ARCHAEOLOGY MAJOR

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

ARCP201  Art and Archaeology of the Bronze Age Mediterranean  1
ARCP202  Paleoanthropology: The Study of Human Evolution  1
ARCP204  Approaches to Archaeology  1
ARCP214  Survey of Greek Archaeology  1
ARCP223  Survey of Roman Archaeology and Art  1
ARCP268  North America Before Columbus  1

THINKING THROUGH ARCHAEOLOGY

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
ARCP304  Medieval Archaeology  1
ARCP372  Archaeology of Death  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

COURSES FOR NON-MAJORS

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

ANARCHEOLOGY

ARCP202  Paleoanthropology: The Study of Human Evolution  1
ARCP250  Foragers to Farmers: Hunting and Gathering and the Development of Agriculture  1
ARCP268  North America Before Columbus  1

ART HISTORY

ARCP215  The Art and Archaeology of Anglo-Saxon England, 400–1100  1
ARCP292  Archaeology of Food, Trade, and Power in South India  1
ARCP380  Relic and Image: The Archaeology and Social History of Indian Buddhism  1

CLASSICAL STUDIES

ARCP201  Art and Archaeology of the Bronze Age Mediterranean  1
ARCP214  Survey of Greek Archaeology  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
ARCP253  Ancient Rome: From Hut Village to Imperial Capital  1
ARCP328  Roman Urban Life  1

METHODS AND THEORY

ARCP314  How to Think Like an Archaeologist  1
ARCP372  Archaeology of Death  1
ARCP383  Grounding the Past: Monument, Site, and Memory  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.

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

All majors must write a senior honors thesis or a senior essay that involves interpretation of material remains. This may include work on objects in the archaeology and anthropology collections or research tied to a project of a Wesleyan faculty member. 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).