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College Hall, Room 447

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

AROL 212
Methodology II: Interpretations in Archaeology
Spring Semester 2010

The course serves as an introduction to archaeological interpretation. By attending the course students will get a solid knowledge on the different methods of archaeological interpretations, especially regarding the ways how ancient societies were organized, what technological means were available in the past, and how people may have thought about themselves and their environment. The potentials as well as the limitations of interpreting past societies are outlined. Lastly the role of archaeology and heritage management in current societies will be discussed.

Specific Learning Outcomes:

Students will be able to:

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

2. Suggested readings

Renfrew, C./Bahn, P.

1991 Archaeology. Theories, Methods and Practice (London).

Scans of all relevant chapters 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 is obligatory for all students (date to be announced in class).

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.

5. Course Syllabus

	Topic of the session	Reading assignments
Week 1	Mo 15.02.10: Introduction: Aims of the course We 17.02.10: The development of archaeology Fr 19.02.10: The development of archaeology	Renfrew/Bahn 1991, Introduction
Week 2	Mo 22.02.10: The methods of archaeology We 24.02.10: The methods of archaeology	Renfrew/Bahn 1991, chapter 3.
Week 3	Mo 01.03.10: Case study I: Tell Fadous-Kfarabida (Lebanon) We 03.03.10: Case study II: Boğazköy/Hattusha (Turkey) Fr 05.03.10: How were societies organized? Introduction	Renfrew/Bahn 1991, chapter 5
Week 4	Mo 08.03.10: How were societies organized? The Evidence of settlements We 10.03.10: How were societies organized? The Evidence of settlements (continued) Fr 12.03.10: How were societies organized? The evidence of burials	
Week 5	Mo 15.03.10: How were societies organized? The evidence of burials (continued) We 17.03.10: : Stratified societies Fr 19.03.10: Evidence of complexity: markers and seals	
Week 6	Mo 22.03.10: Evidence of complexity: writing We 24.03.10: Technology: Introduction Fr 26.03.10: Technology (wood and stone)	Renfrew/Bahn 1991, chapter 8
Week 7	Mo 29.03.10: Technology (pottery) We 31.03.10: Technology (metallurgy)	
Week 8	We 07.04.10: Technology: metallurgy (continued) Fr 09.04.10: Experimental archaeology	
Week 9	Mo 12.04.10: no class We 14.04.10: Midterm examination Fr 16.04.10: no class	
Week 10	Mo 19.04.10: Economic systems We 21.04.10: Economic systems Fr 23.04.10: Economic systems	
Week 11	Mo 26.04.10: Trade and exchange: the nature of the evidence We 28.04.10: Trade and exchange: the nature of the evidence Fr 30.04.10: Trade and exchange: the contribution of the natural sciences	Renfrew/Bahn 1991, chapter 9
Week 12	Mo 03.05.10: Trade and exchange: Trade models We 05.05.10: Trade and exchange: the Ulu Burun shipwreck as a case study Fr. 07.05.10: What did people think in the past? Cognitive archaeology	Renfrew/Bahn 1991, chapter 10
Week 13	Mo 10.05.10: Cognitive archaeology: interpretation of symbols and art We 12.05.10: The archaeology of religion: figurines and offerings Fr. 14.05.10: The archaeology of religion: identifying temples	
Week 14	Mo 17.05.10: Why do things change? We 19.05.10: Why do things change? Fr 21.05.10: Why do things change?	Renfrew/Bahn 1991, chapter 12
Week 15	Mo 24.05.10: Archaeology and the public We 26.05.10: Do we need the past? Fr. 28.05.10: Revision	Renfrew/Bahn 1991, chapter 14

