



INSTITUTE OF ARCHAEOLOGY

MA in Archaeology

Degree Handbook 2021-22

Co-ordinator:

Prof. Stephen Shennan
s.shennan@ucl.ac.uk

Institute of Archaeology
Office 407, tel. 0207 679 4739

Office hours, in person or via Teams: Tuesdays 2.0-4.0 and other times by arrangement

INTRODUCTION

This is the Handbook for the MA degree programme in Archaeology. It outlines the aims and objectives, structure and content of the degree, and includes a list of the module options available this year. It will be made available on the MA Archaeology Team and Moodle.

This Handbook should be used alongside the general Institute of Archaeology Student Handbook: <https://www.ucl.ac.uk/archaeology/current-students>

If you have queries about the organisation, objectives, structure, content or assessment of the degree, you should consult the Degree Co-ordinator.

AIMS AND OUTCOMES OF THE DEGREE

Aims

- To provide a wide-ranging and challenging introduction to theoretical issues involved in modern archaeology as a comparative, anthropologically-informed and socially-situated discipline.
- To encourage critically aware perspectives on archaeological practice and research processes.
- To provide an in-depth understanding of approaches to the collection, analysis and interpretation of archaeological data.
- To support detailed study at the forefront of knowledge in a wide range of areas within archaeology.
- To provide a sufficiently detailed understanding of archaeological data to serve as a basis for independent research.
- To foster the ability to develop original research questions and to explore them effectively through research.
- To provide training relevant to a professional career in archaeology.
- To provide a strong background for continuing on to a research degree in archaeology.

These aims are pursued through a degree with two core courses designed to provide a solid understanding of the recent history, theories and methods of archaeology, and a wide range of potential options from which you can define an individual pathway through the programme, tailored to your specific interests and personal educational objectives. All students undertake a supervised research project resulting in a 15,000 word dissertation, which enables them to develop specific practical, analytical and interpretative skills as well as broader research skills.

Outcomes

Upon successful completion of the MA in Archaeology, you will, among other things, have:

- gained a detailed understanding of recent theoretical perspectives in the field;
- developed their critical faculties in discussion, debate, and evaluation of alternative perspectives on and interpretations of archaeological data;
- acquired a range of subject-specific skills, relevant to their further development as practising archaeologists;
- developed a range of research-oriented skills; and
- carried through a substantial programme of independent research embodied in a dissertation that demonstrates theoretical understanding and practical competence in archaeological analysis and interpretation.

DEGREE STRUCTURE

The programme of study for this degree is intended to help you meet the objectives outlined above, and also to provide an opportunity for you to achieve any additional personal academic objectives. It comprises:

- two compulsory core modules (15 credits each, 30 credits in total);
- options (60 credits in total) comprising modules of either 15 credits or 30 credits; and
- a dissertation on a research topic within the broad field of Archaeology (90 credits).

Each module addresses a specific subject and has its own Co-ordinator.

Core Modules

ARCL0133 Themes, Thought and Theory in World Archaeology: Foundations.

ARCL0134 Themes, Thought and Theory in World Archaeology: Current Topics.

These core modules are designed to provide an intensive graduate-level introduction to archaeological theory, research questions and reasoning within a seminar framework based on set readings and on short online lectures that you are required to listen to in advance of the seminar. The Term 1 module, *Foundations*, introduces you to the modern history of archaeological ideas and to several broad interpretive frameworks that continue to guide the generation of archaeological knowledge. The Term 2 module, *Current Topics*, examines current research organised around broad themes, highlighting a range of approaches to each. Details of each module are given in the relevant module handbooks.

Option Modules

You must take 60 credits of options, made up of 15-credit or 30-credit modules. Normally, you select options from those available within (and particularly relevant to) your specific degree, but given the intentionally broad nature of this degree, you may select options from those available in other Masters' degrees taught in the Institute of Archaeology, after discussion with and subject to the agreement of the Degree Co-ordinator. More exceptionally, it is possible to take up to 30 credits provided by another Department at UCL, or one of the other Colleges of the University of London – you should discuss this with your Degree Co-ordinator. The options available this year are listed at the back of this handbook.

Subject to space and the agreement of the Module Co-ordinators involved, you are welcome to attend modules in addition to those for which you are formally registered and examined.

