ARCLG222: THEMES IN URBAN ARCHAEOLOGY

COURSE HANDBOOK: 30 credits (2012-2013)

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UCL INSTITUTE OF ARCHAEOLOGY
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INTRODUCTION

This is the course handbook for ARCGL222 Themes in Urban Archaeology. It outlines the aims and objectives, structure and content of the course. It is also available on the Institute web-site.

This Handbook should be used alongside the MA/MSc Handbook (also available on the Institute web-site), which contains information about all MA and MSc degrees, and options within them, being taught this year. The MA/MSc Handbook gives essential information on a range of topics, from enrolment to guidance on the dissertation, so students should ensure that they read it carefully. Distributed along with the MA/MSc Handbook are maps of the College precinct and surrounding area of London, the complete MA/MSc teaching timetable and the list of Personal Tutors to MA and MSc students. Students should consult this list to find out who is to be their Personal Tutor for the year, and students should make contact with them soon after their arrival to arrange a meeting.

If students have queries about the organisation, objectives, structure, content or assessment of the course, they should consult the Course Co-ordinator.

AIMS, OBJECTIVES AND OUTCOMES OF THE COURSE

Background

The course will cover approaches to the archaeology of urbanism, from its genesis to the medieval period. Emphasis will be on important theoretical issues, including identities and institutions; cities and empires; the architecture of power; town planning and urban morphology; urban economies; and the relevance of urban archaeology to 21st century communities.

Aims

- Provide a detailed introduction to theories of urbanism.
- Appreciate the significance of the urbanism in the development of human society, from its genesis to the medieval period.
- Consider, in thematic and synthetic ways, major issues of human society in urban centres, including identities and institutions; cities and empire; the architecture of power; town planning and urban morphology; urban economies.

Objectives

On successful completion of this course a student should:

- Have a sound grasp of theories of urbanism.
- Appreciate the importance of critical approaches to archaeological and textual sources within the context of urban archaeology.
- Be able to organize and conduct research in urban archaeology

Learning outcomes

By the end of the course students should be able to demonstrate:

- Understanding and critical awareness of a range of primary and secondary sources.
- Written and oral skills in analysis and presentation.
• Appreciation of, and ability to apply, methods and theories of archaeological and historical analysis.

PROGRAMME STRUCTURE

Teaching schedule

This course is timetabled in the first two terms, although assessed work is scheduled for submission in the third term.

The course is taught through lectures and seminars. In addition, at a number of fieldtrips will be arranged to give students greater familiarity with the methods and techniques covered in the course.

Seminars have weekly recommended reading, which students will be expected to have done, to be able fully to follow and to actively contribute to discussion.

*Lectures* will be held on Mondays: 2.00-4.00pm in Room 410 (Institute of Archaeology).

*Seminars and discussion sessions* will take place on Thursdays in Room 209 (Institute of Archaeology), 4.00-6.00pm.

You will be asked to prepare one seminar discussion during each term. Further details will be announced.

*Site visits* will be undertaken during terms, depending upon the availability of suitable excavations, etc. The arrangements for these will be discussed with the class.

Except in the case of illness, the 70% *minimum attendance requirement* applies to lectures and seminars on the course. Field trips are optional.

Workload

There will be 80 hours of seminars and lectures, as well as site visits. Students will be expected to undertake background reading for the course, plus preparing for and producing assessed work.

Prerequisites

This course does not have any prerequisites.
WEEK-BY-WEEK SUMMARY

Students should check their e-mail frequently as any changes to arrangements and other messages will be communicated by this means.

White = Lecture
Green = Student presentations
Blue = Discussions
Orange = Case studies

Contributors (UCL, Institute of Archaeology unless otherwise indicated)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contributor</th>
<th>Title and Institution</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AR</td>
<td>Prof. Andrew Reynolds</td>
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<tr>
<td>CR</td>
<td>Dr Corinna Riva</td>
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<td>DF</td>
<td>Dr Dorian Fuller</td>
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<td>DP</td>
<td>Dr Dominic Perring</td>
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<td>EG</td>
<td>Prof. Elizabeth Graham</td>
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<td>JB</td>
<td>Prof. John Bintliff</td>
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<td>JS</td>
<td>Dr Julia Shaw</td>
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<td>HS</td>
<td>Hanna Steyne</td>
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<td>KM</td>
<td>Prof. Kevin MacDonald</td>
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<td>MA</td>
<td>Dr Mark Altaweel</td>
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<td>MP</td>
<td>Dr Martin Pitts</td>
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<td>NP</td>
<td>Natasha Powers</td>
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<td>Prof. Kevin MacDonald</td>
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<td>Prof. Todd Whitelaw</td>
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<td>Dr WANG, Tao</td>
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TERM I: 24th September - 14th December, 2012

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Approaches to urban archaeology (DP/TDW – 1/10)</td>
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<td>Definitions: describing cities (DP – 4/10)</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>New theories on urban origins: the Mesopotamian city (MA – 8/10)</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Complex Systems as Urban Systems (MA – 10/10)</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Rise and fall of Harappan Civilisation (DF – 15/10)</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>The Knossos Urban Landscape Project (TW – 18/10)</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Current research on the Greek polis (JB – 22/10)</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Urbanisation and Colonisation in the Mediterranean in the early first millennium BC (CR – 25/10)</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Buddhism and the development of the city in the sub-continent (JS – 29/10)</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>Urban archaeology in China (WT – 1/11)</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>Urbanisation and empire: the case-study of Rome (DP – 12/11)</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>Power, patronage and urban institutions (DP 15/11)</td>
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<td>Town planning (SM – 19/11)</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>Late-Saxon towns of Wessex (AR – 22/11)</td>
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<td>15</td>
<td>Navigating the Roman city: studies in urban transportation, connectivity, procession and movement (DP 26/11)</td>
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<td>16</td>
<td>The foundation of Rome (DP &amp; CR – 29/11)</td>
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<td>17</td>
<td>Feeding the town (MM 3/12)</td>
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<td>18</td>
<td>The topography and society of Roman Pompeii (6/12)</td>
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<td>19</td>
<td>The archaeology of urban households (DP – 10/12)</td>
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<td>20</td>
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TERM II: 7th January – 22nd March, 2013

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<tr>
<td>21. Town walls and the urban fortress (TDW – 7/1/13)</td>
<td>22. Public architecture in the ancient city (10/1)</td>
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<tr>
<td>23. The urban economy (DP – 14/1)</td>
<td>24. An archaeological biography of Roman and early medieval London (DP 17/1)</td>
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<td>25. Town and Country (DP – 21/1)</td>
<td>26. The port of London (28/1)</td>
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<td>27. The archaeology of suburbs (AR – 28/1)</td>
<td>28. Industry and production in London (31/1)</td>
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<td>29. The urban infrastructure (TDW – 25/12)</td>
<td>30. Urban populations as consumers (MP – 7/2)</td>
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<td>READING WEEK</td>
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<td>31. Populating the city (NP – 18/2)</td>
<td>32. Death and the city (DP - 21/2)</td>
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<td>33. Christianity and the city (DP - 4/2)</td>
<td>34. Green cities? Environment and urbanism in the humid neotropics (EG – 28/2)</td>
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<td>35. Continuity and Discontinuity (DP – 11/3)</td>
<td>36. Early Urbanism, Capitals and Semi-Autonomous Cities in Arid West Africa: the Middle Niger (KM - 7/3)</td>
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<tr>
<td>37. Identities and communities in the Islamic city (TDW – 4/3)</td>
<td>38. Changing and Changed Communities in 19th century cities (HS – 14/3)</td>
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<td>39. Urban archaeology and the contemporary city (TDW – 18/3)</td>
<td>40. Archaeology and conflict in the city (DP/TDW - 21/3)</td>
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ASSessment

Methods of assessment

The course is assessed by means of two pieces of coursework, each of 4,000 words: each piece contributes 50% to the final grade for this course unit.

The topics and deadlines for each assessment are specified below. If students are unclear about the nature of an assignment, they should contact the Course Co-ordinator. The Course Co-ordinator will be willing to discuss an outline of their approach to the assessment, provided this is planned suitably in advance of the submission date.

The course comprises 30 credits towards your total degree.

Submission

Students are required to submit hard copy of all coursework to the course co-ordinator’s pigeon hole via the Red Essay Box at Reception by the appropriate deadline. The coursework must be stapled to a completed blue coversheet (available from the web, from outside Room 411A or from the INST ARCH library).
Please note that new, stringent penalties for late submission were introduced UCL-wide from 2010-11. Late submission will be penalized in accordance with these regulations unless permission has been granted and an Extension Request Form (ERF) completed.

Date-stamping is via ‘Turnitin’ (see below), so in addition to submitting hard copy, students must also submit their work to Turnitin by midnight on the day of the deadline for each piece of work.

It is essential that students upload all parts of their coursework to Turnitin (ie including the bibliography and images). This ensures that a complete electronic copy of all work is available in case an essay goes astray. Please be assured that markers will not include these additional elements when checking word counts.

