

Module Details	
Module Title	Interpreting The Past
Module Code	ARC5025-B
Academic Year	2020/1
Credits	20
School	School of Archaeological and Forensic Sciences
Subject Area	Archaeological Sciences
FHEQ Level	FHEQ Level 5
Pre-requisites	N/A
Co-requisites	N/A

Contact Hours	
Type	Hours
Lectures	22
Seminars	16
Directed Study	162

Availability	
Occurrence	Location / Period
BDA	University of Bradford / Semester 1

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.

Learning Outcomes

Outcome Number	Description
1	Analyse the theoretical underpinnings of the works of scholars in the discipline, whether or not these are explicit
01	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
02	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
03	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.

Initial delivery of sessions online planned, may be brought on to campus dependent upon conditions.

Mode of Assessment

Type	Method	Description	Length	Weighting
Summative	Coursework	Written project on the application of a chosen theoretical approach, including an overview on its context..(4000 words)	N/A	100%
Formative	Presentation	Group presentation	10 minutes	N/A
Formative	Coursework	Project Plan	500 words	N/A

Reading List

To access the reading list for this module, please visit <https://bradford.rl.talis.com/index.html>

Please note:

This module descriptor has been published in advance of the academic year to which it applies. Every effort has been made to ensure that the information is accurate at the time of publication, but minor changes may occur given the interval between publishing and commencement of teaching. Upon commencement of the module, students will receive a handbook with further detail about the module and any changes will be discussed and/or communicated at this point.