AROL 211
Methodology
Fall Semester 2009-2010

The course serves as an introduction to archaeological techniques and methods. By attending the course students will be familiarized with the current approaches, derived from the humanities as well as from the natural sciences, used by archaeologists to locate, excavate, date and interpret archaeological sites, artefacts, and ecofacts. The potentials and limitations of these techniques for interpreting past societies are emphasized.

Suggested readings

Required readings are listed in the syllabus under the respective topics. Copies of the readings will either be put on reserve or will be available online.

Main Texts
Renfrew, C. and Bahn, P.
2008 Archaeology. Theories, Methods and Practice 5th ed. New York: Thames & Hudson

Rokkams, S.

Other Readings

Banning, E. B.

Gophna, R. and Portugali, J.
1988 Settlement and Demographic Processes in Israel's Coastal Plain from the Chalcolithic to the Middle Bronze Age, Bulletin of the American Schools of Oriental Research, No. 269, pp. 11-28.

Harris, E. C.

Orton, C., Tyers, P., and Vince, A.
1993 Pottery in Archaeology. Cambridge Manuals in Archaeology; Cambridge.

Peacock, D.P.S

Rice, P.
Conduct and Attendance

Attendance is mandatory. Unexcused absences will have a negative effect on the final course grade (see grading criteria). Excessive tardiness will be regarded as an unexcused absence. All students are expected to be familiar with the AUB student code of conduct.

Grading criteria

Grades in the course will be calculated based on:

- regular attendance and active participation during the class (10%)
- the midterm examination (40%) or
- the midterm examination (20%) and a class presentation on a methodological topic (20%)
- the final examination (50%).

Course Syllabus

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<th>Week 1</th>
<th>Lecture Topics</th>
<th>Reading assignments</th>
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<td>Mo 05.10.09: Introduction: Aims of the course</td>
<td>Required:</td>
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<td>Fr 09.10.09 The development of archaeology as a scientific discipline: from the 1960’s to the present. Processualism/Post-Processualism</td>
<td>Renfrew/Bahn 2008, chapter 1</td>
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<td>Week 2</td>
<td>Mo 12.10.09: Practicalities and problems in Archaeology. Example: Archaeology in Lebanon</td>
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<td>We 14.10.09: Landscape Archaeology: Understanding the ancient landscape. Types of archaeological sites.</td>
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<td>Fr 16.10.09: Finding sites: survey methods</td>
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<td>Week 3</td>
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| Week 8 | Mo 23.11.09: Ceramic Analysis: Typology/Stylistic analysis  
We 25.11.09: Ceramic Analysis: Ware Analysis/Ceramic Petrography  
Fr 27.11.09: Ceramic analysis: (cont) The utility of ceramics for understanding past societies | Required: Rice 2005, chapters 7  
Recommended: Chapter 8, read sections 8.1 and 8.2 (skim rest of chapter) pp. 274-288 pp. 413-426 |
| Week 9 | Mo 30.11.09: NO CLASS Al-Adha Holiday  
We 02.12.09: Applications of natural sciences on excavations: Environmental Archaeology  
Fr 04.12.09: Applications of natural sciences on excavations (continued): Zooarchaeology/Paleobotany | Required: Renfrew/Bahn 2008, chapters 6 and 7 |
| Week 10 | Mo 07.12.09: Applications of natural sciences on excavations (continued): Bioarchaeology  
We 09.12.09: Interpreting artefacts: function  
Fr 11.12.09: Interpreting artefacts: function (continued) | Required: Renfrew/Bahn 2008, Chapter 11  
Renfrew/Bahn 2008, pp. 329-333 |
| Week 11 | Mo 14.12.09: Interpreting artefacts: manufacture and technology  
We 16.12.09: Interpreting artefacts: manufacture and technology (continued)-  
Fr 18.12.09: NO CLASS Hijra Holiday | Required: Renfrew/Bahn 2008, chapter 8 |
| Week 12 | Mo 21.12.09: Interpreting artefacts: distribution and contextual information  
We 23.12.09: Interpreting artefacts: Modes of Production (continued) CHRISTMAS VACATION BEGINS 10:00 pm | Required: Rice 2005 Chapter 6, read sections 6.2-6.5  
Recommended: Peacock 1982 chapter 2 and 3 (Skim) |
| Week 13 | CHRISTMAS VACATION |
| Week 14 | Mo 04.01.10: Interpreting past societies: introduction  
We 06.01.10: NO CLASS Armenian Christmas.  
Fr 08.01.10: Interpreting past societies: models of explanation | Required: Renfrew/Bahn 2008, chapter 12 |
| Week 15 | Mo 11.01.10: Theoretical approaches  
We 13.01.10: Ethnoarchaeology  
Fr 15.01.10: Economic Archaeology: introduction | Required: Renfrew/Bahn 2008, pp.190-199  
Renfrew/Bahn 2008, chapter 9 |
| Week 16 | Mo 18.01.10: Economic archaeology: Ancient Economies  
We 20.01.10: Economic archaeology: Trade  
Fr 22.01.10: Population Demography: Population estimates | Required: Gophna/Portugal 1988 |