

ARCHAEOLOGY (ARCH)

ARCH 1012 (c) The Archaeology of Ritual and Myth in the Ancient Mediterranean

Non-Standard Rotation. Enrollment limit: 16.

Examines ancient religious traditions and practice through the study of artifacts from the ancient Mediterranean housed in the Bowdoin College Museum of Art. Students actively engage in the analysis of artifacts from Egypt, Assyria, Etruria, Greece, and Italy that represent aspects of ancient religious practice. Student writing assignments draw inspiration from select objects from the collection that include many examples of sculpture, pottery, and coins. Illustrated presentations and assigned reading provide the archaeological contexts for the artifacts under study, as well as explore the cultural narratives recounted in history and myth. Sites such as Giza, Kalhu, Delphi, Olympia, Athens, Pompeii, and Rome are explored as the settings for the rituals and myths that helped define the cultures of the ancient Mediterranean world.

Previous terms offered: Fall 2022.

ARCH 1014 (c, FYS) Living and Dying in Ancient Rome

Non-Standard Rotation. Enrollment limit: 16.

The Roman house and tomb were a constant focus of public life. Consequently, what the Romans considered private appears to be public from our modern perspectives. Explores the construction of social identity in the Roman world by examining ancient concepts of both private and public by analyzing houses and tombs as evidence for personal and familial tastes, social practices, and social expectations. This course studies both literary and archaeological evidence in order to consider how Roman domestic and funerary art was meant to create an appropriate setting for the construction of social identity, as well as for the performance of religious rituals. Explores the material context of the Roman house by examining its layout, architectural features, and decoration, and also explores funerary monuments and the public display of works of art in private contexts. Material focuses on the ancient and well-preserved cities of Pompeii and Herculaneum.

Previous terms offered: Fall 2019.

ARCH 1101 (c, VPA) Greek Archaeology

Every Other Fall. Enrollment limit: 50.

Introduces the techniques and methods of classical archaeology as revealed through an examination of Greek material culture. Emphasis upon the major monuments and artifacts of the Greek world from prehistory to the Hellenistic age. Architecture, sculpture, fresco painting, and other "minor arts" are examined at such sites as Knossos, Mycenae, Athens, Delphi, and Olympia. Considers the nature of this archaeological evidence and the relationship of classical archaeology to other disciplines such as art history, history, and classics. Assigned reading supplements illustrated presentations of the major archaeological finds of the Greek world. (Same as: ARTH 2090)

Previous terms offered: Fall 2022, Fall 2019.

ARCH 1102 (c, VPA) Roman Archaeology

Jim Higginbotham.

Every Other Fall. Fall 2023. Enrollment limit: 50.

Surveys the material culture of Roman society, from Italy's prehistory and the origins of the Roman state through its development into a cosmopolitan empire, and concludes with the fundamental reorganization during the late third and early fourth centuries. Lectures explore ancient sites such as Rome, Pompeii, Athens, Ephesus, and others around the Mediterranean. Emphasis upon the major monuments and artifacts of the Roman era: architecture, sculpture, fresco painting, and other minor arts. Considers the nature of this archaeological evidence and the relationship of classical archaeology to other disciplines such as art history, history, and classics. Assigned reading supplements illustrated presentations of the major archaeological finds of the Roman world. (Same as: ARTH 2100)

Previous terms offered: Fall 2020.

ARCH 1103 (c) Egyptian Archaeology

Non-Standard Rotation. Enrollment limit: 50.

Introduces the techniques and methods of archaeology through an examination of Egyptian material culture. Emphasis is placed upon understanding the major monuments and artifacts of ancient Egypt from the prehistoric cultures of the Nile Valley through the period of Roman control. Architecture, sculpture, fresco painting, and other "minor arts" are examined at sites such as Saqqara, Giza, Thebes, Dendera, Tanis, and Alexandria. Considers the nature of this archaeological evidence, its context, and the relationship of archaeology to other disciplines such as african studies, art history, anthropology, history, and classics. Course themes include the origins and development of complex state systems, funerary symbolism, contacts between Africa and the Mediterranean, and the expression of social, political and religious ideologies in art and architecture. Selected readings supplement illustrated presentations of the major archaeological finds of Egypt. Class meetings include artifact sessions in Bowdoin College Museum of Art. (Same as: AFRS 1105)

Previous terms offered: Fall 2021.

ARCH 1105 (c) The Archaeology of Building: Architecture in the Ancient Mediterranean World

Non-Standard Rotation. Enrollment limit: 50.