Students who encounter technical problems submitting their work to Turnitin should email the nature of the problem to ioa-turnitin@ucl.ac.uk in advance of the deadline in order that the Turnitin Advisers can notify the Course Co-ordinator that it may be appropriate to waive the late submission penalty.

If there is any other unexpected crisis on the submission day, students should telephone or (preferably) e-mail the Course Co-ordinator, and follow this up with a completed ERF.

The penalties for late submission without permission are outlined below:

- The full allocated mark will be reduced by 5 percentage points for the first working day after the deadline for the submission of the coursework or dissertation.
- The mark will be reduced by a further 10 percentage points if the coursework or dissertation is submitted during the following six calendar days.
- Providing the coursework is submitted by the last day of Term 3, but had not been submitted within seven days of the deadline for the submission of the coursework, it will be recorded as zero but the assessment will be considered to be complete.

Students should note that these regulations will in most cases result in failing this element and thus potentially failing the whole degree if a single item of assessed work is submitted more than 7 days late.

**Grading**

The grading system for coursework is set out in the MA/MSc Handbook. The mark given by the initial examiner (prior to return) is a provisional assessment for the student's guidance, and may be modified after assessment by the second internal examiner or by the External Examiner.

**Timescale for return of marked coursework to students**

You can expect to receive your marked work within four calendar weeks of the official submission deadline. If you do not receive your work within this period, or a written explanation from the marker, you should notify the INST ARCH’s Academic Administrator, Judy Medrington.

**Word-length**

Strict new regulations with regard to word-length were introduced UCL-wide with effect from the 2010-11 session. If your work is found to be between 10% and 20% longer than the official limit you mark will be reduced by 10%, subject to a minimum mark of a minimum
pass, assuming that the work merited a pass. If your work is more than 20% over-length, a mark of zero will be recorded.

The following should not be included in the word-count: bibliography, appendices, and tables, graphs and illustrations and their captions.

**Re-submission of coursework**

Students are not normally permitted to re-write and re-submit essays in order to try to improve their marks. However, in exceptional circumstances and with the approval of their Course Co-ordinator, they may if they wish, submit an additional piece of coursework (on a new topic) to substitute for the first piece of written coursework submitted for their course.

**Return of coursework**

All marked coursework must be returned to the Course Co-ordinator within two weeks of its return to students, so that it can be second-marked, and is available to the Board of Examiners. Because assessed work forms part of the student’s permanent academic record, it needs to be retained until well after the completion of the degree. If work is not returned to the Course Co-ordinator, the student will be deemed not to have completed the course. Students are strongly advised always to keep a copy of all work, and to make a copy for retention of all work after it has been assessed and commented upon by the first examiner, if they wish to make future reference to the comments on the work.
GENERAL INFORMATION & RESOURCES

All books in this general list are in UCL holdings: some in the main library (usually under History and Ancient History), some in the Bartlett, most in the Institute of Archaeology. Whilst most works cited in the detailed syllabus are also in UCL holdings, some listed under further reading may still be on order for the library (and/or are available on-line).

Please note that the bibliographies have been heavily weighted towards English language texts. Additional readings can be recommended for those students interested in pursuing the foreign language literature on the subject.

Basic introductory texts

There are no specific “text books” on urban archaeology. As a preliminary reading list, we would suggest some good general books are:


To explore a range of issues, perspectives and chronologies, try:


Of broader interest, and using urban archaeological data to develop a narrative:

On the **methodological/approaches** side, look at:


**Online resources**

**Moodle**

Access via [http://moodle.ucl.ac.uk/](http://moodle.ucl.ac.uk/)

The Moodle MAS pages are currently under development – more information as the course progresses.

**UCL World Archaeology Research Group**

[http://www.ucl.ac.uk/archaeology/research/world](http://www.ucl.ac.uk/archaeology/research/world)

The Institute of Archaeology is home to unparalleled global expertise, which builds upon over 70 years of agenda-setting activity. The Institute's World Archaeology section provides a vibrant and progressive teaching and research environment for social and cultural archaeological studies situated at the cutting edge of contemporary social science. As well as providing a forum for the cross-fertilization of ideas and collaborative activities between academic staff, post-doctoral scholars, research students, and an extensive honorary membership comprising scholars and professionals from around the globe, the World Archaeology section hosts an unmatched range of seminar series and conferences, and a steady stream of visiting scholars.

World-class scholars engage in research and outreach activity that seeks to address fundamental issues relating to the development of human societies. Archaeology is uniquely placed to investigate human behaviour in long-term perspective in its many guises, situations, periods and places, and the Institute of Archaeology is at the forefront of the contemporary development of the discipline. The World Archaeology section aims to consolidate its impact and breadth by attracting world-class teachers, researchers and students in its mission to place the long-term study of human societies at the forefront of social science.

Over 30 full-time academic staff in the section engage in field, network-based and individual research which contributes to many aspects of knowledge of the human past ranging from human origins, the development of empires, the uniqueness of local societies and the emergence of the modern world. Broad comparative approaches cover deep time and all subsequent periods and aspects of the human past. Research activity takes place across the globe, in the UK and mainland Europe, Africa, Central and South-west Asia, the Middle East, the Far East, Pacific, North, Central and South America and elsewhere.

Academic staff, post-doctoral scholars and research students are engaged in research clusters pursuing the understanding of topics of global significance including rural and urban sustainability, wellbeing, social organisation and developing perceptions of local, regional and global environments. Considerations of important issues of art, material culture, social landscapes, literacy and social theory are addressed in order to provide critical understandings of pattern and process in human cultures in long-term perspective.
DETAILED SYLLABUS

The following is an outline for the course as a whole, and identifies essential and supplementary readings relevant to each session. Information is provided as to where in the UCL library system individual readings are available (Institute of Archaeology library unless otherwise stated); their location and Teaching Collection (TC) number, and status (whether out on loan) can also be accessed on the eUCLid computer catalogue system. Copies of individual articles and chapters identified as essential reading are in the Teaching Collection in the Institute Library (where permitted by copyright).

Supplementary reading is intended as wider guidance on the topic, if you become interested in it, use it for essays or dissertations, or after you leave the Institute. You are not expected to read all of this, but personal initiative is expected to supplement the essential reading. Where seminar topics follow on from the preceding week’s lecture additional reading suggestions do not appear. Where they explore a different issue, additional suggested reading may be listed.

TERM I

Session 1 (lecture): Approaches to urban archaeology (Dominic Perring & Tim Williams)

Synopsis: This session sets boundaries to the subject of our study, asking the key question: what do we mean by urban archaeology? Is it a subject of academic study, or an area of professional practice? And what is the relationship between archaeological study of the city and other fields of urban study (involving geographers, historians, sociologists, architects, art-historians, etc.)? What are the research implications of considering cities and their archaeology apart from their wider cultural and historical circumstances? This session will introduce some of the ideas and sources that have framed recent archaeological study of the city, based on a brisk and partial historiography of the subject. This will in turn help us to define some of the key topics and themes with which we wish to engage as the course progresses, looking at both theoretical and methodological perspectives. We will also provide an overview of how the course has been structured, explaining some of the particular areas of strength and weakness introduced by the research interests of those contributing to the course.

Key reading:


Further reading:

Abrams, P and Wrigley, E A (eds) (1978) Towns in Societies, Essays in Economic History and Historical Sociology. Cambridge (especially introduction by Abrams) [Main HISTORY 82bf ABR; SSEES Misc.IX.d.1 TOW]
Calvino, I (1997) Invisible Cities (transl. W Weaver) [Main LITERATURE F13L 200 CAL; Bartlett ARCHITECTURE A 20 CAL]
Session 2 (seminar): Definitions (Dominic Perring)

**Synopsis:** The issue of how to define and describe urban settlement has attracted considerable attention. Are there functions and features that are exclusively urban, and that can be used to define and describe urban status? In many societies urban status is essentially a legal matter, conferring rights and privileges. Historical sources can be used to both identify and classify such cities. Scale and density of population is another defining criteria, and where the data exist allows us to describe rank-order and hierarchies of urban settlement. The economic functions of towns can also be used to similar ends: based on the presence of mints, market places and specialist industrial production. Cities can also be described from characteristic architectural features (usually the product of legal and political institutions): such as cathedrals, town walls, market buildings (fora and agora), and so on. Although this is now something of a tired and inconclusive debate (since towns mean different things to different people at different times, and there is no universally applicable set of defining criteria), a review of key texts on the subject gives us the opportunity to explore different perceptions on the subject of what it means to be urban.

**Key reading:**


Further reading:


Mumford, L (1938) The culture of cities. New York/London [Bartlett TOWN PLANNING E 5 MUM; Science GEOGRAPHY H 48 MUM]


Session 3 (lecture): New theories on urban origins – the Mesopotamian city (Mark Altaweel)

Synopsis: In this lecture we will examine some of the earliest developments of urban life in the Near East, specifically in northern and southern Mesopotamia, during the Uruk period. The lecture will cover how cities in these different regions grew rapidly, while also affecting the surrounding urban landscapes. We will investigate some of the reasons scholars have given for the rise of these early cities and what may have motivated people and societies to aggregate into larger settlements. We also examine debates concerning where and how urban systems first arose in Mesopotamia.

