

# **University of Ghana**

## **Department of Archeology**

### **Sample Spring Courses**

#### **ARCH 302: Archaeology of West Africa: 500 B.C. – A.D. 1950**

The course will enable the student to understand the inception of present-day complex societies of West Africa and how they evolved, and their vicissitudes in the period 500 B.C. to A.D. 1950. Themes include general characteristics of West African societies in the Iron Age, origins of copper and iron technology and their effects on local societies, megalith and tumuli sites of the Western Sudan, urbanism, and trade networks and contacts in West Africa.

#### **ARCH 304: Ethnoarchaeology of Africa**

The course will guide the student to understand what ethnoarchaeology is, and to acquire skills, which would enable her or him to practice it. Following a general discussion of its background, the student will be introduced to key concepts, theories, methods and techniques of the field. Lectures will be combined with class discussions of specific case studies, and the student will have the opportunity to test her or his knowledge in the field. In addition, the student will be guided to conduct an independent research and prepare a report.

#### **ARCH 306: Public Policy and Heritage Management in Ghana**

The course will train the student to be able to examine how public policy impacts upon the preservation of archaeological and historical resources. The student will learn about world perspectives of heritage management; and about how to review legislation (national and international), protective and planning procedures that influence the preservation, conservation and illicit trafficking of cultural objects.

#### **ARCH 308: Archaeology, Anthropology and Cultural Evolution**

The course examines culture as a concept, and the evolution of culture in time and space from anthropological and archaeological perspectives. It will guide the student to gain insights into the history and evolution of languages, and into variables that influence the transformation of culture in various regions.

#### **ARCH 312 Introduction to Human Osteology and Forensic Anthropology**

The course focuses on the human skeletal morphology, and on the study of physical evidence as a means to resolving issues involving criminal investigations, environment analyses and assessment. The student will learn how to identify skeletal remains, both whole and fragmentary, how to estimate age, sex, ancestry, and stature of an individual using laboratory and imaging techniques.

### **ARCH 402: Human Diversity, Peace and Conflict Management**

The course deals with variability in human biology and culture on the basis of available archaeological and ethnographic evidence. The concepts of ethnicity, pluralism, conflict, peace, and settlement patterns will be defined. Examples will be drawn from selected groups of people to enable the student to understand and appreciate how variations and similarities in cultures have been engendered by environmental changes, and by human-made events such as the quest for resources, slavery, colonization trends, commerce and religious activity. Indigenous conflict management strategies of the selected groups, as well as commonalities in the cultures of different groups, which could foster harmony and peaceful coexistence will also be studied.

### **ARCH 404: Cultural Resource Management**

The course deals with public policy and efforts to preserve and protect archaeological and historical sites and resources and examines topics such as the public and archaeology, value and destruction of archaeological resources, looting of, and illicit traffic in cultural resources, the International trade in art, the politics of cultural resource management, International conventions and local laws on the protection of archaeological and historical heritage; relationships between archaeological research, restoration, preservation, presentation of cultural resources and tourism; major archaeological sites and monuments in Ghana; environmental impact assessment; the restoration projects of Cape Coast and Elmina Castles as case studies.

### **ARCH 406: Monument Conservation**

This course involves analysis of the values of sites with monuments; mutual relationships between archaeological research, tourism, presentation, restoration and maintenance; causes of damage; international conventions and local laws concerning the protection of archaeological heritage; methods of research, restoration and presentation.

### **ARCH 408: Post-field Laboratory Analysis**

The course is a continuation of CUHS 405. It deals with post-field processing, preservation, conservation, cataloging, packaging and storage of data. The student will be trained in methods of classification and analyses of data in an off-field laboratory.

### **ARCH 412: Gender in Archaeology**

The course will examine the concept and theories of gender in relation to the archaeological record. It will train students to understand relationships that are found between gender and the use of space and material culture; technology and gender; food systems and gender; and images and gender relations. Various examples in gender studies in archaeology will be discussed critically.

**ARCH 414: Popular Culture in Ghana**

The course examines the influence of global processes, including industrialization, capitalist expansion, transformational migration, environmental change, and international tourism on the life-ways of Ghanaians. The nature, origin, meaning and effects of specific trends and patterns of communication, and behaviour related to the performing arts, religion, funerals, and fashion, among others, on the construction of identities will be identified and analyzed critically.

**ARCH 416: Introduction to Economic Anthropology**

In this course, economics will be seen as an integral part of 'culture'. Students will be guided to study and understand specific issues that pertain to the social and cultural context within which economic activities are pursued particularly in sub-Saharan Africa. Relationships that are found between systems of production and distribution and the promotion of unity, peace and harmony among African societies will be defined and discussed. Attention will also be paid to specific relationships that are found between global economic systems and social formation processes, settlement, population growth, environment, consumption, and religion of indigenous peoples, among others. Student projects that investigate the culture of various work environments and markets in both rural and urban settings in Ghana and elsewhere will be an integral component of the course.