Explores the materials, design and construction of ancient buildings and monuments from around the Mediterranean. Explores the connections between form and function using archaeological evidence from select examples of structures drawn from Egyptian, Phoenician, Greek, Etruscan, and Roman traditions. Students trace the origins and evolution of particular architectural styles that are still in use today, including the Greek orders of Doric, Ionic, and Corinthian as well as their antecedents in earlier Egyptian and Near-Eastern traditions. Examines various types of structures including houses, temples, tombs, theaters, aqueducts, and baths while considering architectural planning and design, the manner of construction, and the contexts in which buildings were commissioned, built, and used. Selected readings, including ancient texts in translation, supplement illustrated presentations of the major archaeological finds.

Previous terms offered: Spring 2022.

ARCH 2108 (b) Nailed it! Investigating Ancient Technologies

Karime Castillo.

Every Other Year. Spring 2024. Enrollment limit: 16.

Adopts a hands-on approach to the study of ancient technologies and craft production to explore how people in the past created, adopted, and used technology to interact with the environment and with one another. Ancient people engaged in ceramic production, flint napping, metallurgy, glassmaking, basketry, and textile production among other technologies. Draws on archaeological and anthropological research to illuminate social, cultural, economic, and functional reasons for the development and adoption of new technologies. Forefronts issues of community, labor, skill development, exploitation of resources, consumption, and waste. Students have opportunities to research and replicate an ancient artifact or technique. (Same as: ANTH 2108)

Prerequisites: ANTH 1050 - 2969 or ANTH 3000 or higher or ARCH 1050 - 2969 or ARCH 3000 or higher.

ARCH 2202 (c, IP) Augustan Rome

Barbara Weiden Boyd.

Non-Standard Rotation. Spring 2024. Enrollment limit: 35.

Upon his ascent to power after a century of war, Rome's first princeps, Augustus, launched a program of cultural reformation and restoration that was to have a profound and enduring effect upon every aspect of life in the empire, from fashions in entertainment, decoration, and art, to religious and political habits and customs. Using the city of Rome as its primary text, this course investigates how the Augustan "renovation" of Rome is manifested first and foremost in the monuments associated with the ruler: the Mausoleum of Augustus, theater of Marcellus, temple of Apollo on the Palatine, Altar of Augustan Peace, and Forum of Augustus as well as many others. Understanding of the material remains themselves is supplemented by historical and literary texts dating to Augustus's reign, as well as by a consideration of contemporary research and controversies in the field. (Same as: CLAS 2202, URBS 2402)

Previous terms offered: Spring 2020.

ARCH 2204 (c, IP) Buried by Vesuvius: The Archaeology of Roman Daily Life

Non-Standard Rotation. Enrollment limit: 35.

Destroyed by the eruption of Vesuvius in AD 79, the archaeological remains of Pompeii, Herculaneum, and the neighboring sites around the Bay of Naples are unparalleled in their range and completeness. The study of this material record reveals a great deal about the domestic, economic, religious, social, and political life in ancient Italy. Examines archaeological, literary, and documentary material ranging from architecture and sculpture to wall painting, graffiti, and the floral remains of ancient gardens, but focuses on interpreting the archaeological record for insight into the everyday life of the Romans. In addition, explores the methods and techniques employed by archaeologists since the sites were "rediscovered" in the sixteenth century. Archaeological materials are introduced through illustrated presentations, supplementary texts, and sessions in the Bowdoin College Museum of Art.

Previous terms offered: Fall 2020.

ARCH 2206 (c) Hispania Antiqua: The Archaeology of Ancient Spain

Non-Standard Rotation. Enrollment limit: 35.

Surveys the early history of the Iberian peninsula through its material culture and highlights the interplay between the geography of Spain and diverse patterns of human settlement. Begins with the study of the indigenous Iberian peoples in Spain during their Late Neolithic and Bronze Ages and then examines the impact made by the arrival of traders and colonists from Phoenicia and the Greek world. Connections to Africa highlight the period of Carthaginian occupation starting in the sixth century B.C.E. and leading up to the Roman conquest in the third century B.C.E. Under Roman control the number and complexity of settlements increased and, as early as the first century B.C.E., the Spanish provincial elite began to play active roles in Roman commercial and political life. Concludes with the decline of Roman control in late antiquity and the changes for the peninsula brought about after the invasion of the Visigoths.

Previous terms offered: Fall 2021.

