

# ARCHAEOLOGY

## PROGRAM OF STUDY

The major in Archaeology offers an interdepartmental training in the practice and theory of the field, which seeks to understand past human cultures through objects, spaces, and landscapes. The major provides exposure to prehistoric and historic societies across the globe as well as engages students in a variety of disciplinary approaches to archaeology, including anthropological, art historical, scientific, and area-studies fields. Students who graduate with the major in archaeology will not only have gained some technical “know-how” and field experience in how archaeology is conducted through a diverse range of methods, but will also be able to place knowledge of the past into larger intellectual frameworks concerning social organization and the use of material culture as a source of information for understanding cultures past and present.

## PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

Students who complete a major in Archaeology will receive the degree of Bachelor of Arts. To qualify for the BA, students must minimally satisfy the general education requirements and take an additional 12 required courses for the major, which fall into three categories:

1. **Introductory Courses**, which engage students with the core questions, intellectual history, and analytical methods that unify archaeological research. (400 units)
2. **Methods Courses**, which introduce students to the practical techniques used by archaeologists as they collect data and analyze objects. (300 units)
3. **Elective Courses**, which provide breadth and depth in the interdisciplinary range of archaeology courses. Students may choose to focus on particular periods or cultures, on additional methods training, or on thematic courses. (500 units)

While there is no single pathway through these categories, students are highly encouraged to begin with the introductory courses and should consult with the Program Chair as early as possible to develop a plan that suits their interests, schedules, and career plans.

## INTRODUCTORY COURSES

The four required introductory courses establish the foundation for the major through engaging students with a mixture of methods and theory, surveys of the history of the field, global cultural histories, and overviews of core concepts and trending developments. These courses are meant to expose students to the practice of the discipline of archaeology, including concepts of stratigraphy, dating techniques, types of archaeological data and their quantitative and statistical analysis, laboratory methods, and field techniques. They also introduce students to the broader intellectual trends of the social sciences, humanities, and natural sciences and the field’s interpretations of evidence over the last two centuries. In addition, the courses serve as an introduction to a global history of human cultural developments through their material practices.

|             |                             |     |
|-------------|-----------------------------|-----|
| NEAA 20100  | Introduction to Archaeology | 100 |
| NEAA 20330  | Archaeological Theory       | 100 |
| ANTH 26900  | Archaeological Data Sets    | 100 |
| ARKE 20200  | World Archaeology           | 100 |
| Total Units |                             | 400 |

## METHODS COURSES

The Archaeology major requires students to develop an understanding of the various methods used in archaeological fieldwork and object analysis by taking three courses (300 units). Method courses should introduce and train students in the techniques and theory behind particular analyses of material objects, spatial information, or textual materials such as manuscripts and archives. Existing methods offerings include ceramic and lithic analysis, zooarchaeology, Geographical Information Systems, archaeology and archives, ancient DNA, and ethnoarchaeology, among others.

|  |  |     |
|--|--|-----|
| ANTH 20007                               | People’s Garbage: Intro to Archaeology & Histories of Waste      | 100 |
| ANTH 28400                               | Bioarchaeology and Forensic Anthropology: Approaches to the Past | 100 |
| ANTH 29500                               | Archaeology Laboratory Practicum                                 | 100 |
| Archaeological Experiments in Filmmaking |  | 100 |
| ARTH 44002                               | COSI Objects & Materials Seminar                                 | 100 |
| BIOS 22270                               | Bones and Genes: The Story of Homo Sapiens                       | 100 |
| CLCV 21700                               | Archaeology for Ancient Historians                               | 100 |
| NEAA 10020                               | Ceramic Analysis in Archaeology                                  | 100 |
| NEAA 20035                               | Introduction to Zooarchaeology                                   | 100 |

|            |                         |     |
|------------|-------------------------|-----|
| NEAA 20061 | Ancient Landscapes I *  | 100 |
| NEAA 20062 | Ancient Landscapes II * | 100 |

\* While NEAA 20061 and 20062 are intended to be taken as a sequence, they may count as individual methods courses depending on student interest.

## ELECTIVES COURSES

Electives provide students the chance to explore their interest in archaeology-related material, particularly through thematic seminars on topics like death and burial, inequality, and gender, as well as in-depth studies of the material and visual culture of certain times and places in world history. There is a wide range of archaeological and archaeology-adjacent course options in domains such as material studies, art history, cultural heritage, and social theory that would be applicable. Students are encouraged to work with faculty to choose electives that cater to their interests and/or career or postgraduate goals.

