

Module Details	
Module Title	Understanding Artefacts
Module Code	ARC5026-B
Academic Year	2021/2
Credits	20
School	School of Archaeological and Forensic Sciences
FHEQ Level	FHEQ Level 5

Contact Hours	
Type	Hours
Lectures	12
Practical Classes or Workshops	40
Directed Study	148

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

Module Aims
To provide an understanding of the potential of artefacts for addressing fundamental questions in archaeology. To allow students to identify, select and differentiate between different methods of recording and illustrating (for example line drawing versus 3D scanning) different types of artefact. To allow students to select and use post-excavation strategies for recording, conservation and long-term of storage of artefacts. To provide students with the experience to interpret basic summary data concerning artefacts, which may include typologies, post-excavation assemblage reports, and scientific analytical data. To provide the theoretical framework and practical experience for working with assemblages of artefacts in order to answer broader archaeological questions, such as issues of production, consumption, trade and exchange, and identity.

Outline Syllabus

The module will discuss approaches to the post-excavation research of artefacts, which including identification and recording; artefact handling; artefact classification; artefact condition and survival; putting together an assessment report; differing approaches to illustrating artefacts, including drawing, photography and 3D scanning; theoretical approaches to the production and consumption of artefacts; conservation and curation post-excavation; approaches to the use of scientific analysis of artefacts; practical scientific analysis of artefacts; and the interpretation of scientific data from the analysis of artefacts; and the investigation of theoretical concepts such as identify, prestige and iconography through discussion and interpretation of evidence from artefacts.

Teaching and Learning sessions will combine a face-to-face on campus and online methods, and will incorporate both synchronous and asynchronous content.

Learning Outcomes

Outcome Number	Description
01	Determine specific issues with appropriate methodologies for recording, illustrating and curating artefacts.
02	Select and use appropriate theoretical approaches to artefact studies to address archaeological questions.
03	Examine the benefits of, and problems associated with, the scientific analysis of archaeological artefacts.

Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategy

Practical sessions are focussed on the completion of a micro excavation and recording of artefacts from that excavation.

Lectures will address topics related to artefact forms and analysis relevant to processes of artefact identification, understanding, and curation.

Assessment is the completion of a portfolio of work arising from the micro excavation completed during practical sessions.

Formative feedback is embedded within the practical sessions in the form of guidance, suggested approaches, and critique of portfolio production.

Mode of Assessment

Type	Method	Description	Weighting
Summative	Coursework - Portfolio/e-portfolio	Portfolio of advanced tasks arising from micro excavation, including recording, illustration and presentation (4000 word	100%

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.

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