

Archaeology

Coordinator: Morison

Archaeology is the study of the scope and diversity of human cultural experience through analysis of material culture, from the earliest appearance of humankind to the recent past. Students gain insights into their own society and cultural heritage through comparisons with ancient cultures by employing intellectual skills specific to the field of archaeology.

Students who complete the Archaeology Minor will be qualified to pursue graduate training in archaeology or to take up entry-level positions in museum management, the National Park Service, and other public and private entities charged with the study and stewardship of archaeological sites and other areas of cultural significance. The interdepartmental Minor in Archaeology at Grand Valley is open to students from any academic major.

The Archaeology program encourages student participation with local and national archaeology groups such as the Michigan Archaeological Society and the Archaeological Institute of America, both of which have local chapters that welcome student members. Students are also encouraged to take part in faculty and student-directed research projects. Opportunities for participation in archaeological field projects, both local and international, are numerous. Scholarships and other forms of financial aid may be available for some programs. Students interested in archaeological fieldwork may consult the Archaeology program coordinator or other program advisors for a list of approved field programs that fulfill field research requirements for the Minor.

Requirements for a Minor in Archaeology

Students pursuing the Minor in Archaeology will complete seven courses (minimum 22 credits) distributed across three areas:

- A) four Core courses, including Field Research practicum (13 hours total),
- B) two Regional Issues courses (6 hours total)
- C) one Cross-disciplinary elective (3, 4, or 5 hours depending on chosen course).

A. Core Courses (all four are required):

ANT 220 Introduction to Archaeology

ARC 400 Archaeological Methods and Research Design

ARC 401 Archaeological Theory

Field Practicum: ANT 307 or CLA 499 or HST 490 or GEO 315, or approved equivalent

B. Regional Issues Courses (select two of the following):

ANT 325 North American Archaeology
ANT 350 Archaeology of the Middle East
CLA 350 Issues in Classical Archaeology

C. Cross-disciplinary electives (select one of the following):

Arabic (or other modern language): ARA 202 (or other at intermediate level)
Art History: ART 420
Biology: BIO 311 or BIO 452
Chemistry: CHM 115 (for non-CHM, BIO, and GEO majors); or CHM 322 or 425
Geography: GPY 307
Geology: GEO 112 or GEO 312 or GEO 320
Latin (or other ancient language): Latin 350 (or other ancient language at 300-level)

Students interested in the Minor should contact the current Program Coordinator regarding selection of a Field Practicum and a Cross-disciplinary elective that best suits their own interests and goals.

Courses of Instruction

ARC 400: Archaeological Methods and Research Design

Provides advanced study of the practical and methodological aspects of research in archaeology. Students will learn how to develop independent projects and embed them in multistage regional research. Offered Winter semester. Prerequisites: ANT 220 and either ANT 325 or ANT 350 or CLA 350. Three credits.

ARC 401: Archaeological Theory (3 credits)

The history and evolution of archaeology and its theoretical frameworks are examined in a lecture/seminar/discussion format. The role and implications of theory in archaeological practice are explored from its origins to the present, emphasizing processual, postprocessual and contemporary theoretical debate, ethics and professionalism. Offered Fall semester. Prerequisites: ANT 220 and either ANT 325 or ANT 350 or CLA 350. Three credits.