A list of pre-approved electives is provided below. Other pre-approved electives include any methods course and any courses with an "ARKE" course code, though note that any course used to fulfill a different requirement in the major (e.g., methods) cannot also count as an elective. Otherwise, students may petition the Program Chair for permission to count specific courses as electives.

|                                   |  |     |
|-----------------------------------|--|-----|
| ANTH 20014                        | Animal Magnetism: Histories of Human-Animal Relationships  | 100 |
| ANTH 20100                        | The Inca And Aztec States  | 100 |
| ANTH 21265                        | The Celts: Ancient, Modern, and Postmodern   | 100 |
| ANTH 21270                        | Material Worlds Across Premodern East Asia   | 100 |
| ANTH 26100                        | Ancient Celtic Societies   | 100 |
| ANTH 26330                        | Making the Maya World  | 100 |
| ANTH 26825                        | Heritage, Memory, and the Affective Turn: Performing and Consuming the Past                        | 100 |
| Archaeology of Race and Ethnicity |  | 100 |
| ARTH 14107                        | Greek Art and Archaeology  | 100 |
| ARTH 16100                        | Art of the East: China   | 100 |
| ARTH 20603                        | Image and Text in Mesoamerican Codices   | 100 |
| ARTH 23010                        | From Ground to Gallery: Visual Culture of the Ancient Near East                                    | 100 |
| ARTH 24602                        | Image, Medium and Context of Chinese Pictorial Art   | 100 |
| ARTH 25105                        | Chichen Itza   | 100 |
| ARTH 25106                        | Art & Urbanism at Teotihuacan  | 100 |
| ARTH 25300                        | Art and Pilgrimage from Antiquity to Christianity  | 100 |
| ARTH 28330                        | Art and Religion from the Roman to the Christian Worlds  | 100 |
| CLCV 20100                        | This is Sparta (or Is It?)   | 100 |
| CLCV 20700                        | Ancient Mediterranean World I: Greece  | 100 |
| CLCV 23024                        | Gender Archaeology   | 100 |
| CLCV 23516                        | Environment and Society in the Ancient Mediterranean   | 100 |
| CLCV 23922                        | Have and Have-Nots: Class, Status, and Wealth in the Ancient World.                                | 100 |
| CLCV 24622                        | Death and Burial   | 100 |
| CLCV 27116                        | The Greek Countryside  | 100 |
| CLCV 27320                        | Greek Archaeology in 20 Objects  | 100 |
| EALC 28010                        | Archaeology of Anyang: Bronzes, Inscriptions, and World Heritage                                   | 100 |
| EALC 28015                        | Archaeology of Bronze Age China  | 100 |
| EALC 28901                        | Discovering Ancient East Asia: Archaeology of China, Korea, and Japan                              | 100 |
| NEAA 20001                        | Introduction to the Archaeology of the Ancient Near East I - Mesopotamia                           | 100 |
| NEAA 20002                        | Archaeology of the Ancient Near East II: Anatolia  | 100 |
| NEAA 20030                        | The Rise of the State in the Ancient Near East   | 100 |
| NEAA 20070                        | Intro to the Archaeology of Afghanistan  | 100 |
| NEAA 20161                        | Topics in Mesopotamian Prehistory: The Ubaid Horizon & Origins of Social Complexity in Mesopotamia | 100 |
| NEAA 20162                        | Topics: Mesopotamian History II: Uruk Mesopotamia and Neighbor                                     | 100 |
| NEAA 20322                        | Ancient Levant-II: The Iron Age and Persian Period   | 100 |
| NEAA 20332                        | Trade and Exchange in the Ancient Near East  | 100 |
| NEAA 20428                        | Indian Ocean Trade: an overview from Late Antiquity to the 17th century                            | 100 |

|            |  |     |
|------------|--|-----|
| NEAA 20511 | The Archaeology of Egypt I                                       | 100 |
|            | The Gulf and Eastern Arabia from Prehistory to Islam             | 100 |
| NEHC 20010 | Social Theory and Ancient Studies                                | 100 |
| NEHC 20085 | BIG: Monumental Buildings and Sculptures in the Past and Present | 100 |
| NEHC 20121 | Ancient Israel in the Bible and in Archaeology                   | 100 |
| NEHC 20464 | Did Climate Doom the Ancients?                                   | 100 |

### FIELDWORK COMPONENT

In order to gain hands-on experience with the practice of archaeological inquiry and analysis, the Archaeology major requires students to participate in at least one season of fieldwork at some point during their undergraduate career. Fieldwork takes many forms, and exactly what counts toward this requirement will be at the discretion of the Program Chair. Joining an excavation is the obvious way to complete the requirement but other forms of fieldwork include archaeological surveys (site discovery), underwater archaeology, or other types of archaeology-related activities such as a curatorial internship in a museum or laboratory. The goal is for all students to enjoy a productive learning experience in a practical archaeological setting.

Students are encouraged to begin thinking about participation in a fieldwork or museum project by their third year, in consultation with the Program Chair, who can provide guidance on finding projects that they can join and that meets their interests. Students participating in archaeological fieldwork not led by UChicago faculty will submit documentation (including hosting institution, principal investigator, dates, visa requirements, and project website) to the Program Chair for confirmation that it meets the fieldwork requirement. In addition, all students submit a brief post-fieldwork assessment of the project and the skills they learned while participating in it, by the fifth week of the final quarter before they graduate (normally, spring quarter of their fourth year).

The Program Chair and faculty board will work with students to ensure that this requirement can be met by all students in a rewarding and productive way regardless of financial means or other circumstances of accessibility.

