

ARCHAEOLOGY MAJOR

MAJOR DESCRIPTION

Archaeology is the discipline most directly concerned with the understanding and explanation of past societies through the study of their material remains. The reconstruction of these societies through the interpretation of material culture - drawing on multiple disciplines across the humanities and the sciences - permits archaeology to span both the prehistoric and the historic periods. Our faculty are based in the departments of Anthropology, Art and Art History, and Classical Studies, as well as in Wesleyan's Anthropology and Archaeology Collections, and maintain strong connections to the sciences. The major area requirements help students to acquire familiarity with a range of different disciplinary approaches; Majors then refine their studies to specialize in a specific area of concentration within the discipline (a region, artifact class, or scientific approach) in close consultation with their advisor.

ADMISSION TO THE MAJOR

To apply to become a major in archaeology, a student must have taken or be currently enrolled in either a Gateway or a Thinking Through Archaeology course and earn a grade of B or better. Following electronic application, admission will be determined by a meeting of the ARCP faculty.

GATEWAY COURSES

Code	Title	Hours
ARCP201	Art and Archaeology of the Bronze Age Mediterranean	1
ARCP203	The Secrets of Ancient Bones: Discovering Ancient DNA and Archaeology	1
ARCP204	Introduction to Archaeology	1
ARCP214	Survey of Greek Archaeology and Art	1
ARCP223	Survey of Roman Archaeology and Art	1

THINKING THROUGH ARCHAEOLOGY

Code	Title	Hours
ARCP234	Art and Society in Ancient Pompeii	1
ARCP244	Pyramids and Funeral Pyres: Death and the Afterlife in Greece and Egypt	1
ARCP285	Off with its Pedestal! The Greek Vase as Art and Artifact	1
ARCP292	Archaeology of Food, Trade, and Power in South India	1
ARCP390	Making Rome: Monuments of Life in Ancient Rome	1

MAJOR REQUIREMENTS

A major in archaeology consists of at least nine different courses numbered **200** and above:

- One Gateway course—*see list above*
- One Thinking Through Archaeology course—*see list above*

- One course in each of the four areas—*see lists below*
 - Anthropology
 - Art history
 - Classical civilization
 - Methods and theory
- Two electives in archaeology or related disciplines
- Senior essay/thesis tutorial (1 or 2 credits)
- Recommended fieldwork

ANTHROPOLOGY

Code	Title	Hours
ARCP203	The Secrets of Ancient Bones: Discovering Ancient DNA and Archaeology	1
ARCP204	Introduction to Archaeology	1
ARCP257	Environmental Archaeology	1
ARCP291	East Asian Archaeology	1

ART HISTORY

Code	Title	Hours
ARCP292	Archaeology of Food, Trade, and Power in South India	1
ARCP380	Relic and Image: The Archaeology and Social History of Indian Buddhism	1
ARCP382	Archaeology of Money: Numismatics and GIS	1

CLASSICAL STUDIES

Code	Title	Hours
ARCP201	Art and Archaeology of the Bronze Age Mediterranean	1
ARCP214	Survey of Greek Archaeology and Art	1
ARCP223	Survey of Roman Archaeology and Art	1
ARCP234	Art and Society in Ancient Pompeii	1
ARCP244	Pyramids and Funeral Pyres: Death and the Afterlife in Greece and Egypt	1

METHODS AND THEORY

Code	Title	Hours
ARCP257	Environmental Archaeology	1
ARCP382	Archaeology of Money: Numismatics and GIS	1
ARCP350	Animals in Archaeology	1
ARCP352	Ancient Medicine: Potions, Poisons, and Phytochemistry in the Ancient Mediterranean	1

FIELDWORK

Archaeological fieldwork, typically carried out over the summer, is an excellent way to acquire hands-on experience and training in archaeological methods and excavation techniques. It also allows students to explore the history and material culture of a region in greater depth and, in some cases, even to conduct research on primary materials from a site that can then serve as the basis for a senior thesis or capstone project.

Fieldwork opportunities are offered both by our Wesleyan faculty as well as through a number of programs worldwide. For more information and a list of archaeological field programs, visit wesleyan.edu/archprog/fieldwork/

(<https://wesleyan.edu/archprog/fieldwork/>). **Excavation experience is strongly encouraged, and completion of an approved archaeological field school program may be substituted for the methods and theory requirement.**

COURSES FOR NON-MAJORS

Since there are no **ARCP** courses with prerequisites, all of our courses are suitable for non-majors.

STUDENT LEARNING GOALS

Archaeology is the discipline most directly concerned with the understanding and explanation of past societies through the study of their material remains. Archaeology majors are expected to master four of six themes or topics:

- History and theory of the discipline
- The nature of archaeological evidence
- The construction of archaeological arguments
- Chronology
- The materiality of social, political, and economic organization
- The intersection of archaeological evidence with past and present identities

Majors are also required to take at least one course in each of the departments that contribute to the Archaeology Program (Anthropology, Art History, Classical Civilization) in order to expose them to different disciplinary approaches to the study of material culture.

STUDY ABROAD

Study abroad is possible at a number of institutions with well-established archaeology programs, some of which include tours of archaeological sites in addition to coursework. Wesleyan students have recently participated in semesters abroad at these institutions:

- University College London (UK)
- St. Andrews University (Scotland, UK)
- Intercollegiate Center for Classical Studies in Rome (Italy)
- College Year in Athens (Greece)

Interested students should consult the Office of Study Abroad (<http://www.wesleyan.edu/cgs/osa/>) for details about transferable credit.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- We encourage students to take the Gateway course before their chosen Thinking Through Archaeology course. However, as we have no prerequisites for entry to archaeology courses, it is possible for students to complete these requirements in reverse order.
- With prior approval from the chair of the Archaeology Program, the methods and theory requirement may be fulfilled by academic credit from a field school program. We strongly encourage minors to gain fieldwork experience in archaeology.
- Upon the discretion of the archaeology chair, one nonfieldwork archaeology credit may be transferred in to cover a Gateway or area requirement.

- No more than two courses cross-listed with the student's major will be counted toward the archaeology minor.

HONORS

See Capstone Experience below.

CAPSTONE EXPERIENCE

In their senior year, ARCP majors are required to undertake an original research project culminating in either a one-semester essay ARCP403 or two-semester thesis project ARCP409 - ARCP410. These projects should be centered upon the analysis and interpretation of material remains, and may include work on objects in the archaeology and anthropology collections, materials tied to field projects of a Wesleyan faculty member, or experimental approaches to archaeological data. Students should begin planning their research focus together with their faculty Tutor during their junior year, and should plan to have fully defined their data set by the summer prior to their senior year.

Students pursuing honors both in archaeology and in a second major are required to take at least one of their two required thesis tutorials in the archaeology program (i.e., either ARCP409 or ARCP410).

Honors Evaluation

In order to be considered for Honors, each thesis will be evaluated by two ARCP readers, of whom one may be the Tutor. In circumstances where a student is submitting the thesis for multiple majors, or is drawing on techniques or methods which require expertise from outside ARCP faculty, a third reader from outside the department shall be included in addition to the two from within ARCP. Readers will be determined by the Tutor in consultation with the student by the beginning of spring semester of senior year.

Readers shall write a short evaluation of the work, and offer an estimation of its merit in the form No Honors/Honors/High Honors. In cases where there is a disagreement between Readers about whether a work merits Honors, a third ARCP Reader will serve as a tie-breaker.