Dissertation

The dissertation of up to 15,000 words is a report on research. There are few restrictions but the topic chosen must be approved by the Degree Coordinator as relevant to the general area covered by this degree. Soon after arrival, you should discuss your area of research interests with your Degree Co-ordinator, who will help you to focus your ideas for your dissertation, or refer you to another member of staff who will be able to provide more specific advice, and will probably become your Dissertation Supervisor. The Supervisor will help you define your dissertation topic, and provide guidance through the main stages of the work. The dissertation provides a further opportunity to explore and achieve your own academic objectives. It might be used to apply newly learned approaches to an archaeological problem that has long been of interest, or to gain greater experience with particular methods of data analysis. If you are studying part-time while working in the field or a museum, you might choose to analyse a data set derived from your own work, or to assess the potential of particular theoretical or methodological approaches for your work. You can treat the dissertation as a one-off research project, as a pilot study for a Ph.D. project, or use it to showcase your skills for potential employers.

The dissertation submission deadline is **Thursday 1st September 2022**. Guidelines for researching, writing and producing the dissertation are included in the Institute of Archaeology Student Handbook: <https://www.ucl.ac.uk/archaeology/current-students>.

Advice on the preparation of the dissertation will be provided through sessions during the year, starting at the MA/MSc Induction Session on Thursday 1st October

TEACHING SCHEDULE

Taught modules take place in the first two terms. The module timetable is given at the end of this handbook. You are expected to use the remaining months of your degree to research and write your dissertation.

TEACHING METHODS

Most modules taken by MA Archaeology students are based on a two-hour weekly seminar through the first two terms (30 credit) or just one term (15 credit). Seminars are run differently by individual Module Co-ordinators, and some modules will also include asynchronous online lectures to be viewed in advance of the seminar, but all have weekly assigned readings, which you will be expected to have read, to be able fully to follow and actively to contribute to the discussion. Some modules may require you to make a seminar presentation; if so, this will be indicated in the module handbook and explained in the first session of the module. Some will also have associated practicals, laboratory sessions, or field trips.

PREREQUISITES

Modules for the MA in Archaeology do not normally have prerequisites; you will have been accepted to the

degree on the understanding that you have sufficient background in archaeology or a cognate field, either through your previous degree or through relevant experience, to be able to follow the degree and modules for which you have been accepted. If, however, you wish to change your degree, or the modules in which you indicated an interest in enrolling in your application, you should discuss this with the relevant Degree and Module Co-ordinators as soon as possible, to ensure that you have the necessary background to benefit from the course.

For some modules, depending on your previous background, it may be recommended that you also attend (but will not be assessed for) a parallel undergraduate module, to ensure that you have the background to get the most out of the Masters level seminars.

COURSEWORK

All information about methods of assessment, plagiarism, word length, late submission penalties etc. may be found in the Institute of Archaeology Student Handbook:
<https://www.ucl.ac.uk/archaeology/current-students>

Practice essay

Much of the assessment of coursework for the MA Archaeology is based on writing essays. In order that you have the opportunity to ensure that you are familiar with what is expected of an essay at the Institute (including conventions for the citation of sources and submission of essays via Moodle to the Turnitin program) you are required to submit a practice essay.

The essay will be marked in the normal way, and will be returned to you with comments and any suggestions for improvement. An indication of the likely mark will be given for guidance, but the mark will *not* be included in the assessment of your year's work. We hope that many of you will find the writing of a practice essay a helpful means of ensuring that you are producing the sort of work expected before submitting an essay that will contribute to your final marks.

Essay task: *Write a review of an archaeology book or article that you have recently read. The review should include a summary of the book/article and an analysis of its strengths and weaknesses that explains/justifies your assessment.*

The Practice Essay should be a maximum 1500 words in length.

SUBMISSION PROCEDURES

The practice essay must be submitted to Turnitin via the MA Archaeology 21-22 Moodle site: <https://moodle.ucl.ac.uk/course/view.php?id=17311>. You will find the Turnitin submission folder under the Assessment tab.

This must be done by midnight on the day of the deadline, **Friday 15 October**.