Key reading:


Further reading:


Session 4 (seminar): Complex Systems as Urban Systems (Mark Altaweel)

Synopsis: This session will look at complex systems theory and how it is being used today in research on urban systems. Both traditional and new ideas are being applied within this theoretical approach in order to understand why urban growth and decline occur in given regions. We examine the Uruk period as well as modern cities as examples of how this theory can be applied to better understand urban transformations.

Key reading:


Further reading:


Wilson, A G (1967) ‘A statistical theory of spatial distribution models’, *Transportation Research* 1, 253-269


Session 5 (lecture): Rise and fall of Harappan Civilisation (Dorian Fuller)

**Synopsis:** This lecture will introduce the geographically extensive Indus or Harappan civilization, in which archaeology alone has led to its discovery and interpretation due to its undeciphered “script”. We will consider the settlement evidence for the rise of urbanism, the organization of smaller and larger sites, both often with upper and lower towns, and arguments about the nature of social complexity in the Indus and whether a state or states or no state was involved. We will also touch on the evidence for trade within and beyond the Indus. Finally we will consider ongoing debates about the role of environmental and climate change in the collapse of the Harappan civilization.

**Key reading:**


**Further reading:**


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**Session 6 (lecture): Case study: The Knossos Urban Landscape Project (Todd Whitelaw)**

**Synopsis:** Founded as one of the earliest Neolithic villages in Europe, Knossos became urban ca. 2000 BC, serving as the administrative centre for the principal prehistoric state on Crete. Declining at the end of the Bronze Age, it redeveloped early in the first millennium BC as one of the principal urban centres of the Greek world. It was incorporated into the Roman empire and remained a major centre until ca. 700 AD. It has been investigated intensively for over a century, with most attention being focused on its Prehistoric phase. In 2005, an intensive surface survey was initiated, to study the site comprehensively, and provide a framework for integrating the wealth of major research and minor rescue excavations. This session will consider large-scale urban surface survey, some strategic considerations involved in the design and implementation of such surveys, and some of the analytical and interpretive problems which arise in dealing with very large quantities of relatively low-quality data.
Key reading:

Whitelaw, T (in press) ‘Collecting cities: some problems and prospects’, in M Millet and P Johnson (eds.) Archaeological Survey and the City. Cambridge Monographs in Classical Archaeology: Cambridge [A pdf will be made available on the course Moodle site and via e-mail]


Further reading:

Knossos:


Mediterranean urban survey:


Urban Archaeology

**Analytical case studies of urban surveys (a selection):**


Robertson, I (1999) ‘Spatial and multivariate analysis, random sampling error and analytical noise: empirical Bayesian methods at Teotihuacan, Mexico’, *American Antiquity* 64, 137–52


**Session 7 (lecture): Current research on the Greek polis (John Bintliff)**

**Synopsis:** This lecture will deal with the origins and nature of the ancient Greek city-state or polis, of which at least 1000 have been recorded in a recent survey, both within Greece and as colonies around the Mediterranean and the Black Sea. It will also cover the contrasted megalopolis form of Greek city, and the differences to areas of the Greek world where the polis was absent, the ethne (traditionally termed ‘tribal states’). We shall examine town and
house plans and in particular how they reflect the changing nature of Greek society from Early Iron Age times up to the era of Roman Greece.

**Key reading:**


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Session 8 (lecture): Urbanisation and Colonisation in the Mediterranean in the early first millennium BC (Corinna Riva)

**Synopsis:** In the early first millennium BC, the formation of urban centres throughout the Mediterranean basin goes hand in hand with a heightened human mobility across the basin that followed the end of the Bronze Age. As a result of this mobility, new settlements, mainly along the coastal regions of the Mediterranean, were established by Phoenicians and Greek, and these were accompanied by other indigenous forms of urban formation. We conventionally call these new settlements ‘colonies’ and their establishment and development ‘colonization’. While for a long time these terms were accepted without any controversy, in the last two decades or so, scholars have begun to question the semantic implications that such terms carry for the early 1st millennium BC to the extent that some (e.g. Osborne 1998) advocate the debunking of these term altogether for early 1st-millennium BC Mediterranean, engendering a debate that is still ongoing (cf. Greco 2011).

In this lecture, we shall consider the origins, terms and features of this debate, and, in so doing, think about the relationship between urbanisation and colonisation and all its related aspects and problems (e.g. Phoenician trading urban centre vs. the Greek apoikia; the formation of the Greek polis). Ultimately, the question is whether we can talk about colonisation and if so how, and what is there to be gained by an analysis of Greek and Phoenician (and other) early 1st millennium BC urban centres, which too often remain anchored to and studied by distinct sub-fields of Mediterranean archaeology.

**Key reading:**

Greco, E (2011) ‘On the origins of the Western Greek poleis’, *Ancient West & East* 10, 233-242 [online]


Further reading:


Session 9 (lecture): Buddhism and the development of the city in the subcontinent (Julia Shaw)

Synopsis: This lecture will introduce the developments which led to the rise of urbanism and monarchical state formation across the Indian subcontinent from the mid’ first millennium BC. Drawing on excavation and survey data, together with epigraphical, art-historical and textual evidence, we will examine theories that have sought to explain the shift from earlier tribal based economies to the appearance of towns and cities and ultimately the rise and spread of empire during the 3rd century BC. Whilst theories relating to expanding trading networks and metallurgical developments (in particular iron) have figured prominently in such debates, other major factors include the rise of Buddhism and other heterodox religions as well as new movements within Orthodox Brahmanical traditions. The history and archaeology of Buddhism, with its emphasis on social and personal ‘well-being’ is particularly instructive for understanding the entwined relationship between religion, economics and the state in ancient India.

Key reading:


Shaw, J (2007) *Buddhist Landscapes in Central India: Sanchi hill and archaeologies of religious and social change, c. 3rd century BC to 5th century AD*. British Association for South Asian Studies, The British Academy: London. Chapters 1-2. [INST ARCH DBMA 15 Qto SHA (1 week); Issue Desk IOA SHA 9 (3 hour)]

**Further Reading:**


Chakrabarti, D K (1995) *The Archaeology of Ancient Indian Cities*. Oxford University Press: Delhi. (pp. 242-262, and description of individual sites in rest of ch. 5). [INST ARCH DBMA 100 CHA (1 week); Issue Desk IOA CHA 17 (3 hour)]

Erdosy, G (1988) *Urbanisation in Early Historic India*. BAR International Series 430: Oxford [INST ARCH DBMA 100 Qto ERD (standard)]


Mitra, D (1971) *Buddhist Monuments*. Munshiram Manoharlal: Delhi (pp. 1-7 for life of Buddha; 8-56 for architecture; pp. 57-90 for Bihar) [INST ARCH DBMA 398 MIT]


**Session 10 (lecture): Case study: Urban archaeology in China (Wang Tao)**

**Synopsis:** This lecture explores the development of the idea of the city in one of the greatest urban civilizations. We start by examining the Shang and Zhou Dynasties, who developed sophisticated sedentary civilizations in the Yellow River valley in the second and first millennium BCE. We then explore the Qin Empire (221-210 BCE), seen as the first large-scale and unified Chinese empire, and follow the development of Chinese urbanism up to the Ming Dynasty (CE 1368-1644). Throughout this we examine the development of Chinese society and its impact upon the nature of urbanism, including the nature of imperial cities; palaces and planned cities in Han China; especially Han capital of Chang’an. Major archaeological findings are explored within themes of the role of political power and patronage, and economic and social change, in framing the Chinese city. The heavy reliance on ancient textual accounts, which pervades Chinese archaeology, will be discussed in the context of archaeological methods for investigating the political, social and economic systems of urbanism.
Key reading:


Further reading:


Session 11 (lecture): Urbanisation and empire: the case-study of Rome (Dominic Perring)

Synopsis: The Roman Empire was an empire of cities and the legacy of Rome is still largely described in urban terms. The expansion of Rome's empire had major impact on the trajectory of Mediterranean urbanisation, promoting the city of Rome into a vast metropolis and supporting both new urban foundations and new patterns of civic investment and engagement within existing cities. This session will describe some of the forces which shaped the growth of Rome, and ask how and why was Rome an urban empire? This will in turn be used to discuss the relationship between empire systems and urbanisation. Features to be considered will include:

- the political and economic role of cities and conquest
- taxation and municipal government,
- imperial expansion as a motor for urbanisation
- the army and colonisation
**Key reading:**


**Further Reading:**

Blagg, T F C and Millett M (eds.) (1990) *The early Roman Empire in the West*. Oxbow Books: Oxford [INST ARCH DA 170 BLA; Main ANCIENT HISTORY R 61 BLA]


Session 12 (seminar): Power and patronage in the Roman city (Dominic Perring)

Synopsis: Whilst the emphasis of the previous session (Empire and Urbanization) privileges the ‘top-down’ study of urbanisation, showing how the needs of empire were imposed on subject and federate communities through forces such as conquest and colonisation, here the focus is on how communities of engagement were formed within the individual cities of the Roman world. This touches on the over-worked issue of Romanisation, but the main focus will be on how elite society developed networks of patronage and power structured through cities and urban institutions: the spatial and architectural consequences of which are the subject of several of the following sessions. In addition to the historical and literary sources, archaeology draws on the evidence of the public buildings and civic benefaction made by elite society: epigraphic material is often key. Who built what and when? How and why do patterns of urban patronage and benefaction differ within the ancient world: as, for example, between North Africa and Britain? What might this tell us about the nature of urban society?