ARCH 2207 (c, DPI, IP) Who Owns the Past? Contemporary Controversies and Contested Narratives

Non-Standard Rotation. Enrollment limit: 35.

Focuses on the meaning and significance of artifacts, archaeology sites, monuments, and art from a diversity of perspectives. Students learn about disagreements regarding who owns antiquities and ethnographic objects. They consider the ethical, cultural, and legal considerations of where heritage materials are housed, and whether they should be published and exhibited, and if so, by whom. They examine the impact of politics, conflicts, and war on cultural heritage sites and monuments, and learn about the illegal trafficking in antiquities and art. Students wrestle with museums' colonial legacies and consider how decolonizing practices are transforming museums and interpretations of the past. Case studies cover a broad array of museums, cultures, and nations. Readings, class discussions, visits by guest speakers, and hands-on work with objects are augmented by visits to the college's two museums. (Same as: ANTH 2105)

Previous terms offered: Fall 2022, Fall 2020.

ARCH 2209 (c, IP) The Limits of Empire: Archaeology of the Roman Frontier

Jim Higginbotham.

Non-Standard Rotation. Spring 2024. Enrollment limit: 35.

The Roman frontier, or "limites" in Latin, occupied an important place in the history and imagination of the Romans. Dangerous, mysterious, but enticing, the borders of the Roman Empire were active areas of cultural and economic exchange. Examines archaeological evidence to provide a view of what was foreign to the Romans and also how Roman culture was seen by others. Traces the historical development of the Roman frontier and explores important sites from across the ancient world including Hadrian's Wall in the United Kingdom, Palmyra and Dura Europos in Syria, Leptis Magna in Libya, Volubilis in Morocco, and Chersonesos in the Crimea. Selected readings, including ancient texts in translation, supplement illustrated presentations of the major archaeological finds. Class meetings include artifact sessions in the Bowdoin College Museum of Art.

ARCH 2211 (c, IP) Archaeology of the Aegean Bronze Age

Non-Standard Rotation. Enrollment limit: 35.

Explores the ancient civilizations located around the Aegean Sea during prehistory from the end of the Neolithic period to around 1000 BCE. Study focuses on the Cycladic, Minoan, and Mycenaean cultures within their wider Mediterranean context, including their contacts with the neighboring cultures of Anatolia, the Levant, Egypt, and South Italy. These Bronze Age societies left a rich material record of palaces and funerary complexes, frescoes and vase paintings, and other artifacts that together shed light on the people living around the ancient Aegean. Their culture also inspired the creation of later myths and literature (e.g., the Iliad and the Odyssey). Presentations explore ancient sites such as Thera (Santorini), Knossos, Phaistos, Mycenae, Tiryns, Hattusa, and Troy. Course themes include the origins and development of complex state systems, funerary symbolism, and the expression of social, political, and religious ideologies in art and architecture. Archaeological materials are introduced through illustrated presentations, supplementary texts, and virtual sessions in the Bowdoin College Museum of Art.

Previous terms offered: Spring 2021.

ARCH 2212 (c, IP) Archaeology of the Etruscans and Early Italy

Non-Standard Rotation. Enrollment limit: 35.

Explores the archaeology of ancient Italy from the Neolithic period to the first century BCE, with particular emphasis on Etruscan material culture. Illustrated presentations and class discussions explore the settlement of the Italian peninsula, Sicily, and Sardinia in remote prehistoric times; the development of Iron Age Italic cultures and their contact with the Phoenicians and the Greeks; the emergence of Etruria as a dominant society in Italy; and the Etruscan influence on early Rome. Presentations explore ancient sites such as Caere (Cerveteri), Pyrgi, Tarquinia, Vulci, Orvieto, and Volterra. Artifacts and monuments including architecture, sculpture, pottery, and paintings are studied in their historical and cultural context in order to understand the evolution of early Italic society and the prominent role played by the Etruscans. Class study includes artifacts in the collections of the Bowdoin College Museum of Art.

Previous terms offered: Spring 2023.

ARCH 2214 (c, IP) Insular Archaeology: Islands in the Ancient Mediterranean

Jim Higginbotham.

Non-Standard Rotation. Fall 2023. Enrollment limit: 35.

