

University of Ghana

Department of Archeology

Sample Fall Courses

ARCH 301: Archaeology and the Natural Environment

This course deals with the interaction between people and their ever-changing environment. It is aimed at making cultural behaviour intelligible by relating it to the physical world in which it develops. Topics include human settlement behaviour, patterns of exploiting and conserving the environment, and the influence of the environment on the archaeological record.

ARCH 303: Introduction to Theories of Culture

The course is aimed at providing the student with different perspectives of what culture is. Various definitions and theories of culture, including theories that explain spatial and temporal transformations of culture will be discussed. Examples will be drawn from Ghana and other countries in Africa and beyond to enable the student to understand culture from a global perspective.

ARCH 305: Method and Theory of Archaeology

The course will guide the student to have clear understanding of the nature and purpose of archaeology. Through formal lectures, group presentations and class discussions, students will learn specific methods and strategies archaeologists employ to gather, classify, analyze, interpret and present data. Key concepts and theoretical perspectives, which influence archaeological enquiry, will be studied. By the end of the course, the student should know how to design and conduct research, and to write a decent report as an amateur archaeologist.

ARCH 307: Art History of Ghana

The course focuses on the character and meaning of art works in Ghana over the period 2000 B.C. to the present. Lectures cover topics such as the development of art history as a discipline, artist, and art. Regional case studies of prehistoric, historic and contemporary art in Ghana, as well as continuity and change in art through time and space will also be addressed.

ARCH 309: Archaeology and Tourism in Ghana

This course will help students to understand the “tourist culture” and its effect on the hosts and the environment. It will involve studies of tourism and its role in acculturation, modernization, and economic development. Tourism will be analyzed as a cultural phenomenon with complex meanings for both host and guest societies. Issues of cultural and artistic authenticity, identity production and marketing, and modification of both the tourist and the toured will be addressed. The student will be trained to package archaeological resources and the historic environment for tourism purposes, and will be encouraged to develop class projects, which will offer her or him the opportunity to develop research skills in the ethnographic study of tourism in context.

ARCH 311: Foragers and Farmers in West Africa's Prehistory

The course covers the origins and development of various groups of people and their lifestyles during prehistoric times in West Africa against the background of a changing natural environment. Themes include hunter-gatherer and food-producing economies, prehistoric stone technology, and prehistoric crafts and arts. Students will learn about indigenous farming systems, and the use of paleontology, geomorphology, and various dating schemes that pertain to archaeological research in West Africa.

ARCH 313: Introduction to Physical Anthropology

This course is a survey of human evolution, variation and adaptation. Knowledge about human beings as biological organisms is integrated with human ways of life for a biocultural approach to human evolution. The student will learn about human and non-human primates, human heredity, and variability of modern populations and fossil records of early hominids and hominoids. The course will enable the student to think critically about human evolution and diversity, and to link the view of the past to the present conditions of human species.

ARCH 401: Information Technology in Cultural and Heritage Studies

In this course, the student will be trained in the use of computers and other digital equipment with which archaeologists gather, record, classify and analyse data. They will specifically train in the use of the internet as a research tool, and how to use the computer to digitize data, to produce maps, and to undertake desktop and website publishing as well as digital exhibition.

ARCH 403: Cross-Cultural Contacts and Historical Archaeology of Africa

This course provides insights into cross-cultural contacts and historical archaeology in Africa. The student will be guided to understand how cross-cultural contacts have influenced the evolution and development of various traits of the contemporary culture of Africans. He or she will be taught how to use oral, archival and other written data, as well as historical linguistics as adjuncts to the archaeological record in the interpretation of the cultural heritage of Africa for purposes social and economic development.

ARCH 405: Archaeological Field Methods and Techniques

The course involves the participation of the student in actual fieldwork over a six-week period. While in the field, the student will learn and practice various methods and techniques, which archaeologists employ to gather primary data. Practical work will be combined with formal lectures and seminars. In addition to living under and experiencing actual conditions of field research, the student will train in archaeological field survey, which will include excavation. She or he will also train in data processing, recording, analysis, and interpretation, and in packing and shipping of collections.

ARCH 407: Archaeology of the African Diaspora

The course will examine the nature, history and culture of the African Diaspora as found on the African continent, Europe, the Americas and elsewhere. Among key issues on which the course will focus are variability, continuity and change in the cultures of different groups of Diasporan Africans, and relationships that are found between major environmental challenges as well as historical events such as the Islamic Jihads, Trans-Saharan Trade, the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade, colonialism, and Plantation Slavery in West Africa and the relocation and redistribution of African populations in Africa.

ARCH 409: Introduction to Museum Studies

The course will introduce the student to the long-term conservation and management of cultural materials in a museum setting. Topics include processing procedures in conservation, restoration, long-term storage, laboratory maintenance, cataloguing procedures and the management and administration of museum collections.

ARCH 411: Palaeo – Historical Demography of Africa

The course provides data on the development of human population in Africa from the Palaeolithic to the modern era, and deals with the methods and theories of research, distribution patterns of African prehistoric and historic populations, demographic variables of societal changes, demographic results of social, economic and cultural innovations in the last 300 years; multi-disciplinary approach in demographic enquiry and archaeological research designing for probing demographic pattern of a site complex.

ARCH 413: Landscape Archaeology

This course is designed to introduce students to the concept of landscape and a range of archaeological landscape methods and techniques. It will examine how indigenous practices interacted with the physical environment to shape the landscape over time. Also of interest are the Muslim and European encounters and their impact on the landscapes across Ghana.

ARCH 415: Zooarchaeology

This course involves a study of animal remains recovered from archaeological sites and how these remains reflect past human economies (e.g. dietary patterns); hunting strategies; the transition from hunting to herding of animals; the social and cultural value and role of livestock/animals in human symbolic and social systems; ethnicity; past environmental and ecological conditions; seasonality and site occupation; human migration and/or diffusion of food production technology across the world. The course will be based on a lecture series and practical laboratory classes with emphasis on the recovery, identification, and quantitative analysis of animal remains from archaeological sites.

ARCH 417: Ethnographic Field Methods

The course involves the participation of the student in actual fieldwork over a six-week period. While in the field, the student will learn and practice various methods and techniques, which ethnographers employ to gather primary data. Practical work will be combined with formal lectures and seminars. In addition to living under and experiencing actual conditions of field research, the student will train in ethnographic and other anthropological field survey, which will include the collection of oral accounts. She or he will also train in data processing, recording, analysis, and interpretation, and in photography and videography.