Key reading:

Cornell T and Lomas K (eds) (2003), ‘Bread and Circuses’: Euergetism and Municipal Patronage in Roman Italy. London [Main ANCIENT HISTORY R 64 LOM]


Further reading:


Butcher, K (2003), Roman Syria and the Near East. British Museum Press: London - see Part 4, the Construction of Communities [INST ARCH DBD 100 BUT]


Session 13 (lecture): Town planning (Stephen Marshall)

Synopsis: This lecture aims to provide understanding of urban morphology as a product of design. A conceptual introduction to the relationships between urban morphology and urban design is first offered (Marshall and Caliskan, 2011). A more detailed scrutiny of basic morphological elements is then offered – including the relationships between buildings (and building components), plots, streets and blocks. The relationships between those morphological elements and different kinds of planning or design actors and processes are discussed. This includes consideration of interlocking ‘patterns’ at different scales (Alexander et al., 1977); and urban design codes as well as town plans (Marshall, 2011). Then three more detailed issues are presented, each of which may be of interest to archaeology in different ways. The first is discussion of capturing different types of street pattern (e.g. Southworth and Ben Joseph, 2003) and their types of order, regularity, irregularity and complexity. Secondly, there is discussion of how the underlying geometry of shapes (such as of buildings) influences the morphology we see on the ground; and the shapes of buildings in relation to overall ‘morphospace’ and trajectories of form through time (Steadman and Mitchell, 2010). Thirdly, an evolutionary interpretation of urban change is presented (Marshall, 2009). Together, this coverage is intended to stimulate thought about how we can capture the nature of urban morphology and account for the urban patterns we find on the ground, with or without the inference of conscious design or planning.

Key reading:

Session 14 (lecture): Case study: Late-Saxon towns of Wessex (Andrew Reynolds)

Synopsis: The emergence of towns in the Anglo-Saxon kingdom of Wessex is a much debated issue, which centres on the notion that urban development was a function of the impact of Viking incursion as a responsive measure aimed at providing defended refuges and market places. A list of apparently defended towns - known as 'The Burghal Hidage' - documents 33 ‘burhs’ (or fortifications) apparently established during the reign of King Alfred, which formed part of a defensive network against the Vikings. The lecture discusses the archaeological evidence for these sites in southern England, looking at their layout, construction, and the evidence for urban development. More recent studies have questioned such a straightforward interpretation and the seminar considers new approaches and ideas about urban development in Southern England.

Key reading:


Further reading:


Session 15 (lecture): Navigating the Roman city: studies in urban design, connectivity and movement (Dominic Perring)

Synopsis: Building on the themes raised in the previous two classes our attention will return to recent research in the Roman city. First we will discuss Roman town planning. Roman cities are usually thought of as being closely regulated, laid out to a repetitive grid, but was this really the case? The relationship between orthogonal planning and organic urban developments will be discussed, drawing on the evidence of streets, gates and walls to elucidate the dynamics involved. Controlled movement will be a particular theme, allowing us to define archaeologies of inclusion and exclusion – through which urban order could be maintained. In the second part of the class we will look at recent studies of movement and space in the cities of Rome, Ostia and Pompeii (Laurence & Newsome 2011), and the key theme of connectivity.

Key reading:

Perspectives on Urbanism in the Old and New Worlds. School of American Research Press: Albuquerque, 95-116 [INST ARCH BC 100 MAR]


Further reading:


Session 16 (seminar): The foundation of Rome (Corinna Riva & Dominic Perring)

Synopsis: According to legend (in its most widely accepted version) Rome was founded by the hero Romulus on April 21st 753 BC. Rome’s sacred identity and mythical origins formed a key part of Roman identity, and the public landscape of the later Etruscan and Roman city was built to forge a relationship between contemporary power and ancient tradition. The study of the origins of Rome is therefore in part an archaeological reconstruction of the evolution of urban topography, in part a description of ceremonial landscapes, and in part an attempt to disentangle constructed myth from history. Much depends on which sources to privilege and how to reconcile uncertainties in the archaeological record with uncertainties in the historical one. The debate is further complicated by a collision between different schools of scholarship, operating in different languages. The leading recent excavator of Rome, Andrea Carandini, claims to have found archaeological evidence that lends support to the idea (previously championed by Filippo Coarelli) that Rome was built as a planned city on the Palatine hill – at a date consistent with legend, and around monuments that can be identified with places described in ancient sources. Little of this work is published in English, where reviews are generally hostile. T P Wiseman, in particular, has developed a strong critique of Carandini – and can instead identify the ways in which myths are the product of later invention as urban communities and factions seek to embellish their legendary credentials. This session will place this debate within the context of recent research into early Etruscan urbanisation and its relationship with Roman and Latial urbanisation, discussing problems with the Romano-centric and textual model of Etruscan urbanisation. It will involve a critique of different disciplinary approaches and sources (in particular the relationship between text and archaeology) in the study of how/why cities come into being.

Key reading:

Torelli, M (2000) The Etruscan City-State, in M H Hansen (ed) A Comparative Study of Thirty City-State Cultures. An Investigation Conducted by the Copenhagen Polis


Further reading:

Filippi, F (ed.) Archeologia e Giubileo: Gli interventi a Roma e nel Lazio nel piano per il grande Giubileo del 2000 [on order]
Session 17 (lecture) Case study: Feeding the town (Mark Maltby)

Synopsis: This session will focus on the supply of meat and other animal food products to towns. Using case studies from Roman Britain and Medieval Russia, we will examine how major towns were provisioned. Some of the questions that will be addressed will include the following. How was provisioning organized? What were the roles of butchers and other specialists and where did they operate? Did the diets of inhabitants of towns differ from those in their hinterland? What impacts did the emergence of towns have on traditional animal production, redistribution and consumption practices?

Reading:


Session 18 (student led seminar): The topography and society of Pompeii

This is a student led seminar. One member of the class will take responsibility for chairing the session and agreeing on topics and contributions (with a minimum of two and maximum of four papers to be arranged). Each contribution will last no longer than 20 minutes, with a further 5 minutes for questions specific to the paper. The session chair will additionally responsible for introducing the session and organising a concluding discussion.

Synopsis: Pompeii is where urban archaeology started, and it remains the most comprehensively studied of all Roman cities. The preservation of this site by the volcanic eruption of AD 79 makes it one of the most evocative sites of the ancient world. Recent research has concentrated on making better sense of both the topography and chronology of the site – drawing on the unparalleled opportunity provided by the site to look at spatial and morphological diversity. This is the key theme of this session: how was urban space used; to what extent were some activities clustered - and do such clusters show the work of social or economic forces? Topics might include town planning, the spatiality of industry, the archaeology of vice, connectivity, the distribution of elite households, and so on.

Key reading:

Bon, S E and Jones, R F J (1997) Sequence and space in Pompeii, Oxbow Monograph 77 [INST ARCH YATES E 22 POM]

Further reading:

Session 19 (lecture): The archaeology of urban houses and households (Dominic Perring)

Synopsis: We have three main sources of evidence for the study of daily life in the Roman city: texts, buildings and rubbish. Domestic architecture has become an increasingly important field of study, in which town houses have become seen as texts – the reading of which can cast light on changing social and economic circumstances. The Graeco-Roman house provided a stage for the social encounters from which political and economic life was built. The social complexity of city living left a clear and visible mark on the design and organisation of domestic space. The study of town houses consequently offers important information on how Roman cities were understood and experienced, and about how such understandings may have differed according to circumstance. Roman civic life revolved around the encounters that took place here, and domestic space was configured around socially acceptable approaches to polite behaviour. This behaviour drew on a shared interest in Greek culture that facilitated the educated discourse of elite society. The use of Greek inspired approaches to domestic ceremony required the adoption of appropriate Graeco-Roman architectural settings. These ceremonies, and the architectures that they inspired, were essentially concerned with reproducing patronal ties within local communities. As a consequence the architecture was not only Graeco-Roman in inspiration, but was deployed in ways that reinforced the distinctive characters of particular civic and regional identities. Most
Roman houses managed to combine references to ‘universal’ cultural values within local design traditions. The purposes of this session are:

- to identify ways in which text, architecture and find can be combined in the study of social arrangements
- to question assumptions about family structure and the relationship between domestic and working lives

**Key reading:**


Rawson, B (ed.) (2011) *A companion to families in the Greek and Roman worlds*. Wiley-Blackwell: Chichester – see contributions by Nevett, Trumper and Dickmann [INST ARCH ANCIENT HISTORY M 65 RAW]

**Further reading:**


**Session 20 (student led seminar): Houses of Roman Pompeii**

This is a student led seminar (see Session 18 for structure/guidance)

**Synopsis:** This seminar will involve case studies on the archaeology of houses, art and decoration, gardens and household assemblages in Pompeii – building from the more general themes discussed in session 19. Individual presentations will draw on the evidence of both individual houses (such as the House of the Faun, House of the Menander, etc.) as well as specialist studies of finds, structures and spaces.

