

# Archeological Studies

Archeological Studies at Oberlin is based on a program of interdepartmental offerings that covers a range of cultures—from prehistoric to early historic—in both the Old and New Worlds. This program of study also introduces students to the analytic tools that facilitate archeological studies.

The Archeological Studies major is interdisciplinary and is administered by the Curricular Committee on Archeology. The major is interdisciplinary in two respects. First, it requires students, regardless of their specific interests, to become acquainted with a range of different archeological research perspectives among those represented in the College curriculum. Second, it permits students to explore the interrelations between archeology and science in a manner that is consistent with current trends in both study and research.

Majors design their own curriculum in close consultation with their advisor according to the specific area of concentration within the discipline. The curriculum consists of a selection of courses in Anthropology, Art, Classics, and Religion, and is supplemented by appropriate courses in related disciplines such as Biology, Chemistry, Environmental Studies, Geology, History, Mathematics, and Computer Science.

All majors are required to undertake a research project during one semester of their senior year. These projects involve more than one area or discipline. Senior projects may be pursued either within the context of existing seminars or as independent study courses.

Winter Term projects, mini-courses, colloquia, and lectures are sponsored by the Curricular Committee. Past Winter Term Projects include:

- Plants and Food Through the Ages with Dr. Liliana Janik, a prehistorian from the George Pitt-Rivers Laboratory for Archaeobotanical Research, Department of Archaeology, University of Cambridge (group on-campus project)
- Material Culture in Action in Early Japan: An Introductory Course in Japanese Archaeology with Simon Kaner, Senior Archaeologist in the County Archaeology Office in Cambridge, England (group on-campus project)
- Introduction to Coptic Gnosticism, offered by the Classics Department (group on-campus project)

- Mayan Mexico: Ancient Art and Cities of Yucatan with Dr. Geoffrey Braswell, Professor of Anthropology, SUNY Buffalo (group off-campus project)

Examples of past sponsored events include:

- "Epigraphy in the Temples of Ancient Thebes: Preserving the Records of Pharaonic Egypt." Professor Peter Dorman, Oriental Institute
- "Back to the Future: Archaeology, Technology, and You." Technology workshop with Professor Mark Aldenderfer, UC Santa Barbara, Anthropology and Center for Technology, and Holley Moyes, SUNY Buffalo, Graduate Student, Anthropology
- "Roman Aqueducts and Water Supply." Professor Trevor Hodge, Carleton University
- "The Voyage of Aeneas: Myth, Archaeology and Identity in Inter-War Albania." Oliver Gilkes, University of East Anglia
- Egyptian Architecture Workshop. Rick and Laura Brown, Massachusetts College of Art
- "Silk Road and Diamond Path: The Archaeology of Buddhism in Tibet." (American Institute Archeology Lecture), Mark Aldenderfer, UC Santa Barbara
- "Recent Fieldwork at Sardis." (AIA lecture at College of Wooster), Nick Cahill
- "Religious Topography of Hellenistic and Roman Crete." (AIA lecture at Oberlin College)

Interested students, faculty, and members of the public from Oberlin and Wooster make up a local chapter of the Archaeological Institute of America (AIA) ([www.archaeological.org](http://www.archaeological.org)). The AIA brings together professional archaeologists, students, and the interested public in a national organization that sponsors a prestigious lecture series. AIA publishes *Archaeology* magazine, as well as professional journals in archaeology. Three visiting speakers in classical or anthropological archeology visit Oberlin or Wooster (about 50 miles south) each year under the aegis of AIA.

Field and lab research opportunities can be arranged through participation in Oberlin faculty research, or through field schools, internships, or other arrangements outside of Oberlin.

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