

Minor Specification

Academic Year 2019-20 MO03 - Archaeology

This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the minor and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if s/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided.

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|---|----------------------------|
| Awarding Institution | University of Southampton |
| Teaching Institution | University of Southampton |
| Name of minor | Archaeology |
| FHEQ level of final award | As for the Major programme |
| QAA Subject Benchmark or other external reference | As for the Major programme |
| Faculty that owns the minor | Arts & Humanities |
| Minor Leader | Dr William Davies |
| Date specification was written | 29-08-2013 |

Overview of Minor

1 Brief outline of the minor

A Minor in Archaeology provides you with an understanding of the human past from the emergence of the earliest human ancestors, through farming revolutions, the development of complex and state societies and up to the present day. You will learn how material culture can be used to understand and write accounts of the wide variety of societies that existed in the past and which continue to exist today. You may choose to focus your interest on particular periods or geographic areas and will learn some of the methods that archaeologists use to make inferences about the past from landscapes, artefacts and other material remains. You may also choose to further your understanding of how accounts of the past are relevant to contemporary society, politics and the law.

2 Learning and teaching

We recognise that students joining the programme are unlikely to be familiar with Archaeological study, or may have very limited previous experience. As such, we assume no prior experience of studying Archaeology or Anthropology and use a wide range of teaching and learning methods depending on the subject matter including lectures, practical classes, tutor-led and student-led seminars, workshops, group projects and independent research.

In addition to lectures, some modules include practical elements such as laboratory study of materials (such as bones, pottery or other artefacts) and some modules may involve undertaking archaeological fieldwork.

3 Assessment

To assess your progress and achievement, we use a range of assessment methods which are appropriate to the particular area of study. These include:

- Essay
- Quizzes
- Exams
- Technical reports
- Group projects
- Portfolios
- Presentations

Educational Aims of the Minor

The aims of the minor are to:

- Familiarise you with the basic sequence of human development from the emergence of early hominins to the present;
- Allow you to pursue academic study of particular periods or geographical areas of interest;
- Enable you to understand some of the methods used by archaeologists to investigate past societies;
- Enable you to understand some of the theoretical approaches employed by archaeologists and anthropologists to understand societies both past and present;
- Encourage you to think critically about accounts of the past and the basis on which they have been constructed.

Learning Outcomes for the Minor

Knowledge and Understanding

Having successfully completed this minor you will be able to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of:

- The basic sequence of human development from the emergence of early hominins to the present;
- Some of the methods used by archaeologists to investigate past societies;
- Some of the theoretical approaches employed by archaeologists and anthropologists to understand societies both past and present;
- Some of the ways in which contemporary issues and political contexts influence our construction of past societies and events.

Teaching and Learning Methods

Depending on your choice of modules, you may develop your knowledge and understanding through lectures; seminars and tutorials, practical classes, group projects, individual and group presentations, field visits, field work or independent research. At Level One the emphasis is on discovering the nature of archaeology and its methods, and a basic outline of the development of the human species. At Level Two you will consolidate and enhance your knowledge of the human past and of archaeological methodology.

Assessment methods

A wide range of assessment methods are used to ensure that you attain the learning outcomes of this minor (see Overview above). Different assessment tasks allow you to develop and demonstrate different skills.

Subject Specific Intellectual and Research Skills

Having successfully completed this programme, and depending on your choice of modules, you will be able to:

- Collect and synthesise empirical data
- Select and synthesise information from a range of textual and material sources
- Evaluate the evidential value of data used to substantiate arguments
- Evaluate the appropriateness of methodologies employed to generate data
- Evaluate and decide between competing arguments and explanations
- Evaluate the social and political context in which arguments are formulated

Teaching and Learning Methods

Activities particularly designed to enhance your thinking skills include tutor-led and student-led seminars and tutorials, group projects, oral and group presentations and the dissertation.

Assessment methods

Extended essays and shorter pieces of assessed work such as book reviews, individual and group presentations, peer and staff feedback in seminars and tutorials, and the Level Three dissertation will all assess your intellectual skills. Progression is recognised in the assessment scheme, which tests your cognitive skills, moving from articulation of concepts through to synthesis and evaluation.