Explores the unique environment of islands in the cultural development of the ancient Mediterranean. Geographically, as sites of settlement, refuge, and trade, islands helped connect the ancient Mediterranean world. Illustrated presentations and class discussions explore how island societies develop and their place in the dissemination of culture in the ancient world. Study begins in prehistory with examinations of the archaeological remains on the islands of Malta, the Cyclades, Crete, and Cyprus and continues through the Roman period to include sites such as Sicily, Sardinia, and Corsica. Along the way, smaller island groups such as the Aeolic islands off Sicily and the Balearic Islands near Spain are explored. Artifacts and monuments including architecture, sculpture, pottery, coins, and paintings are studied in their historical and cultural context to understand the evolution of these insular societies. Study includes artifacts in the collections of the Bowdoin College Museum of Art.

ARCH 3301 (c, IP) The Endangered Past: Archaeology and the Current Threat to Cultural Heritage

Non-Standard Rotation. Enrollment limit: 16.

Archaeological exploration has exposed a rich array of sites and artifacts that can be experienced first-hand by an ever-growing number of visitors. This exposure has placed unprecedented pressures on countries to provide access while ensuring the protection of this important cultural heritage. Economic challenges, mass-tourism, and political strife challenge our effort to preserve the past. The heightened visibility of these remains coupled with their connections to ancient traditions has also attracted the ire of forces intent on obliterating the past. Examines the state of cultural heritage focusing on ancient sites in the Mediterranean and the Near East, including sites in Syria, Turkey, Greece, Italy, Lebanon, Egypt, and Libya. Explores the factors that have placed archaeological sites in jeopardy and examines possible solutions to these challenges. Sessions in the Bowdoin College Museum of Art incorporate select examples of the ancient collection that are connected to areas of the ancient world at risk. In this setting, explores the role of museums as custodians of the past and how current events have informed the discussions around cultural patrimony.

Prerequisites: ANTH 1101 or ANTH 1102 or ANTH 1150 or ARCH 1101 (same as ARTH 2090) or ARCH 1102 (same as ARTH 2100) or ARTH 1100.

Previous terms offered: Spring 2021.

ARCH 3302 (c) Ancient Numismatics

Non-Standard Rotation. Enrollment limit: 15.

Surveys Greek and Roman coinage by examining a series of problems ranging chronologically from the origins of coinage in the seventh century B.C. to the late Roman Empire. How do uses of coinage in Greek and Roman society differ from those of the modern era? How does numismatic evidence inform us about ancient political and social, as well as economic, history? Classes held in the Bowdoin College Museum of Art and course assignments are based on coins in the collection.

Prerequisites: ARCH 1101 (same as ARTH 2090) or ARCH 1102 (same as ARTH 2100) or ARTH 2090 or ARTH 2100.

Previous terms offered: Spring 2022.

ARCH 3311 (c) Portraits from Antiquity

Non-Standard Rotation. Enrollment limit: 15.

For ancient cultures the art of portraiture had important religious, political, and social functions. Portraits, whether of gods, rulers, or common folk, were uniquely suited to communicate a variety of messages in a form easily recognizable to the intended audience. The success of the genre is clear from its widespread use and from the ways that it incorporated the accumulated traditions of ancient Mediterranean history. From profiles carved in relief and painted on vases to figures molded in terracotta and portraits sculpted in the round, explores a range of art representing Egyptian, Assyrian, Cypriot, Greek, and Roman cultures. Using artifacts housed in the collections of the Bowdoin College Museum of Art, examines the traditions, styles, and techniques that inform the portrayals of individuals in the ancient world, and what they teach about the societies that produced them.

Prerequisites: ARCH 1101 (same as ARTH 2090)- 1199 or ARTH 1100 or ARTH 2090 or ARTH 2100 or VART 1101 or VART 1301 or VART 1401 or VART 1601.

Previous terms offered: Spring 2023.

ARCH 3320 (c) The Culture of Spectacle in Antiquity and Beyond

Non-Standard Rotation. Enrollment limit: 16.

Investigates the political, economic, cultural, and social aspects of the notion of "spectacle" in the ancient Classical world. Competition and performance in front of a public audience characterized both Greek and Roman societies. By focusing on Greek athletic games, and theatrical representations in both Greece and Rome, as well as Roman gladiatorial combats, this course explores the purpose and function of ancient mass media spectacles capable of attracting an extensive crowd, while addressing themes such as class, gender, violence, humor, and religion. We will rely on the reading of primary literary sources (such as Pindar and Martial), as well as the analysis of the full range of archaeological evidence (i.e., wall paintings, mosaics, architecture, sculptures, finds, and graffiti) to reconstruct the ideologies and historical practices involved with ancient sports and public entertainments.

Previous terms offered: Spring 2020.