

Archaeological Science

Archaeology 285

Section: D100

Term: 2014 Spring

Instructor: Dr. Francesco Berna

Office: EDB 9613

Phone: 778.782.9674

email: francesco_berna@sfu.ca

Discussion Topics: This course is intended to introduce students to scientific techniques used for archaeological investigations. In fact, the study of the past and human-environment interaction has been transformed in recent years by the application of multiple techniques drawn from the natural sciences and engineering. These include physics, chemistry, biology, earth and materials sciences. In particular, morphological and genetic studies of human and biological remains and chemical-physical analysis of the material culture provide insights into past human activities and the conditions in which ancient people lived. Lectures will cover basic scientific approach (e.g. hypothesis generation and evaluation), principles and applications of commonly used analytical techniques, and several case studies from different archaeological periods and regions. At the end of the course, students should be able to understand archaeological scientific literature, to evaluate data critically, and to apply analytical techniques to real archaeological situations.

Grading: Midterm I 25%
Midterm II 25%
Assignments 20%
Take home final 25%
Participation 5%

Required Texts: Gilberto Artioli. 2010. Scientific Methods and Cultural Heritage. An Introduction to the Application of Materials Science to Archaeometry and Conservation Science. Oxford University Press.

Recommended Texts:

Materials/Supplies:

Prerequisite/Corequisite: Any one of ARCH 100, ARCH 201, EVSC 100, BISC 101, CHEM 111, CHEM 121, PHYS 101, PHYS 120

Notes: Students requiring accommodations as a result of a disability must contact the Centre for Students with Disabilities 778.782.3112 or csdo@sfu.ca

All students are expected to read and understand SFU's policies with regard to academic honesty and student conduct (S10). These policies are available at the following web address: <http://www.sfu.ca/policies/Students/index.html>

Deferred grades will be given only on the basis of authenticated medical disability.

This outline is derived from a course outline repository database that was maintained by SFU

Archaeological Science

Student Services and the University's IT Services Department. The database was retired in 2014 and the data migrated to SFU Archives in 2015.