**Key reading:**


**Further reading:**


**TERM II**

**Session 21 (lecture): Town walls and the urban fortress (Tim Williams)**

**Synopsis:** Town walls are a common feature of many ancient urban centres. But their inspiration and function often encompassed complex ideological as well as practical issues: defence, security, social and political barriers, religious and legal limits, indicators of prestige, taxation controls, etc. The session will explore these issues and consider themes such as design, architecture, decoration, gates and the scale of investment that these undertakings represented. We will examine the function of town walls through various case studies, and examine their impact upon later cities, long after the walls had ceased to perform their original functions. We will also look at the role of urban fortresses, cities as fortified places, military encampments and associated linear boundaries, and their impact upon the nature of the urban space.

**Reading:**

*Urban defences*


Lavan, L (ed) (2001) *Recent research in late-antique urbanism*. Journal of Roman Archaeology: Portsmouth, Rhode Island [INST ARCH DBA 100 LAV] Especially ‘Fortifications and urbanism: Thessaloniki and other eastern cities’ (J Crow); ‘Urban remodelling and defensive strategy in Late Roman Italy’ (N J Christie); ‘City walls and urban area in Macedonia’ (S Provost)


Merv
Brun, P (2005) ‘From arrows to bullets: the fortifications of Abdullah Khan Kala (Merv, Turkmenistan)’, Antiquity 79(305), 616-624

London defences
Butler, J (2001) ‘1600 years of the City defences at Aldersgate’, London Archaeologist 9.9, 235-244

London – contemporary context

Forts & citadels

Urban Archaeology
Session 22 (Student led seminar): Public space and building in the ancient city

This is a student led seminar (see Session 18 for structure/guidance)

Synopsis: This seminar will review recent research on the design, layout and meaning of public buildings and architecture in ancient cities, with particular focus on the archaeology of individual classes of monument/space (baths, theatres, etc.) The bibliography presented below is structured with reference to the study of such buildings in the Roman world, but students are encouraged to pursue interests in the public architecture of other regions and periods (taking advice from the course tutors on supplementary reading lists) to facilitate comparative discussion. In preparation for the class students should focus their attention on an individual monument class – and identify a small (which in many cases could be a single example) number of case studies (e.g. the amphitheatre: with case studies of the Colosseum and the Roman amphitheatre of London). Descriptive detail should be restricted to the minimum necessary to facilitate class discussion: our main interest is to know how recent archaeological research on these monument types has contributed to our understanding of a society.

Reading:

Background reading

Forum and basilica


Amphitheatre


*Circus and Theatre*


Crummy, P (2005) ‘The circus at Colchester (Colonia Victricensis)’, *Journal of Roman Archaeology* 18, 267-77


Nicolet C (1976) *The World of the Citizen in Republican Rome*, 361-73 [Main ANCIENT HISTORY R 64 NIC]


Veyne P (1990) *Bread and Circuses: the historical sociology and political pluralism*. Allen Lane: London - Chapters 3 & 4 [Main ANCIENT HISTORY P 64 VEY]

*Baths*


Session 23 (lecture): The urban economy (Dominic Perring)

Synopsis: Any discussion of the relationship between town and country must be informed by more broadly based research into the nature of the ancient economies. Study of the ancient economy has been framed by a polarizing debate between ‘modernists’ and ‘primitivists’. For ‘modernists’, ancient economies were not substantively different to modern ones, differing chiefly in matters of scale but otherwise characterised by productive cities, market-driven prices, long-distance trade, extensive monetization and market growth (following Rostovtzeff). By way of contrast a ‘primitivist’ position emphasises factors that prevented ancient economies from functioning in modern fashion: the dominance of self-contained household production and the limits placed on market developments by social attitudes and political constraints (as Finley). This debate has been recast as one between ‘formalists’, who see the ancient economy as a functionally segregated sphere of activity, and ‘substantivists’ who stress the socially embedded nature of economic relationships in the ancient world. Whilst many see the debate as a tired one, archaeologists still need to understand and engage with the key points at issue in developing a more rounded understanding of how and why cities functioned as they did. This lecture will consider the place of the city in controlling and promoting trade; cities as consumers of surplus; cities as places of production and manufacture; and will give particular attention to the extent to which urban development was driven by the command economy of the Roman administration.

Key reading:


**Further reading:**


Mieroop, M van de, (1999) *The Ancient Mesopotamian City* (2nd edn) [INST ARCH DBB 200 MIE; ANCIENT HISTORY D 5 MIE]


Rostovtzeff, M I (1957) *The Social and Economic History of the Roman Empire* (2nd edn revised by P Fraser) [Main ANCIENT HISTORY R 20 ROS]


**Session 24 (lecture): Case Study: A biography of Roman and early medieval London (Dominic Perring)**

**Synopsis:** London is a key case-study for the course, and has been the subject of intensive recent study. This session will develop a biographic narrative, tracing the city from its early Roman origins down to the early medieval period – looking at the main events that shaped the city, and how these have been reconstructed from the archaeological evidence. Essentially this is a story of how cities are a product of political will, but are also shaped by individual circumstance. Key issues to be discussed here are the circumstances of London’s foundation (introducing some new ideas on the relationship between military and civilian in the establishment of the first town here), the role of the city as the principal location of the imperial administration, the possible causes of 2nd century decline and the subsequent redesign of urban space, the late Roman contraction and failure of the city, and the subsequent relocation of power to suburban areas, followed by the development of a trading site upstream at Westminster before the relocation of power into the shell of the Roman city in the late 9th century.

**Key reading:**


**Further reading:**


Bradley T and Butler J (2008) From temples to Thames Street – 2000 years of riverside development; Archaeological excavations at the Salvation Army International Headquarters, PCA Monograph 7: London [INST ARCH DAA 416 Qto BRA]


Fulford, M (2008) ‘Nero and Britain: the palace of the client king at Calleva and imperial policy towards the province after Boudica’, Britannia 39, 1-14

Gerrard, J (2010) ‘Cathedral or Granary? The Roman coins from Colchester House, City of London (PEP89)’, Trans London and Middlesex Archaeological Society 61, 81-8


Leary, J (2004) Tatberhts Lundenwic: Archaeological Excavations in Middle Saxon London. Pre-Construct Archaeology [INST ARCH DAA 416 Qto LEA]


Session 25 (lecture): Town and Country in Roman Britain and beyond (Dominic Perring)

Synopsis: The relationship between town and country remains a critical and complex research theme. How were cities supported, and what impact did the city have on the surrounding landscape? By now we will already have looked at the economic basis of this relationship, but what did this mean in terms of the settlement pattern and the ‘natural’ environment? Where was power resident, and how was it manifest? From an archaeological point of view consumption is key. This, then, is about the conclusions that can be drawn from the study of distributions of pottery, ecofacts and buildings. Two surveys of urban hinterlands in Roman Britain will be used as detailed case studies: the ‘Wroxeter Hinterlands Project’ and the ‘Roman Essex Project’. The theme of regional survey also gives us an opportunity to look at current archaeological research in several parts of the Roman world (as referred to also in session 6 above). A spate of recent publications may mean that we are reaching saturation point in terms of survey data - but this gives us plenty of new information to exploit in testing and developing models. Questions that will be addressed include the following:

- How can archaeological survey can contribute to our study of the relationship between town and country?
- What was the role of towns in both the organisation and promotion of trade and industry.
- How urban was the architecture of the Roman villa and to what extent did it impose urban values on the countryside?

