

Diploma in Archaeology: Classroom-based, Year 2

Archaeology is the study of the material remains of past human societies. The discipline covers a remarkable span of time and investigates some of the most profoundly important developments of the past. The wide scope of archaeology, in time, space and methodology is one of the features which makes the subject so attractive to professional and amateur alike. There is something to interest everyone - whether their interests lie in outdoor fieldwork and exploring ancient monuments, the study of artefacts, the history of technology, local studies, or simply in the rich heritage of Ireland's past.

Archaeology is a constantly changing discipline, fed by new discoveries, new theoretical approaches and new analytical methods. These discoveries continue to revolutionise the subject's potential to inform us about the past and to give us a valuable long perspective on how this past has shaped our present. Exciting aspects of the practical side of archaeology, such as excavation, are familiar to everyone, but excavation is only one aspect of a discipline that combines humanistic interest with scientific method. For the interested student, archaeology offers a stimulating opportunity for intellectual enquiry.

This two year programme has three broad aims:

- To introduce students to the discipline of archaeology, its historical development, theoretical perspectives and methodologies.
- To present the archaeology of Ireland as a way of understanding ten thousand years of human settlement on this island.
- To study the archaeological landscapes of western Ireland from earliest times, and to promote interest in this heritage at a local level.

Lectures take place one evening a week from 18:30 to 21:30.

There will be three field-trips in the second year of the programme, with attendance on two compulsory. These excursions will be thematic in content, one to directly complement the teaching of each of the three modules.

AR240***Approaching the Past***

This course deals with the different ways that archaeologists use archaeological evidence to explain past societies and social change. It also explores how archaeologists retrieve evidence about the past, and incorporates a field project where students learn the fundamentals of recording archaeological monuments (supported by a field class).

Assessment: Essay and Field Project

Weighting: 5 ECTS

Reading List

Johnson, M. 1999 *Archaeological Theory, An Introduction*. Oxford, Blackwell.

(This can be difficult reading so you will have a much easier time if you can get it and read it early in the semester and then re-read it during the course of the module).

Renfrew, C. & Bahn, P. 1991 *Archaeology: Theories, Methods and Practice*. London, Thames & Hudson. (This is the same text used in 1st year, but Chapters 5, 9, 10, 12 in Year 2)

OR

Greene, K. 2002 *Archaeology: An Introduction*. London, Routledge. (This is the same text used in 1st year, but Chapters 2, 3, and 6 in Year 2.)

AR241***Prehistoric Landscapes***

This course focuses on the prehistoric landscapes of western Ireland and includes topics such as the megalithic tombs of the Burren, prehistoric landscapes of counties Sligo and Mayo, and selected prehistoric evidence from county Galway. Accompanying field-trip.

Assessment: 2 hour exam at the end of semester 2

Weighting: 5 ECTS

Reading List

Jones, C. 2004 *The Burren and the Aran Islands: Exploring the Archaeology*. Cork: Collins Press.

In-class reading lists, handouts, and supplementary readings provided via Blackboard.

AR242***Historic Landscapes***

This course focuses on the historic-period landscapes of western Ireland and includes topics such as Christianity in the west, secular settlement, and the towns, castles and other remnants of the Anglo-Norman and Medieval Gaelic period. Accompanying field-trip.

Assessment: 2 hour exam at the end of semester 2

Weighting: 5 ECTS

Reading List

Jones, C. 2004 *The Burren and the Aran Islands: Exploring the Archaeology*. Cork, Collins Press.

O'Connor, K. 1998 *The Archaeology of Medieval Rural Settlement in Ireland*. Dublin, Discovery Programme Monographs 3.

In-class reading lists, handouts, and supplementary readings provided via Blackboard.