DISSERTATION PRESENTATION (ORAL EXAMINATION)

All Master's students are required to attend an oral examination as part of their Dissertation assessment. This will normally be held in late May or early June. You must submit to your Dissertation Supervisor and Degree Co-ordinator a single sheet of A4 summarising the proposed research design of your dissertation, to which you will speak. The oral examination will normally be attended by the Degree Co-ordinator and another member of staff, often the Dissertation Supervisor, and will last for approximately 20 minutes. No marks are awarded for the oral examination; the assessment is satisfactory or unsatisfactory.

UCL INSTITUTE OF ARCHAEOLOGY
PROVISIONAL MA/MSc TIMETABLE 2021-22 as at 20/08/2021

DATES OF TERM: Monday 27 September – Friday 17 December 2021; Monday 10 January – Friday 25 March 2022

Formal teaching commences on Monday 4 October 10in Term 1 and on Monday 10 January in Term 2.

READING WEEKS: 8-12 November, 14-18 February

Please note that 0092, 0110, 0111, 0112, 0113, 0114, 0115, 0116, 0117, 0118, 0119, 0130, 0131, 0132, 0189, 0149, 0157, 0169, 0170, 0181, are only available to those enrolled for the degree for which they are Core Modules. Other modules shown in italics are Core Modules for particular degrees, and there is a limit on numbers.

ONLINE TIMETABLE You will also be able to access your timetables online at <https://timetable.ucl.ac.uk/tt/homePage.do>

Please check here for late changes to this schedule, or to locations.

Please contact Judy Medrington (j.medrington@ucl.ac.uk) with any queries

Cre	Code	Module Name	Co-ordinator	Term	Day and Time	Room
15	ARCL0082	Coptic Egyptian language and culture	Stephen Quirke	II	Mon 9-11	209
30	ARCL0086	Medieval archaeology	Stuart Brookes	I, II	Tu 4-6 Tu 4-6	G01, 16-18 Gordon Sq 410
15	ARCL0087	Exploratory data analysis in archaeology	Kris Lockyear	II	Fri 10-12	<i>online</i>
30	ARCL0091	<i>Public Archaeology Lectures asynchronous Seminars</i> <i>online</i>	<i>Gabe Moshenska</i>	<i>I & II</i>	<i>Wed 2-4</i>	<i>410</i>
15	ARCL0092	<i>The Museum: Critical Perspectives Seminars</i>	<i>Alice Stevenson</i>	<i>I</i>	<i>Tu 9-11 Tu 11-12, 12-1</i>	<i>209 410</i>
15	ARCL0093	<i>Managing Museums - Lectures Seminars</i>	<i>Tim Schadla Hall</i>	<i>I</i>	<i>Th 4-6 and Th 2 or 3</i>	<i>612 612</i>
15	ARCL0094	<i>Geographic Information Systems in Archaeology and History</i>	<i>Marco Nebbia</i>	<i>I</i>	<i>Wed 9-12</i>	<i>online</i>

15	ARCL0095	<i>Geographic Information Systems Approaches to Past Landscapes</i>	Andy Bevan	II	Mon 10-1	322c
15	ARCL0096	Archaeobotanical analysis in practice	Dorian Fuller	II	Mon 11-1	lab
15	ARCL0097	Geoarchaeology:	Manuel Arroyo-Kalin	II	Fri 9-11 Th 11-1	410 lab
15	ARCL0098	Archaeometallurgy	Mike Charlton	I	Th 2-4 and Fri 12-2	B13 B13
15	ARCL0099	Archaeological glass and glazes Mus visits – some weeks	Ian Freestone	II	Mon 3-5 Th am	B13
15	ARCL0100	Interpreting Pottery Lectures <i>online</i> asynchronous Practicals – one of	Bill Sillar	I	Mon 10-11.30, or 11.30-1,	B13
15	ARCL0101	Prehistoric Stone Artefact Analysis	Ceri Shipton	II	Fri 2-4	410
15	ARCL0102	Archaeological ceramic analysis Practicals	Patrick Quinn	II	Tu 2-4 and Th 3-5	B13 410
15	ARCL0103	Spatial Statistics, Network Analysis and Human History	Mark Lake	II	Th 11-1	322C/410
30	ARCL0108	Managing archaeological sites	Gai Jorayev	I, II I, II	Tu 2-4 Wed 4-6	G6 tbc 209
15	ARCL0109	Archaeology of hunter-gatherers from the emergence of modern humans	Andrew Garrard	I	Fri 2-4	B13
15	ARCL0110	<i>Skills for conservation management – Lectures</i> online asynchronous Practicals	Caitlin O'Grady	II	Wed 9-11	209
15	ARCL0111	<i>Preventive conservation Lectures</i> <i>online</i> asynchronous Seminars – one of	Jill Saunders	I	Th 9-10.30, 10.30-12	B13
15	ARCL0112	<i>Context of conservation Lectures</i> <i>online</i> asynchronous Seminars Practicals	Renata Peters	I	Tues 9-11 and Tu pm times tbc	412 tbc
15	ARCL0113	<i>Understanding objects Lectures</i> <i>online</i> asynchronous Seminars Practicals	Renata Peters/ Jill Saunders	II	Mon 11-1 and Mon 2-5	410 tbc
15	ARCL0114	<i>Morphology and palaeopathology of the human skeleton</i> Practicals - One of	Rebecca Watts	I	Mon 1-2 Th 10-12, 12.30-2.30, 3-5	Bedford Way 305 308
15	ARCL0115	<i>Variation and evolution of the human skull</i>	Carolyn Rando	I	Mon 12-1	Bedford Way 305

