Course Programme

**DAY 1**

*On the footsteps of Homer: The discovery of the Aegean Bronze Age*

a). Introduction to the course and course structure  
b). The father founders of Aegean Archaeology  
c). Aegean pre-history or history? When written evidence matters (?)  
d). Archaeology and text: The decipherment of LB  
e). LB tablets classification system: Museums and collections as modern 'Palaces'

Activity: Brush up on LB with flashcards!

**DAY 2**

*Writing before Homer: The LB Writing System*

a). LB from a linguistic perspective:  
   The LB sign inventory, spelling rules, palaeographic variants and scribal hands  
b). LB tablets as material objects (pinacology):  
   Tablet format and layout as reflective of administrative practice  
c). Reading session: What do texts tell us? How to get silent texts to speak  
   A jump into Mycenaean economy, society & religion

Activity: Make your own LB tablet! (Part 1)

**DAY 3**

*Digging out the Homeric world: The archaeological context of LB documents*

a). Wandering around the Aegean: The find-places of LB tablets  
b). Tablet deposits and their chronology  
c). What does a LB 'archive' look like?  
d). Reading session: 'Across space and time'  
   Reading illustrative sets of tablets from geographically and chronologically different deposits

Activity: ‘Mycenopoly’ (board game based on LB find-places and tablet deposits;  
courtesy of Dr. Anna P. Judson)
**DAY 4**

*How much did Homer know? Matching LB evidence and the Homeric text*

a). Homeric references to an ancient past (Bronze and Iron Age)
b). Burning question: Is Homer a historical source?
c). How to make use of the Homeric data?
d). How to incorporate the LB evidence?
e). Reading session: Texts that relate to the Homeric background, Gods, names in Mycenaean and their classical Greek counterparts

Activity: Make your own LB tablet! (Part 2)

**DAY 5**

*What does an outsider look like? The 'Aegeans' from external sources*

a). Stepping out of the Aegean: Egyptian and Hittite Sources
b). References to trade on LB documents?
c). An 'Aegean' cargo: The Uluburun shipwreck
d). Reading sessions: Tablets with references to trade and external places

Activity: Become a Mycenologist!

   LB hands-on session at the *British Museum* and visit to the Aegean Bronze Age collection