

Dr. Hermann Genz

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College Hall, Room 447

Office hours: Wednesday, 2:00-3:30; Thursday 2:00-3:30

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.

2002 Archaeological Survey (New York).

Harris, E. C.

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

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

	Topics of the class	Reading assignments
Week 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	
Week 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
Week 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
Week 4	Tu 27.10.09: Excavations: Tell Fadous-Kfarabida as a case study Th 29.10.09: Understanding a tell: stratigraphy	Joukowsky 1980, chapter 7
Week 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
Week 6	Tu 10.11.09: The finds: processing the finds after excavation Th 12.11.09: Applications of natural sciences on excavation	
Week 7	Tu 17.11.09: Applications of natural sciences on excavations Th 19.11.09: Midterm examination	
Week 8	Tu 24.11.09: The concept of typology Th 26.11.09: The concept of typology (continued)	Renfrew/Bahn 1991, pp. 104-108
Week 9	Tu 01.12.09: Dating methods: relative chronology Th 03.12.09: Dating methods: relative chronology (continued)	Renfrew/Bahn 1991, chapter 4
Week 10	Tu 08.12.09: Dating methods: absolute chronology: introduction Th 10.12.09: Dating methods: historical data	
Week 11	Tu 15.12.09: Dating methods: the natural sciences Th 17.12.09: Interpreting artefacts: function	Orton/Tyers/Vince 1993, chapter 17
Week 12	Tu 22.12.09: Interpreting artefacts: technology	Renfrew/Bahn 1991, chapter 8
Week 13	Tu 05.01.10: Interpreting artefacts: distribution Th 07.01.10: Interpreting artefacts: distribution (continued)	Renfrew/Bahn 1991, chapter 9
Week 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
Week 15	Tu 19.01.10: Ethnoarchaeology Th 21.01.10: Archaeology in Lebanon: Problems and potentials	