Key reading:

Mattingly, D (2011) Imperialism, power, and identity: Experiencing the Roman Empire, Princeton University Press. - Chapter 6 [Main ANCIENT HISTORY R 61 MAT]
Perring, D and Pitts, M (2013) Alien cities. Consumption and the origins of urbanism in Roman Britain. [in press – if not published in advance of the class a pdf will be made available on moodle site]

Further reading:

See reading under session 6 above
Purcell, N (1994) 'The Roman villa and the landscape of production', in T J Cornell and K Lomas (eds), Urban society in Roman Italy. London [Main ANCIENT HISTORY R 65 COR]

Session 26 (student led seminar): The archaeology of the port of London

This is a student led seminar (see Session 18 for structure/guidance)

Synopsis: This seminar will explore the role of London as a port city, based on recent archaeological research on the subject. The archaeological study of cities as ports draws on diverse strands of evidence: involving nautical and waterfront archaeology, as well as studies of trade (through the evidence of finds), and the architecture of harbour installations and other structures associated with the port. The port of London has been the subject of particularly close archaeological attention, benefitting from the extensive redevelopment of London’s Thames waterfront as port functions and activities have been relocated elsewhere. Individual presentations may wish to focus on particular periods of change in London’s waterfront activity (e.g. the construction of the Roman port of London, the mercantile role of the early Medieval emporium on the Strand, or the docks and quays of the medieval city of London), and/or explore different strands and classes of evidence (e.g. ships, waterfronts, warehouses, harbours & docks, traded goods, etc.). There is also scope to include contributions based on comparable port cities, and/or wider strategic reviews of this developing subject.

Key reading:

Further reading:


Miller L et al (1986) The Roman Quay at St Magnus House. London Middlesex Archaeol Soc Special Paper no 8: London [INST ARCH ISSUE DESK IOA MIL 7; Main LONDON HISTORY 63.120 DYS]


Session 27 (lecture): The archaeology of suburbs (Andrew Reynolds)

Synopsis: This seminar considers the development of suburbs in English towns in the Anglo-Norman period. Where suburbs grew up during this period they appear in many cases to represent rapid expansion in a short time. Elsewhere planned suburbs sprang up and in some cases they might be seen as settlements with a distinct social and economic identity. Case studies will include Lincoln and Oxford, while other forms of evidence including place-names, written sources, parish boundaries and churches will be investigated. Models for the emergence and development of suburbs will be discussed as will the relationships between towns and their administrative hinterlands.
Reading:


Thomas, R M (2006) 'Mapping the towns: English Heritage's urban survey and characterisation programme', Landscapes 7.1, 68-92

Session 28 (student led seminar): Industry and trade in London

This is a student led seminar (see Session 18 for structure/guidance)

Synopsis: This session will explore the archaeological evidence available for the study of urban industry and trade, drawing on the results of recent excavation and study in London. Which industries were specifically urban, and why? How important were they to urban economies and urban life? To what extent were cities innovative centres of production, or simply producing and importing the goods needed for local consumption differing little from non-urban communities except in the scale of demand? What also can be learnt about the particular industries and trades involved, and how much more does archaeology have to offer? The presentations should draw on primary archaeological detail – as reported on in recent monographs of the Museum of London and other archaeological teams operating within London – but also set these within the context of more broadly based research (and potentially also drawing on case-studies from outside London). Individual seminar presentations may focus on particular periods (Roman or Medieval), specific industrial/commercial sectors (e.g. textiles, metal-working, food processing, etc.), or explore – through comparative studies – differences between urban and rural or between ancient and medieval.

Key reading:

Mac Mahon A and Price J (eds.) Roman working Lives and Urban Living, Oxford – note in particular Mac Mahon on shops, Hall on craft workers, Evans on pottery and Price on Glass [INST ARCH DAA 170 MAC]


Further reading

*Roman*

*Medieval and post-medieval*
Session 29 (lecture): The urban infrastructure (Tim Williams)

Synopsis: This lecture focuses on issues of civic administration and local community action. What services does an urban centre require and how are these delivered – and how well? Is delivery dependant on socio-economic status, location within the city, or political will? The sessions will explore the extent to which the archaeological study of rubbish disposal, water supply and street maintenance can shed light on these issues. It will also explore concepts of cleanliness and hygiene through anthropological studies, and consider how these might nuance our interpretations of past societies.

How have urban communities tackled the disposal of waste? What strategies are employed to remove organic waste, effluent and non-organic debris, and to what extent was recycling a feature of ancient societies? Most importantly, to what extent can we understand the administration of cities and organisation of communities from these disposal patterns? How does this material evidence enter the archaeological record; what are the biases of survival; and how do we interpret the complexity of the social and economic life of the city from a partial record?

Water supply (in) and sewage, street drainage & water runoff (out). Supplying and servicing cities has always presented complex hydraulic and engineering issues, many of which are still present in contemporary communities. How have urban societies developed approaches to both supply and disposal, and what can we infer from this about the nature of civil society, the structuring of elite provisions, and the nature of the urban space? We explore how water provision has changed the nature of urban societies and the urban landscape.

The maintenance (or lack of it) of streets & thoroughfares again provides important insights into character of civic urban society: the scale and nature of cooperation and coercion; the role and penetration of the civic authority; the socio-economic pattern of the urban landscape; and the division between prestige and poverty.

Reading:

Rubbish disposal, consumption and formation processes


**General urban life**


**Streets**


**Water supply (& drainage)**


Sewage disposal

Urban Archaeology
**Session 30 (lecture): Case study - Urban populations as consumers (Martin Pitts)**

**Synopsis:** Approaches to modelling Roman urban consumption from finds evidence. Addresses issues of urban practices and identities through consumption; consumer choice; the role of markets in relation to urban hinterlands; measuring social inequality; early modern analogues.

**Key reading:**

Perring, D and Pitts, M (2013) *Alien cities. Consumption and the origins of urbanism in Roman Britain*. London. Chapters 5-10. [in press – if not published in advance of the class a pdf will be made available on moodle site]

Pitts, M (2013) *Rural transformation in the urbanised landscape*, in Revell, L, Millett, M and Steele, S (eds.). *The Oxford Handbook of Roman Britain*, Oxford University Press. [in press – if not published in advance of the class a pdf will be made available on moodle site]

**Further reading:**


Session 31 (lecture): Populating the city - the study of urban mortality and population movement (Natasha Powers)

Synopsis: This session will examine the bioarchaeological evidence for urban mortality and population movement, looking at case-studies from three different periods of flux and change. What can the examination of the skeleton tell us about the lives of past populations? Firstly we will investigate demographic evidence from two, well phased cemeteries located at the north edge of Londinium to look at how the population of the Roman City developed over time. We will then discuss the evidence for medieval population movement and the effect that the development of London as a large urban centre had on human health. What does the demographic evidence suggest about who was moving to the City and what is the evidence for catastrophic mortality events? We will focus specifically on the populations buried at St Mary Spital and the Black Death cemetery at the Royal Mint. Finally, the development of post-medieval London will be examined via examples from two burial grounds in Tower Hamlets, looking at the results of a recent study of isotopic, artefactual and bioarchaeological evidence for migration and at the effects of population movement on health and mortality. The session will then bring together the main demographic and palaeopathological themes to draw some conclusions on the effect of urbanisation on health and disease and the lessons that an examination of the past has for us today.

Key reading:

Roberts C. A. and Cox, M (2003) Health and Disease in Britain: from prehistory to the present day, Sutton Publishing Ltd: Stroud [INST ARCH JF ROB]

Session 32 (seminar): Death and the city (Dominic Perring)

Synopsis: This session will look more widely at the issue of death and the city, drawing in part on the bioarchaeological evidence discussed in the previous lecture but also the archaeological testimony of graves, grave-goods, cemeteries, funerary monuments and tombstones. These different sources contribute to a social archaeology of death, where the rituals of burial practice and the material organisation of graveyards provide a range of different perspectives on urban social organisation.
**Key Reading:**


**Further reading:**

**Roman burial custom**

Barber, B, & Bowsher, D, 2000 *The eastern cemetery of Roman London: excavations 1983–90,* MoLAS Monogr Ser 4 [INST ARCH DAA 416 Qto BAR]


Petts D (2003) *Christianity in Roman Britain.* Tempus: Stroud - Ch 6 [INST ARCH DAA 170 PET]


**Medieval and post-medieval cemeteries**


Emery and Wooldridge, K (2010) *St Pancras burial ground: excavations for St Pancras International, the London terminus of High Speed 1, 2002-3.* London [INST ARCH DAA 416 Qto EME]

**Session 33 (lecture): Christianity and the City (Dominic Perring)**

**Synopsis:** The Christianisation of the city in late antiquity gave renewed vigour to many urban communities, and this was reflected in the architecture and archaeology of the late antique, Byzantine and medieval city. Cities were reconfigured around new spaces and new
activities. Public institutions and civic society underwent radical change, with major consequences for the city as the basic unit of social and political organization. The Christian monumentalization of the city was a remarkably diverse and, in most cases, a surprisingly late phenomenon. In particular the late 4th and early 5th century saw an explosion in church building. In addition to the building of churches the church also took in hand the organisation of urban cemeteries, and the redirection of resources witnessed the construction of Episcopal palaces and other new urban residences. Other important features initiated in this period included the growth of monasticism, the architecture and archaeology of pilgrimage and martyr cults, and the emergence of important suburban and satellite settlements around extra-mural churches.

