirut?

Tuesday Film: 'Beirut – The Ruins Talk'

Thursday The 'Archaeological Trail' and signage: the virtual archaeology option?

- Readings: (HO 4) Case study Beirut: Model for Lebanon?

Week 13: Interactive and Traditional Presentations

Tuesday Students presenting their experience

Thursday Class discussion

- Readings: (HO 4) Sacred Luxuries: Ancient and medieval aromatherapy

Week 14: Archaeology and the Public

Tuesday The Museum of Lebanese Prehistory at USJ – Reports/presentations

Thursday The Soap Museum of Saida: a success story – Reports/presentations

- Readings: (HO 4) Ancient souks and shops in Byzantine Beirut

Week 15: Model for a Museum of Beirut?

Tuesday Proposal for a 'Museum of Beirut'

Thursday Discussion of options presented

Week 16: Regional and External Experiences

Comparisons and feasibility discussions

Review

## General References

AUB website *Beirut Urban Archaeology '94*, and the *Paths of History* (the Map of the Archaeological or Heritage Trail in the Beirut City Center).

*BAAL (Bulletin de l'Archéologie et d'Architecture Libanaises)*. Journal of the Directorate General of Antiquities (DGA). It contains preliminary reports of excavations in Beirut and Lebanon.

Cumberpatch C G 1997 Archaeology in the Beirut Central District: some notes and observations. *Berytus* 42 (1995-1996), 157-72.

Davie Michael F 1989 Maps and the Historical Topography of Beirut. *Berytus* 35 (1987): 141-64.

Debbas F 1986 <sup>2</sup> *Beirut Our Memory. A Guided Tour Illustrated with Picture Postcards*. Beirut: César Debbas.

Gavin A & Maluf R 1996 *Beirut Reborn. The Restoration and Development of the Central District*. London: Academy Editions.

*National Museum News* published by the National Museum and The Lebanese Friends of the National Museum; contains archaeological reports and museum news.

Seeden H 1990 'Search for the Missing Link: Archaeology and the Public in Lebanon'. In *Politics and the Past*. OWA 12. London: Unwin Hyman, 141-59.

Stampolidis N et al. 2000

*The City beneath the City. Finds from Excavations for the Metropolitan Railway of Athens: Exhibition catalogue*. Greek Ministry of Culture, Goulandris Museum, Museum of Cycladic Art.

## 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 %)
- 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

<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

### 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?

- ◆ **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 17, 2007 (Saturday) • Excursion to a museum in Beirut and the Beirut CD

◆ March 22, 2007 (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 'excavation 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'

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Thursday Discussion of options & REVIEW

Reading Week, followed by exams

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