AROL 211
Methodology
Fall Semester 2009-2010

1. Course learning outcomes

The course serves as an introduction to archaeological techniques and methods. By attending the course students will get a solid knowledge about the different techniques, derived from the humanities as well as from the natural sciences, which are used by archaeologists to locate, excavate, date and interpret archaeological sites and artifacts. The potentials as well as the limitations of interpreting past societies are outlined.

Specific Learning Outcomes:

Students will be able to:

- Learn how to read and interpret scientific texts
- Identify and list the main archaeological methods available for the study of past human societies
- Assess the value and contribution of each method for the study of human societies

2. Suggested readings

Banning, E. B.

Harris, E. C.

Joukowsky, M.
1980 A Complete Manual of Field Archaeology (Englewood Cliffs)

Orton, C./Tyers, P./Vince, A.
1993 Pottery in Archaeology (Cambridge Manuals in Archaeology; Cambridge)

Renfrew, C./Bahn, P.
1991 Archaeology. Theories, Methods and Practice (London).

The relevant chapters and the powerpoint presentations will be placed on Moodle.

3. Grading criteria

Grades in the course will be calculated based on:

- regular attendance and active participation during the class (10%)
- the midterm examination (40%)
- the final examination (50%).

A visit to the National Museum in Beirut on a Saturday morning (date to be announced) is obligatory for all students.
4. Course policy

Students are expected to be on time for class. Latecomers will be counted as absent. Class attendance is required and repeated absence may lead to dropping a student from the course. Make-up exams will only be given to students with a valid excuse. For definitions of cheating and plagiarism as well as the consequences for such see the AUB “Student Code of Conduct” in the Student Handbook (79-94).
### 5. Course Syllabus

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Topics of the class</th>
<th>Reading assignments</th>
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| 1    | Tu 06.10.09: Introduction: Aims of the course  
Th 08.10.09: The development of archaeology as a scientific discipline: from the beginnings to the 1960ies |  |
| 2    | Tu 13.10.09: The development of archaeology as a scientific discipline: from the 1960ies to the present  
Th 15.10.09: Types of archaeological sites | Renfrew/Bahn 1991, chapter 2  
Renfrew/Bahn 1991, chapter 3  
Banning 2002, chapter II |
| 3    | Tu 20.10.09: Finding sites: survey methods  
Th 22.10.09: Excavations: methods and techniques (introduction) | Renfrew/Bahn 1991, pp. 90-100;  
Joukowsky 1980, chapter 8 |
| 4    | Tu 27.10.09: Excavations: Tell Fadous-Kfarabida as a case study  
Th 29.10.09: Understanding a tell: stratigraphy |  |
| 5    | Tu 03.11.09: The Harris matrix  
Th 05.11.09: The finds: recording and documenting finds on the excavation | Harris 1997, chapter 12  
Joukowsky 1980, chapter 12 |
| 6    | Tu 10.11.09: The finds: processing the finds after excavation  
Th 12.11.09: Applications of natural sciences on excavation |  |
| 7    | Tu 17.11.09: Applications of natural sciences on excavations  
Th 19.11.09: Midterm examination |  |
| 8    | Tu 24.11.09: The concept of typology  
| 9    | Tu 01.12.09: Dating methods: relative chronology  
Th 03.12.09: Dating methods: relative chronology (continued) | Renfrew/Bahn 1991, chapter 4 |
| 10   | Tu 08.12.09: Dating methods: absolute chronology: introduction  
Th 10.12.09: Dating methods: historical data |  |
| 11   | Tu 15.12.09: Interpreting artefacts: function  
Th 17.12.09: Interpreting artefacts: technology | Orton/Tyers/Vince 1993, chapter 17 |
| 12   | Tu 22.12.09: Interpreting artefacts: technology | Renfrew/Bahn 1991, chapter 8 |
| 13   | Tu 05.01.10: Interpreting artefacts: distribution  
Th 07.01.10: Interpreting artefacts: distribution (continued) | Renfrew/Bahn 1991, chapter 9 |
| 14   | Tu 12.01.10: Interpreting past societies: introduction  
Th 14.01.10: Interpreting past societies: models of explanation | Renfrew/Bahn 1991, chapters 10 and 12 |
| 15   | Tu 19.01.10: Ethnoarchaeology  
Th 21.01.10: Archaeology in Lebanon: Problems and potentials |  |