Archaeology and the Ancient World

The concentration in Archaeology and the Ancient World provides an opportunity to explore the multi-faceted discipline of archaeology while examining the critical early civilizations of the so-called ‘Old World’—that is, the complex societies of the Mediterranean, Egypt, and Ancient Western Asia. Students will learn about the art, architecture, and material culture of the ancient world, exploring things of beauty and power, as well as the world of the everyday. Concentrators will also learn "how to do" archaeology - the techniques of locating, retrieving and analyzing ancient remains - and consider how material culture shapes our understanding of the past. Concentrators are encouraged to pursue research opportunities through summer fieldwork, museum experience, or independent study projects.

The concentration, with its three distinct but overlapping tracks, is intended to allow students flexibility in structuring their own path through this diverse field of study. The concentration is also designed to allow students to build progressively upon what they have learned, moving from introductory courses to upper level seminars.

The three tracks are: Archaeology and the Ancient World; Classical Archaeology; and Egyptian and Ancient Western Asian Archaeology. Archaeology and the Ancient World is the most exploratory of the concentration tracks, and this option emphasizes material culture studies across the full spectrum of the ancient world. Classical Archaeology is intended for those interested chiefly in the ‘classic’ civilizations of the Mediterranean (Greece and Rome), as well as for those interested in both earlier (prehistoric) and later (medieval) periods in that geographic region. Egyptian and Ancient Western Asian Archaeology is intended for those interested chiefly in the cultures of Egypt and Ancient Western Asia (the ancient ‘Near East’ – Anatolia, the Levant, Mesopotamia), from prehistoric through Islamic times.

Required Courses:
The student must take a total of 10 courses, including:

Core Requirements:
- One introductory course in archaeological methodology, history and/or theoretical approaches, for example:
  - ARCH 0100 Field Archaeology in the Ancient World
  - ARCH 1900 The Archaeology of College Hill
- One introductory course in the methodology, history and/or theoretical approaches of ancient art history, for example:
  - ARCH 0030 Art in Antiquity: An Introduction
  - ARCH 0420 Archaeologies of the Greek Past
  - ARCH 0520 Roman Archaeology and Art
  - HIAA 0010 A Global History of Art and Architecture
- Two cognate courses, not listed primarily by the Joukowsky Institute, which EITHER relate to the study of the ancient world OR to the discipline of archaeology. Outside courses are chosen with the approval of the concentration advisor from appropriate 1000-level (or above) offerings in other departments such as, but not limited to: Anthropology, Classics, Early Culture, Egyptology and Ancient Western Asian Studies, Environmental Studies, Geological Sciences, History, History of Art and Architecture, Religious Studies. One term of language study, in any ancient language, may also be counted toward this requirement.

Track Requirements:
Archaeology and the Ancient World:
- Two courses in Egyptian or Ancient Western Asian archaeology and art.

Classical Archaeology:
- One course in Egyptian or Ancient Western Asian archaeology and art.
- Three courses in Mediterranean (prehistoric, Greek, Roman, medieval) archaeology and art, at least two of which must be at or above the 1000-level.
- One course in ancient Greek or Roman history, for example:
  - CLAS 1210 The History of Greece from Archaic Times to the Death of Alexander
  - CLAS 1220 The Fall of Empires and Rise of Kings: Greek History 479 to 323 BC
  - CLAS 1310 Roman History I: The Rise and Fall of an Imperial Republic
  - CLAS 1320 Roman History II: The Roman Empire and Its Impact
- One course in either Ancient Greek or Latin, at a level beyond the first year of study, for example:
  - GREEK Introduction to Greek Literature
  - 0300/0400
  - LATN Introduction to Latin Literature
  - 0300/0400

Egyptian and Ancient Western Asian Archaeology:
- One course in Mediterranean (Bronze Age, Greek, or Roman) archaeology and art.
- Three courses in Egyptian and Near Eastern archaeology and art, at least two of which must be at or above the 1000-level.
- Two terms of course work in a pertinent ancient language (e.g. Aramaic, Akkadian, Coptic, Classical Hebrew, Middle Egyptian).

Honors Concentrations

An Honors concentration in any of these tracks requires the successful completion of all the standard requirements with the addition of an Honors thesis. For the preparation of this thesis, students will ordinarily enroll in ARCH 1970 during the first semester of the senior year and ARCH 1990 during the second semester of the senior year (these courses may not be taken S/NC, nor may they be used to satisfy the standard requirements of the concentration). In order to qualify for honors, students must have received more A’s than B’s in concentration courses completed.

Honors concentrations are recommended for students considering graduate work in the discipline of archaeology. Any student interested in a course of graduate study should speak to the undergraduate concentration advisor as soon as possible, not least for advice about additional forms of preparation. Graduate work in the archaeology of the ancient world, for example, requires knowledge of appropriate ancient, as well as modern, languages. Students should start work on acquiring these skills as early as possible.

The Honors Thesis

The Honors thesis is an extended essay, usually of between 40 and 60 pages in length, written under the supervision of a faculty advisor and second reader. (Where appropriate, the advisor or the reader, but not both of them, may be in a unit other than the Joukowsky Institute for Archaeology and the Ancient World.) The specific topic and approach of
the thesis are worked out between the student and the thesis advisor, with assistance from the student's second reader. This process should begin in the latter part of the student's junior year. Details on deadlines for a thesis prospectus, for thesis drafts and for a final public presentation of the work are available on request to the Director of Undergraduate Studies. The completed thesis will be evaluated by the advisor and second reader, who will discuss its strengths and weaknesses with the student; they will also agree a grade for ARCH 1970 and ARCH 1990.

Evaluation
The Director of Undergraduate Studies will review the student's overall record, in addition to the thesis evaluations. If all requirements have been successfully met, the recommendation will be made that the student graduates with Honors.