

Interpreting the Past

Module Code:	ARC5025-B
Academic Year:	2018-19
Credit Rating:	20
School:	School of Archaeological and Forensic Sciences
Subject Area:	Archaeology
FHEQ Level:	FHEQ Level 5
Module Leader:	Dr Karina Croucher

Additional Tutors:
Dr Benjamin Jennings

Pre-requisites:

Co-requisites:

Contact Hours

Type	Hours
Lectures	22
Seminar	24
External visits	10
Directed Study	144

Availability Periods

Occurrence	Location/Period
BDA	University of Bradford / Semester 1 (Sep - Jan)

Module Aims

The module provides the student with an understanding of key developments in archaeological theory, and the crucial role of theory in archaeological interpretation, including an understanding of how theory informs research design, method and the construction of archaeological knowledge. Students will also consider the role that archaeology plays in informing contemporary society, including its socio-political impact.

Outline Syllabus

'Interpreting the Past' will introduce key theoretical paradigms and their main proponents in archaeological study. The module will also explore approaches to archaeological interpretation through various themes, such as materiality and material culture, gender and sexuality, identity, and human-animal relationships. Contemporary areas of study will be addressed through attendance and critique of the Archaeological Sciences Guest Lecture Series, where students will report back and discuss themes covered by Guest Lecture speakers. Throughout the module, the role of the past in the present will be considered, focusing on the socio-political impact of archaeology. A visit to the British Museum, and reporting back in a group task, will encourage students to reflect on the role of archaeology today and its presentation.

Module Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this module, students will be able to...

- 1 Analyse the theoretical underpinnings of the works of scholars in the discipline, whether or not these are explicit
- 2 Apply appropriate scholarly, theoretical and scientific principles and concepts to archaeological problems
- 3 Articulate the historical, social, cultural, ethical and political contexts of archaeological research, interpretation and presentation

Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategy

Course content will be provided through lectures, seminars, attendance of archaeology guest lectures, and through written coursework. There will also be a field trip which will focus on the presentation of the past in the present. Students are expected to undertake reading to: consolidate and expand on the content of formal taught sessions; research and prepare for assessments; revise material from formal taught sessions; and undertake specific elements of reading as directed.

Assessment will take the form of a 4000 word project. This extended piece of coursework will enhance students' independent research skills. As part of the project, they will also be required to submit a project plan (for formative feedback), and to provide an ongoing reflection of their learning in relation to lectures, seminars and archaeology guest lectures. Group working skills will also be formatively assessed through a group presentation following the fieldtrip.

Mode of Assessment

Type	Method	Description	Length	Weighting	Final Assess'
Formative	Presentation	Group presentation following fieldtrip	10 minutes	%	No

Summative	Coursework	Written project on the application of a chosen theoretical approach, including an overview on its context and the relationship to the remainder of the module.	0-4000 words	100%	Yes
Formative	Coursework	Project plan	0-500 words	%	No

Legacy Code (if applicable)

Reading List

To view Reading List, please go to [rebus:list](#).