

ARCHAEOLOGICAL STUDIES

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This interdisciplinary major is supervised by the University's Council on Archaeological Studies. Inquiries about the major may be addressed to the chair of the council, Richard Burger (richard.burger@yale.edu), Department of Anthropology, 10 Sachem St., or to the director of undergraduate studies (DUS).

The major in Archaeological Studies provides a program of interdepartmental offerings covering prehistoric, early historic, medieval, and other cultures and cultural developments in the Old and New Worlds and introduces students to the analytic tools that facilitate archaeological studies. The major is designed to expose students to a variety of archaeological research perspectives: anthropological, historical, art historical, and scientific. Also emphasized are substantive studies including (1) study of prehistoric–early historic transformations such as the origins of agriculture, cities and states, and early empires, and (2) study of the material culture, art, and architecture of prehistoric, early historic, and medieval cultures, including the iconography of ancient cultures, the relationship between art and society, ancient writing systems, and American historical archaeology.

REQUIREMENTS OF THE MAJOR

See Links to the attributes indicating courses approved for the Archaeological Studies major requirements.

The major consists of twelve term courses, including the senior project. In addition, students must participate in a Yale-affiliated summer research project, or that of another archaeological field school approved in advance by the DUS. The following five courses are required: an introductory survey; the introductory laboratory course ARCG 3116L; an advanced laboratory course; a theory course; and the senior research project ARCG 4491. The remaining seven courses required for the major must be distributed among the subject areas represented by the departments and programs offering courses multiple-titled with Archaeological Studies, with three of those seven courses found in different departments and programs. The relevant departments and programs are Anthropology, Classics, Earth and Planetary Sciences, Environmental Studies, History, History of Art, Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, and Religious Studies. With the permission of the DUS, a course may be counted toward a subject area other than the one(s) under which it is listed. For three of the seven archaeological electives students may, with permission of the DUS, substitute courses from other departments in areas related to their research.

Field research In addition to being the base for several faculty field projects around the globe, the Council on Archaeological Studies takes as its principal mission the encouragement of multiple field experiences. Our undergraduate majors are required to participate in at least one intensive summer field school. Approval is required, and costs are often subsidized by the Council. Students are encouraged to participate in each other's field projects, thereby learning about the greatest number of cultures and areas possible, while experiencing a diverse array of field situations.

Students are strongly encouraged, but are not required, to devote a second summer to archaeological research, either in the field or in a laboratory. Council faculty currently direct archaeological field projects in China, Egypt, Guatemala, Peru, Mongolia, Armenia, and Italy. Qualified majors are encouraged to apply for research positions with these projects.

Credit/D/Fail No more than one course taken Credit/D/Fail may be applied toward the requirements of the major.

Outside credit Courses taken at another institution or during an approved summer or term-time study abroad program may count toward the major requirements with DUS approval.

SENIOR REQUIREMENT

The final requirement for the major is a senior research project (ARCG 4491) in some field of archaeology, preferably one involving more than one area or discipline.

ADVISING

Students majoring in Archaeological Studies should consult with the DUS at the beginning of each term.

SUMMARY OF MAJOR REQUIREMENTS

Prerequisites None

Number of courses 12 term courses (incl senior project)

Specific course required ARCG 3116L (intro lab)

Distribution of courses 1 intro survey; 1 advanced lab; 1 theory course; 7 electives, at least 1 in each of 3 areas, as specified

Field requirement 1 summer field techniques course or research project, as specified and approved by the DUS

Substitution permitted For 3 electives, 3 courses related to research, with DUS permission

Senior requirement Research project (ARCG 4491)