SAMPLE COURSES

MSCU 201
Coastal and Marine Environments: Introductory Course
Coastal environments and coastal systems provide a basis to explore human interaction with the sea in antiquity. This course explores how archaeologists go about investigating and recording these past activities.

MSCU 202
Marine Techniques, Prospecting, and Mapping
From echo sounders to bathymetry and photogrammetry, this course explores the variety of techniques and technologies that are used to investigate and document the seabed.

MSCU 203
Summer Fieldwork Course
The field school, during which students will undertake fieldwork in the Mediterranean Sea, offers a range of experiences, from coastal survey and the deployment and analysis of remote sensing geophysical techniques and data, through to diver survey and documentation of archaeological remains on the seabed.
FOR THE FIRST TIME IN THE MIDDLE EAST, the American University of Beirut (AUB) is offering a Minor in Marine Sciences and Culture, sponsored by the London-based maritime-archaeological charity, the Honor Frost Foundation. Housed at AUB’s Department of History and Archaeology, and in collaboration with the Departments of Biology and Geology, this Minor will raise awareness of the unique coastal heritage of Lebanon.

Requirements: 15 credits including MSCU 201, MSCU 202, and MSCU 203, as well as two elective courses chosen from the Departments of History and Archaeology, Geology, or Biology.

The Lebanese coast is rich in maritime cultural heritage, both on shore and underwater, with many diverse sites, some exposed and others still to be fully documented.

The Minor in Marine Sciences and Culture focuses on the coastal remains of the past in the Mediterranean. Via the interdisciplinary nature of the Minor, students will gain a deep understanding of the maritime history and evolution of the eastern Mediterranean, with particular focus on the coast of Lebanon.

CURRICULUM

The undergraduate Minor in Marine Sciences and Culture begins with a course on Coastal and Marine Environments, giving context to both the sea and its coastal environments, as well as to maritime archaeology, maritime cultural landscapes, and the maritime archaeological sites of Lebanon. Then follows a study of marine geophysical techniques, the principles of prospecting, mapping and ground-truthing for underwater sites, and the study of a series of marine geo-archaeological case studies demonstrating palaeolandscape evolution and the processes of identifying ancient shipwreck site formation. The Minor culminates in an intensive summer school at one of the key underwater archaeological sites of Lebanon, enabling students to acquire a deeper knowledge of marine remote-sensing techniques, surveying and archaeological site-mapping and monitoring, both on and under the water.

A Unique HFF-AUB Collaboration

This Minor will be jointly led by Professors at the Departments of History and Archaeology, Geology, and Biology at AUB, in collaboration with visiting Professors from the Laboratory of Marine Geology and Physical Oceanography of the Geology Department at the University of Patras, and staff from the Honor Frost Foundation, together with additional external visiting experts.

What Can This Minor Do for You?

Students who have successfully completed this Minor will be able to pursue further education in the fields of Archaeology, Geology, Oceanography, and History, as well as apply to courses in maritime archaeology, marine geology, and ocean engineering.