**Key reading:**


Cantino Wataghin, G (2003) ‘Christian Topography in the Late Antique Town: Recent Results and Open Questions’, in L Lavan and W Bowden (eds), *Theory and Practice in Late Antique Archaeology, Late Antique Archaeology V. 1.*. Brill: Leiden, 224-56 [INST ARCH DA 180 LAV]

Harries, J (1992) ‘Christianity and the city in Late Roman Gaul’ in J Rich (ed) *The City in Late Antiquity*, Routledge, 77-98 [INST ARCH ISSUE DESK IOA RIC 4; Main ANCIENT HISTORY M 64 RIC]


**Further reading:**


Brown, P (1971) *The World of Late Antiquity: from Marcus Aurelius to Muhammed*. Thames and Hudson, Chapter 2 [ANCIENT HISTORY A 5 BRO]


Goodman, P J (2007)*The Roman City and its Periphery*. Routledge, Chapter 6 [YATES K120 GOO]


Session 34 (lecture): Case study - Green cities? Environment and urbanism in the humid neotropics (Elizabeth Graham)

Synopsis: Cities, towns and hinterlands of the humid tropics are consistently marginalized in studies of urbanism, most all of which privilege the growth of cities in temperate and Mediterranean climates of the northern hemisphere. Thus the development of cities in Europe, the Middle East and north Africa, north China, northern India and Pakistan receive far more attention than the development of urbanism in south China, southern India, southeast Asia, sub-Saharan Africa or the New World tropics. In addition, cultural evolutionary theories are often used to argue that tropical cities are not as complex as cities of the North. In this lecture I review the conditions for urbanism in the humid tropics with a focus on the distinctive paths taken by neotropical cities in Mesoamerica.

Key reading:


Further reading:


Session 35 (lecture): Continuity and Discontinuity - cities between late antiquity and the early medieval world (Dominic Perring)

Synopsis: Why do towns fail? This session will explore issues of urban failure from the perspective of the transition from late antiquity to the early medieval period. Whilst our focus will, as ever, be on the archaeological evidence – and the models that can be built from such evidence – this session will also be rooted in the wider historical debate about the ‘decline and fall’ of Rome. Individual instances of urban failure can be identified at many different places and times - through natural disaster, political reform, or changed geo-political and economic circumstance - but towns tend to be remarkably robust. This was not the case in late antiquity, when urban decline was widespread. Some of these changes can be traced back in the early Roman period (with some models suggesting a 2nd century origin for processes of urban contraction), but elsewhere (as in the Roman east) a vigorous early Byzantine urbanism made way for a succession of urban failures in the course of the late 6th and 7th centuries. These changes were closely linked to the political fortunes of the Roman Empire and its successor states, influenced also by the forces of fire, famine, pestilence, warfare and natural disaster, but archaeological research has shown that in many cities processes of change were complex and of comparatively long duration. The nature of urban communities changed through the period in question – and towns were consequently given different shape and direction. Some of these issues will have been anticipated in our discussion of the Christianization of the city (session 29), and in our case-study of Roman and Medieval London (session 24) but here we will look at the broader archaeological evidence for the decline and fall of the Roman city, and the different regional patterns of emergent medieval urbanisation.

Key reading:


Liebeschuetz, J H W G (2001) The decline and Fall of the Roman City, Oxford University Press [ANCIENT HISTORY R 64 LIE]


Further reading:


Brogiolo, G.P, Gauther and N Christie N (eds) 2000 Towns and their Territories between Late Antiquity and the early Middle Ages. Leiden: Brill [[INST ARCH DA 180 BRO]


Hill, D and Cowie, R., 2001, Wics: the early medieval trading centres of northern Europe, Sheffield [INST ARCH DA 180 HIL]


Lavan, L (ed) (2001) Recent research in late-antique urbanism. Portsmouth, Rhode Island: Journal of Roman Archaeology [INST ARCH DBA 100 LAV]


Session 36 (lecture): Early Urbanism, Capitals and Semi-Autonomous Cities in Arid West Africa: the Middle Niger (Kevin Macdonald)

**Synopsis:** The Middle Niger is the locale of earliest known cities in Sub-Saharan Africa, some dating back to the first millennium BC. The Middle Niger has been characterised as an organic, 'self-organizing' urban landscape by Roderick McIntosh, eschewing hierarchy in favour of heterarchy, and state power for autonomy. This lecture takes a fresh look at the early cities of Dia and Jenne-jeno and their potential antecedents and casts a critical eye on the relationship of urbanism with state power, using historic examples and the lecturer's own excavation and survey work in the Segou region. The notion of 'capital city' in a West African context will also be explored.

**Key reading:**


**Further reading:**


MacDonald, K C (2012) ‘“The least of their inhabited villages are fortified”: the walled settlements of Segou’, *Azania: Archaeological Research in Africa* 47, 343-364.


**Session 37 (lecture): Identities and communities - the representation of identity, ethnicities & neighbourhoods in the Islamic city (Tim Williams)**

**Synopsis:** Cities represent complex landscapes of communities, often linked by factors such as patronage, craft specialisation, ethnicities or beliefs. As a case study, we explore the Islamic city and examine the archaeological evidence for the existence of neighbourhoods. How can we identify these within the urban landscape? What criteria and characteristics might we expect them to exhibit? If we can recognise distinct areas of the city, what evidence might enable us to understand the make-up of population? During this session we will explore the case-study of Merv in some detail.
Key reading:


Especially: How to found an Islamic city (Hugh Kennedy); Metropolitan architecture, demographics and the urban identity of Paris in the 13th century (Meredith Cohen); The meaning of topography in Umayyad Córdoba (Ann Christys); The myth of urban unity: religion and social performance in late medieval Braunschweig (Franz-Josef Arlinghaus); Out in the open, in Arras: sightlines, soundscapes and the shaping of a medieval public sphere (Carol Symes)


Williams, T (2008) The landscapes of Islamic Merv, Turkmenistan: Where to draw the line?, *Internet Archaeology* 25 [access via UCL ejournals]

Further reading:


Le Strange, G (1905) Lands of the Eastern Caliphate: Mesopotamia, Persia, and Central Asia, from the Moslem conquest to the time of Timur. Cambridge University Press: Cambridge

Morony, M G (1982) ‘Continuity and Change in the Administrative Geography of Late Sasanian and Early Islamic al-‘Ir-üq’, Iran 20: 1-49
Petersen, A (2005) The towns of Palestine under Muslim rule AD 600-1600. Archaeopress: Oxford [INST ARCH DBE 100 Qto PET]
Rante, R (2007) The topography of Rayy during the early Islamic period, Iran 45: 161-180

Session 38 (lecture): Case study - Changing and Changed Communities in 19th century cities (Hanna Steyne)

Synopsis: The 19th century was a period of rapid technological and scientific development, empire building, social change, economic expansion and mass migration, which combined to create dynamic and legendary cities of outrageous wealth and unimaginable poverty, immortalized in the fiction of writers such as Charles Dickens and Arthur Conan Doyle.
Throughout the century major urban centres expanded dramatically, drawing in thousands of people and shaping the cities we know today in terms of their street plan, architecture, social mix and the nature of the suburbs and inner cities. The archaeology of urban centres can provide unique insights into the impacts of industrialisation, globalisation and mass migration on communities whose lives were not recorded in the historical record, but whose stories are fundamental to our understanding of modern cities and the management of their heritage.

This session will explore the archaeology of 19th century urban communities in Australia, America and the UK, with a focus on the approaches, methodologies and data sources applied in urban historical archaeological research. A case study from London will demonstrate the value of multifaceted approaches to urban historical archaeology and explore the impact of Victorian ‘Urban Improvement’ works on riverside communities.

**Key reading:**


- Mayne & Murray: *The archaeology of urban landscapes: explorations in slumland*
- Karskens: *Small things, big pictures: new perspectives from the archaeology of Sydney’s Rocks neighbourhood.*
- Murray & Mayne: *Imaginary landscapes: reading Melbourne’s ‘Little Lon’*
- Yamin: *Alternative narratives: respectability at New York’s Five Points*


**Further reading:**


**Session 39 (lecture): Urban archaeology and the contemporary city (Tim Williams)**

**Synopsis**: Cities develop and redevelop themselves, fashioning new identities. Sometimes these explicitly draw upon and integrate the past; sometimes the impact of earlier cities has been more subtle, framing the streets and properties, or retaining the fabric of earlier structures. This session will explore the use and reuse of historic urban landscapes and the legacy of a built environment. We will also examine how our concept of urban landscape determines how we experience these spaces and representations.
How do we manage and present urban archaeology in the modern city? The management of urban archaeological deposits present complex issues, especially when faced with the pressure of urban communities. How can archaeology be integrated with the economic, social, and cultural life of a current city? In 2011 UNESCO’s General Conference adopted the Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape, a ‘soft-law’ to be implemented by individual Member States on a voluntary basis (http://whc.unesco.org/en/activities/638/). All cities are the result of a process of physical layering through time but this fundamental aspect is seldom explicitly embodied in urban planning and management. Exceptions exist, when areas are protected for their historical and archaeological values, but this is often only a fragment of the historic urban environment. The Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape aims to give relevance, among other things, to the ‘time dimension’ in the management of historic cities, with a landscape approach aimed at integrating this dimension in to urban planning, conservation and development processes.