		<i>Practicals - One of</i>			<i>Wed 10-12, 12.30-2.30, 3-5</i>	308
15	ARCL0116	<i>Dental anthropology Lectures online asynchronous</i>	<i>Simon Hillson</i>	<i>II</i>		
		<i>Practicals - One of</i>			<i>Tu 10-12, 12.30-2.30, 3-5</i>	308
15	ARCL0117	<i>Methodology and issues in bioarchaeology and palaeoepidemiology</i>	<i>Rebecca Watts</i>	<i>II</i>	<i>One of Th 10-1 or 2- 5</i>	308
30	ARCL0118	<i>Collections management and care</i>	<i>Alice Stevenson</i>	<i>I II</i>	<i>Tu 2-6 Mon 2-5</i>	209 209
15	ARCL0119	<i>Forensic anthropology-</i>	<i>Carolyn Rando</i>	<i>I</i>	<i>Tues 11-1</i>	209
		<i>Practicals - One of</i>			<i>Fri 10-12, 12.30-2.30, 3-5</i>	308
15	ARCL0120	<i>Maya art, architecture and archaeology</i>	<i>Elizabeth Graham</i>	<i>II</i>	<i>Th 4-6</i>	B13
15	ARCL0121	<i>Cultural Memory</i>	<i>Beverley Butler</i>	<i>II</i>	<i>Th 2-4</i>	B13
30	ARCL0123	<i>Themes in Palaeoanthropology and Palaeolithic Archaeology</i>	<i>Andy Garrard</i>	<i>I,II</i>	<i>Mon 11-1</i>	412
15	ARCL0124	<i>Evolution of the human brain and behaviour</i>	<i>James Steele</i>	<i>I</i>	<i>Wed 11-1</i>	410
15	ARCL0125	<i>Zooarchaeology in practice</i>	<i>Louise Martin</i>	<i>I</i>	<i>Mon 1-4</i>	308
15	ARCL0128	<i>Resources and subsistence</i>	<i>Dorian Fuller</i>	<i>II</i>	<i>Wed 10-12</i>	410
15	ARCL0129	<i>Environmental archaeology in practice</i>	<i>Louise Martin</i>	<i>I</i>	<i>Wed 9-11</i>	410
15	ARCL0130	<i>Museum Communication and Audience Engagement: Lectures online asynchronous</i>	<i>Theano Moussouri</i>	<i>I</i>		
		<i>Seminars one of</i>			<i>Th 11-12 or 12-1</i>	<i>tbc</i>
15	ARCL0132	<i>Collections Curatorship</i>	<i>Theano Moussouri</i>	<i>II</i>	<i>Mon 10-12</i>	209
15	ARCL0133	<i>Themes, Thought and Theory in World Archaeology: Foundations Lectures online asynchronous</i>	<i>Todd Whitelaw</i>	<i>I</i>		
		<i>Seminars – one of</i>			<i>Mon 11-1 or 2-4 or Tu 2-4</i>	410 412
15	ARCL0134	<i>Themes, Thought and Theory in World Archaeology: Current Topics</i>	<i>Stephen Shennan</i>	<i>II</i>	<i>Tu 11-1 Or Mon 1-3</i>	410 410
15	ARCL0135	<i>Aegean prehistory: major themes and current debates Lectures online asynchronous</i>	<i>Todd Whitelaw</i>	<i>II</i>		
		<i>Seminars</i>			<i>Fri 11-1</i>	410
15	ARCL0138	<i>The Mediterranean World in the Iron Age</i>	<i>tbc</i>	<i>II</i>	<i>Th 9-11</i>	410
15	ARCL0145	<i>Archaeologies of modern conflict</i>	<i>Gabe Moshenska</i>	<i>II</i>	<i>Wed 9-11</i>	Tavistock (34) 101
15	ARCL0147	<i>Themes and debates in Egyptian Archaeology</i>	<i>Claudia Naeser</i>	<i>I</i>	<i>Tu 11-1</i>	B13

