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Nicely Hall, Room 208

Office hours: Monday, 10:30am-12:00pm; Wednesday, 1:00pm-2:30pm; or by appointment

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

Roskams, S.

2001 *Excavation*. New York : Cambridge University Press

Other Readings

Banning, E. B.

2002 *Archaeological Survey (New York)*.

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.

1997 *Principles of Archaeological Stratigraphy*. 3rd edition; London: Academic Press.

Orton, C., Tyers, P., and Vince, A.

1993 *Pottery in Archaeology*. Cambridge Manuals in Archaeology; Cambridge.

Peacock, D.P.S

1982 *Pottery in the Roman World: an ethnoarchaeological approach*. London; New York: Longman

Rice, P.

2005 *Pottery Analysis: A Sourcebook*, by University of Chicago Press.

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

	Lecture Topics	Reading assignments
Week 1	Mo 05.10.09: Introduction: Aims of the course We 07.10.09: What is archaeology? Organization and aims of the discipline and its development. Fr 09.10.09 The development of archaeology as a scientific discipline: from the 1960's to the present. Processualism/Post-Processualism	<i>Required:</i> Renfrew/Bahn 2008, introduction Renfrew/Bahn 2008, chapter 1
Week 2	Mo 12.10.09: Practicalities and problems in Archaeology. Example: Archaeology in Lebanon We 14.10.09: Landscape Archaeology: Understanding the ancient landscape. Types of archaeological sites. Fr 16.10.09: Finding sites: survey methods	<i>Required:</i> Renfrew/Bahn 2008, pp. 73-106 Renfrew/Bahn 2008, pp. 177-184 <i>Recommended:</i> Renfrew/Bahn 2008, chapter 2 Banning 2002, chapter II
Week 3	Mo 19.10.09: Excavation: methods and techniques We 21.10.09: Excavation: methods and techniques (continued) Fr 23.10.09: Excavation: methods and techniques (continued)	<i>Required:</i> Renfrew/Bahn 2008, pp. 107-120 Roskams 2001, chapter 2
Week 4	Mo 26.10.09: Understanding a site: stratigraphy We 28.10.09: Understanding a site: stratigraphy (continued) Fr 30.10.09: The Harris matrix, Recording stratigraphy and architecture on excavations	<i>Required:</i> Roskams 2001, chapters 9 and 13 <i>Recommended:</i> Harris 1997, chapter 12
Week 5	Mo 02.11.09: Dating methods: introduction We 04.11.09 Dating methods: relative chronology Fr 06.11.09 Dating methods: relative chronology (continued)	<i>Required:</i> Renfrew/Bahn 2008, chapter 4
Week 6	Mo 09.11.09: Dating methods: absolute chronology: Historical Data We 11.11.09: Dating methods: absolute chronology: Chemical methods Fr 13.11.09: The finds: recording, documenting and Processing finds on the excavation	<i>Required:</i> Roskams 2001, chapter 8
Week 7	Mo 16.11.09 The finds: recording, documenting and Processing finds on the excavation We 18.11.09: Ceramic Analysis: introduction Fr 20.11.09: Midterm examination	

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	<i>Required:</i> Rice 2005, chapters 7 <i>Recommended:</i> 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	<i>Required:</i> 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)	<i>Required:</i> 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	<i>Required:</i> 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	<i>Required:</i> Rice 2005 Chapter 6, read sections 6.2-6.5 <i>Recommended:</i> 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	<i>Required:</i> 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	<i>Required:</i> 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	<i>Required:</i> Gophna/Portugal 1988