Key reading:


Further reading:


Session 40 (seminar): Archaeology and conflict (Dominic Perring & Tim Williams)

Synopsis: In this final session we discuss conflicts between urban renewal and archaeology, based on case studies such as London’s Rose theatre, the post-war reconstruction of Beirut Central District, the excavations of the New York Negro cemetery and the rebuilding of Cape Town District Six. In most cases the principal argument has been between planners and builders intent on urban renewal – often, but not invariably, motivated by the prospect of commercial profit – and other interest groups concerned to resist such change because of alternative values that can be found in the archaeological and heritage remains. Whilst these issues are not exclusive to the urban landscape, it is here that the conflicting pressures are at their most acute. This is, of course, but another way in which we can shape urban fabric against our ideological, political and economic goals. The archaeological site consequently becomes another active component within the public landscape of the city. Our aim here is to look in some detail at the events and issues associated with the individual case-studies – and use these to identify (and question) some of the broader social goals that attach to the conduct of archaeological research in the contemporary city, and to take position over the purpose and value of urban archaeology.

Key reading:


**Further reading:**


**Beirut as a case study**


**Rose theatre as a case study**


Fowler, P (2001) ‘Time for a last quick one?’ Antiquity 75, 606-608


ASSESSMENT TASKS

For the first assignment, the Course Co-ordinators are willing to discuss an outline of the student's approach to the assignment, provided this is planned suitably in advance of the submission date.

If students are unclear about the nature of an assignment, they should discuss this with the Course Co-ordinators.

Assignment One: Submission deadline: 30th November, 2012

Please choose ONE of the questions below. Your essay should not be more than 4,000 words in length. You should use illustrations as appropriate.

Assignment Two: Submission deadline: 22nd March, 2013

Please choose ONE of the questions below. Your essay should not be more than 4,000 words in length. You should use illustrations as appropriate.

ESSAYS

In this course your essays should examine theoretical issues, using the archaeology of any particular period or area to illustrate your discussions.

Like most academic writing, your essays should present an argument supported by analysis. Typically your analysis will include a critical evaluation (not simply description) of concepts in some subset of archaeology’s theoretical literature. Remember, you must draw upon readings from multiple class sessions, examine some of the primary literature in addition to secondary literature and use references to support your assertions. The course co-ordinators will be willing to discuss an outline of your approach to the assessment, provided this is planned suitably in advance of the submission date.

A range of possible topics is suggested below, but students are also invited to identify an original topic in consultation with the course coordinators (the essay title will be subject to their approval). The topic should be clearly related to at least one of the themes covered in the classes. Students wishing to write on topics that have not yet been covered in lectures are invited to seek additional guidance from the coordinators.

Suggested topics:

1. To what extent does complex systems theory provide a research framework for examining urban systems? Give critical examples of its application.
2. How does urban morphology provide insights into a society’s organisation? Illustrate your answer with examples drawn from one or more archaeological cases.
3. Discuss how archaeological and textual evidence can support each other in order to promote a broader understanding of urbanisation, supporting your argument with two or more case studies.
4. Using case studies, how does the evidence from cemeteries throw light upon urban communities?
5. How have sacred landscape been constructed in urban spaces? Discuss this in association with state-formation.
6. How far do current theoretical approaches to the understanding of ‘landscape’ help us to understand the interplay of sacred, economic and political authority in ancient cities?
7. How would you expect empire-systems to affect the nature of urbanism? How would the archaeological record differ from other types of states or societies?
8. Using one chronological period, explore the role of cities as a tool for conquest or imperial expansion.
9. How did elite society express power through cities and urban institutions?
10. Discuss the concepts of creolization and acculturation in urban communities: how can we archaeologically study these issues?
11. How easily can we distinguish political power from commercial power in the formation of urban landscapes? Can this be achieved from the archaeological evidence alone?
12. How does the archaeology of urban households contribute to our understanding of the nature of the urban experience?
13. The ‘consumer city’ model has been a powerful explanatory framework for considering the relationship between urban centres and hinterlands. Do alternative models simply represent subtle nuances on this paradigm?
14. Are harbour cities a different form of urbanism?
15. Hydraulic civilizations: discuss the role of water management in the development of urbanisation.
16. How can archaeology explore the transition of urban centres at times of major political upheaval?
17. How can we study the urban poor? What has been achieved and how should the urban poor be reflected in urban research agendas?

Examples of period and/or geographically framed topics:

18. What factors led to the development and form of the early Mesopotamian city?
19. Can Greek urbanization be understood in isolation from the urbanization of other geographically contiguous areas? Can we analyse it as a uniform phenomenon?
20. What is a ‘city-state culture’? Is it a suitable and satisfactory alternative to the polis approach?
21. Theories relating to expanding trading networks and technological developments have figured prominently in debates regarding the rise of urban centres in the Indian sub-continent. Discuss these and other factors, including the rise of religious traditions, in the shaping of the urban culture
22. How did the decline of Roman Empire impact on the nature of urban centres? How can we assess this impact? Use examples from one region?
23. What do you view as the most significant factors underlying the change in cities in the Eastern Mediterranean after the arrival of Islam?
24. How much importance would you attach to interregional trade in explaining the development of urban society in Central Asia during the late first millennium BC and the early first millennium AD?
25. Discuss the idea of the city in China, with particular reference to non-elite urban populations.
26. What factors led to an intensification of urban development in England in the early medieval period? Discuss the archaeological evidence for competing theories.
27. In what ways was the early medieval city in Europe an inheritor of classical urbanism?
28. Discuss the ways in which Maya architecture was used to ‘frame spaces’ and define a sense of place.
29. Explore the distinctive paths taken by neotropical cities in Mesoamerica: are these less complex than urban centres in other areas of the world?
30. Discuss the relationship of urbanism with state power in the development of West African cities. In what way did this relationship shape the urban fabric and how do we read this as archaeologists?
31. How can archaeological approaches and theory contribute to our understanding of early modern cities, with their wealth of historical sources?
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Communication

The primary channel of communication within the Institute of Archaeology is e-mail. If you wish to be contacted on your personal or work e-mail address, please arrange for e-mail sent to your UCL address to be forwarded to your other address, since staff and other students will expect to be able to reach you through your College e-mail, which they can find on the UCL web-site. Students must consult their e-mail regularly, as well as the student pigeon-holes in the Basement Common Room for written communications. Please also ensure that you keep your contact details (especially your telephone number) up to date on Portico, in case you need to be contacted.

Attendance

Registers will be taken at all classes, and Departments are required to report the attendance of each student to UCL Registry at frequent intervals throughout each term. If you are unable to attend a class, please email the course co-ordinator to explain, in order to ensure that there is a record of the reasons for your absence.

It is a College regulation that attendance at lectures, seminars and practicals be monitored. A 70% minimum attendance at all scheduled sessions is required (excluding absences due to illness or other adverse circumstances, provided that these are supported by medical certificates or other documentation, as appropriate).

Students should also be aware that potential employers seeking references often ask about attendance and other indications of reliability.

Libraries and other resources

In addition to the Library of the Institute of Archaeology, other libraries in UCL with holdings of particular relevance to this degree are the Anthropology and Bartlett libraries.

Information for intercollegiate and interdepartmental students

Students enrolled in Departments outside the Institute should collect a hard copy of the Institute’s coursework guidelines from Judy Medrington’s office.

Health and Safety

The Institute has a Health and Safety policy and code of practice which provides guidance on laboratory work, etc. This is revised annually and the new edition will be issued in due course. All work undertaken in the Institute is governed by these guidelines and students have a duty to be aware of them and to adhere to them at all times. This is particularly important in the context of the laboratory/field/placement work which will be undertaken as part of this degree.

Feedback

In trying to make this degree as effective as possible, we welcome feedback during the course of the year. Students will be asked to fill-in Progress Forms at the end of each term, which the Degree Co-ordinator will discuss with them, which include space for comment on each of their courses.
At the end of each course all students are asked to give their views on the course in an anonymous questionnaire, which will be circulated at one of the last sessions of the course. These questionnaires are taken seriously and help the Course Co-ordinator to develop the course. The summarised responses are considered by the Degree Co-ordinator, the Institute’s Staff-Student Consultative Committee, Teaching Committee, and by the Faculty Teaching Committee.

If students are concerned about any aspect of a specific course, we hope they will feel able to talk to the relevant Course Co-ordinator, but if they feel this is not appropriate or have more general concerns, they should consult their Degree Co-ordinator, Personal Tutor, or the Graduate Tutors (Kevin MacDonald and Sue Hamilton). They may also consult the Academic Administrator (Judy Medrington), the Chair of Teaching Committee (Karen Wright), or the Director (Stephen Shennan).