15	ARCL0148	Digital heritage – applications in heritage management	Gai Jorayev	I	Tu 11-1 and Classes in reading week	lab
15	ARCL0149	Critical perspectives on cultural heritage Lectures online asynchronous Visits	Beverley Butler	I	Mon pm	
		Seminars – one of	Beverley Butler	I	Tu 4-5, 5-6 Wed 11-12,12-1	612 B13
15	ARCL0150	Museum Placement	Theano Moussouri			
15	ARCL0151	Neolithic and early Bronze Age of the Near East: The emergence of villages and urban societies	Karen Wright	I	Wed 11.30-1.30	209
15	ARCL0152	Archaeologies of Asia	Yijie Zhuang	I	Fri 12-2	209
15	ARCL0153	Archaeological heritage management in Asia	Rui Pang	II	Th 11-1	B13
15	ARCL0156	Funerary archaeology	Mike Parker Pearson	II	Tu 11-1	G6
15	ARCL0157	Archaeology of Egypt and the Near East: a comparative approach	David Wengrow	I	Fri 2-4	209
15	ARCL0155	Social complexity in early China	Yijie Zhuang	I	Mon 9-11	410
15	ARCL0159	Introduction to Ancient Egyptian Language	Stephen Quirke	I	Mon 9-11	209
15	ARCL0160	Archaeological Data Science	Mark Altaweel	I	Th 11-2	322C
15	ARCL0161	Complexity, Space and Human history	Mark Lake	II	Tu 2-4	410
15	ARCL0164	Making and meaning in ancient Roman art	Eva Mol	II	Tu 11-1	BM/B13
15	ARCL0169	Technology within Society	Mike Charlton/Miljana Radivojevic	I	Tu 9-11	410
15	ARCL0170	Laboratory and instrumental skills in archaeological science	Mike Charlton	I	Th 9-11	410
15	ARCL0178	Themes and Debates in Islamic Archaeology and Heritage	tbc	II	Tu 4-6	B13
15	ARCL0181	Advanced Forensic Anthropology Practicals - One of	Carolyn Rando	II	Mon 12-2 Fri 10-12, 12.30-2.30, 3-5	209 308
15	ARCL0188	Comparative Archaeologies of the Americas	Elizabeth Baquedano	I	Fri 11-1	410
15	ARCL0189	Critical Heritage Research Skills Lectures online asynchronous Seminars – one of	Rachel King	II	Wed 9, 10, 11, 12	Asynchronous B13
15	ARCL0199	Heritage Ethics and Archaeological Practice in the Middle East and Mediterranean	Alice Stevenson tbc	II	Th 2-5	209
15	ARCL0200	Middle Bronze Age to the Iron Age in the Near East: City-States and Empires	Mark Altaweel	II	Th 11.30-1.30	209
15	ARCL0210	Archaeology of the Silk Roads	Tim Williams	II	Fri 4-6	209
15	ARCL0212	Archaeology of early human origins	Ceri Shipton	II	Th 1-3	410

15	ARCL0215	Presenting the past to the public	Rachel King/Gabe Moshenska	I	Wed 9-11	209
15	ARCL0219	Interpreting collections	Rachel King	II	Mon 10-12	B13