Transferable and Generic Skills

Having successfully completed this programme, and depending on your choice of modules, you will be able to:

- communicate ideas and arguments in a variety of written formats
- communicate ideas and arguments orally and in the context of formal presentations
- identify, select and draw upon a wide range of material, printed and electronic sources

- demonstrate interpersonal skills whilst working with others in the investigation of problems, and in the presentation of arguments and evidence
- demonstrate self-confidence and self-awareness both in collaborative activities and independent study
- collate, synthesise and present empirical data

Teaching and Learning Methods

Your key skills will be developed through tutor-led and student-led seminars and tutorials, IT workshops, library sessions, group projects and independent research.

Assessment methods

You will be asked to demonstrate your key skills through the submission of a variety of written assignments, through participating in individual and group oral presentations, in collaboration with peers in class exercises and group projects, and in a dissertation. Progression is recognised in the assessment scheme, which tests key skills at appropriate levels of study.

Structure of Minor

1 Typical content

This broad and flexible programme offers you the chance to explore various aspects of Archaeology as your Minor subject. In year 1, you would expect to gain an overview of the discipline and its methods, and in years 2 and 3 you are free to choose to explore one or more periods or themes within archaeology in order to meet the learning objectives set out above.

2 Special Features of the programme

N/A

3 Details of the minor

The Minor in Archaeology is undertaken at three levels (each corresponding to one year of full-time study, excluding study abroad). The programme is divided into modules. Each module has a credit value of 15 CATS points (or 7.5 ECTS points). Students must take one module at Level 1, two modules at Levels 2, and two modules at Level 3 (75 CATS points in total).

The programme is extremely flexible. Most modules are optional for students on the Archaeology minor programme and most modules have no pre-requisites. Teaching is researched at all levels. As a result, the modules on offer vary from year to year as staff research interests and priorities develop and change. The following is an indicative list of the modules on offer to students wishing to study for a Minor in Archaeology:

Year 1

- ARCH 1005 Archaeological Method
- ARCH1028 Landscapes and Seascapes
- ARCH1047 Debates and issues in Archaeological Science
- ARCH1062 Wonderful things

Year 2

- ARCH 2017 Maritime Archaeology
- ARCH 2027 Bones, bodies and burials: osteology and comparative anatomy
- ARCH 2029 Digging Data: quantitative data analysis in Archaeology
- ARCH 2036 Critical Chronologies: Archaeological dating
- HUMA 2008 The Life and Afterlife of the Vikings
- ARCH2040 Professional and Academic Practice in Archaeology
- ARCH 2001 Human Dispersal and Evolution
- ARCH 2003 The power of Rome: Europe's first empire
- ARCH 2004 Introduction to European Prehistory
- ARCH 2024 Archaeological Survey for Landscapes and Monuments
- ARCH 2039 Experimental Archaeology
- ARCH2041 Contemporary Issues and Debates in Archaeology
- HUMA2018 Landscapes of Conflict

Commented [DS1]: Not available in 2019-20; will return in 2020-21

Year 3

- ARCH 3008 Stonehenge to Skara Brae: the Neolithic of Britain
- ARCH 3028 Living with the Romans: Urbanism in the Roman Empire
- ARCH 3034 Archaeology of Seafaring
- ARCH 3039 More than Pyramids & Pharaohs? Ancient Egypt in Context
- ARCH 3044 GIS for Archaeology
- ARCH 3045 The Archaeology and Anthropology of Adornment
- ARCH 3011 Iron Age Societies
- ARCH 3014 Seeing beneath the soil:
- ARCH 3017 Presenting the past: Museums and Heritage
- ARCH 3036 Molecular Archaeology
- ARCH 3042 Ecology of human evolution: biological, social and cultural approaches
- ARCH 3043 Later Anglo-Saxon England

4 Progression requirements

The programme of which this minor comprises a part follows the University's regulations for Progression, Determination and Classification of Results: Undergraduate and Integrated Masters Programmes as set out in the University Calendar: <http://www.calendar.soton.ac.uk/>

In order to qualify for the minor, students must pass all modules that make up the minor. There is no provision for students to be referred in a minor module solely for the purpose of qualifying for the minor.

Please note: This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the minor and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if s/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information can be found on the minor website at <http://www.southampton.ac.uk/majorminor/>.

Revision History

1. V1.0 29/8.13 (DWW)
2. Modules checked and updated March 2017
3. Modules checked and updated April 2018
4. Modules checked and updated March 2019