### SUMMARY OF REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MAJOR IN ARCHAEOLOGY

|                         |                             |      |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------|------|
| NEAA 20100              | Introduction to Archaeology | 100  |
| NEAA 20330              | Archaeological Theory       | 100  |
| ANTH 26900              | Archaeological Data Sets    | 100  |
| ARKE 20200              | World Archaeology           | 100  |
| Methods Courses         |                             | 300  |
| Elective Courses        |                             | 500  |
| Fieldwork Participation |                             | 000  |
| Total Units             |                             | 1200 |

### MINOR IN ARCHAEOLOGY

The Archaeology minor requires six total courses: Introduction to Archaeology, one of the three required introductory courses (Archaeological Theory, Archaeological Data Sets, or World Archaeology), and four electives courses. Some students may choose to specialize in a particular geographic or thematic area, while others may choose to take courses in a wide range of fields and geographies. Minor courses may not be double-counted with other majors or minors.

### SUMMARY OF REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MINOR IN ARCHAEOLOGY

|                       |                             |     |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------|-----|
| NEAA 20100            | Introduction to Archaeology | 100 |
| One of the following: |                             | 100 |
| NEAA 20330            | Archaeological Theory       |     |
| ANTH 26900            | Archaeological Data Sets    |     |
| ARKE 20200            | World Archaeology           |     |
| Elective Courses      |                             | 400 |
| Total Units           |                             | 600 |

### PROCESS OF DECLARING THE MAJOR OR MINOR

College students from any field of study may complete a major or minor in Archaeology. It is recommended that students declare before their third year. Students are also encouraged to construct individual programs depending on their interests and should regularly consult with the Program Chair, as well as their College adviser, about their pathway through the program.

In order to declare a major in Archaeology, students should confer with their College adviser then meet with the Program Chair to fill out a Program Worksheet. To declare a minor, students should fill out the Minor

Consent form (<https://college.uchicago.edu/sites/default/files/documents/College%20Dean%20of%20Students/Minor%20Consent%20Form.pdf>), to be signed by the Program Chair.

Students interested in double majoring in Archaeology and another field are encouraged to discuss their plans with their College adviser and the Program Chair.

## GRADING

The four required seminar courses must be taken for quality grades. In exceptional circumstances, students who are majoring in Archaeology may petition to allow a course taken for a pass/fail grade to count toward other the requirements of the major. Students wishing to do so should consult with the Program Chair. A pass grade is to be given only for work of C- quality or higher. Students should also consult with their College adviser about the appropriateness of pass/fail grading options in their larger program of study.

## HONORS

Students who wish to receive a BA in Archaeology with Honors must carry out an independent research project that culminates in a written thesis. To be eligible for consideration of honors status, students must:

- submit a research proposal (no more than three pages) by the end of the fifth week of the third quarter before the student graduates (canonically Autumn Quarter of the fourth year) that is approved by a selected Faculty Reader
- have an overall GPA of 3.25 or above by the time of proposal submission
- have a GPA of 3.5 or above in courses counting towards the Archaeology major by the time of proposal submission
- receive the grade of A on their thesis as determined by their Faculty Reader and the Program Chair, which should be an original piece of research that engages with archaeological theories, analysis of evidence, and/or intellectual history. Theses should be between 25-35 pages.

The thesis must be submitted by the third week of the quarter in which the student plans to graduate (typically Spring Quarter of the student's fourth year). Theses should be emailed as PDFs to the Program Chair and to their Faculty Reader.

This program may accept an Honors thesis or project used to satisfy the same requirement in another major with the consent of both program directors. Students should consult with the relevant program directors by the earliest BA proposal deadline, or by the end of their third year if neither program publishes a deadline. The Petition to Use a Single Bachelor's Paper for Two Majors ([https://humanities-web.s3.us-east-2.amazonaws.com/college-prod/s3fs-public/documents/BA\\_Double\\_Major\\_0.pdf](https://humanities-web.s3.us-east-2.amazonaws.com/college-prod/s3fs-public/documents/BA_Double_Major_0.pdf)) form, to be signed by both program directors, must be completed and returned to the College adviser by the end of Autumn Quarter of the student's year of graduation.

## ARCHAEOLOGY COURSES

### **ARKE 20200. World Archaeology. 100 Units.**

The aim of this course is to provide students with a broad overview of the development of human societies around the world from the first emergence of hominins to the industrial period, with a particular emphasis on an archaeological perspective for the historical periods. The course aims to cover a number of key developments, times and places (e.g. the Neolithic revolution, the first cities, Egypt, Buddhism, the Chinese empires) from a wide range of parts of the globe (South Asia, China, Western Asia, Europe, the Americas). Within the context of these topics, the course also aims to introduce to students a range of theoretical and methodological approaches or current debates. The course will be taught through 27, 50-min lecture and discussion classes by 19 different instructors from UChicago and beyond. The course has the value of providing students with a broad framework that will help them contextualize their learning throughout their time in Chicago. This course is one of the four required introductory courses in the archaeology major. There are no prerequisites.

Instructor(s): Derek Kennet Terms Offered: Spring

