

Module Details	
Module Title	Current Research In Archaeological Sciences
Module Code	ARC6029-B
Academic Year	2021/2
Credits	20
School	School of Archaeological and Forensic Sciences
FHEQ Level	FHEQ Level 6

Contact Hours	
Type	Hours
Online Lecture (Synchronous)	12
Tutorials	12
Directed Study	164
Lectures	12

Availability	
Occurrence	Location / Period
BDA	University of Bradford / Semester 2

Module Aims
The aim of the module is to explore the role of scientific methods in addressing key areas of study of the past. What has been achieved? How do we evaluate the archaeological importance of the findings? What challenges remain and how might they be addressed?

Outline Syllabus
The module will discuss a range of scientific techniques and approaches used in archaeology and forensic anthropology, through case studies and the development of specific themes. It will also discuss the lessons learned from previous studies and future potential. Particular emphasis will be placed on the applications of techniques and the inherent challenges in placing interpretation into a wider understanding of people in the past. There will be a focus on specific themes and the use of case studies based on recently published research. The themes covered will vary but will typically be selected from chronology, diet, identity, site location, visualisation, selected from topics with significant staff expertise.

Learning Outcomes	
Outcome Number	Description
01	Critically discuss the contribution that scientific methods make to the study of specific archaeological questions.
02	Critically review the theoretical and methodological framework for evaluating the contribution of, for example, isotopic, molecular and scientific dating studies within an archaeological context
03	Interpret and critically evaluate published work.

Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategy
Lectures will be used to introduce key principles and case studies will be developed, which will include group discussion, critique of published material and primary data evaluation. Initially planned for online delivery, may be brought on to campus dependent upon conditions. During Directed Study hours 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. The emphasis on evaluating current research will be demonstrated by the assessment, which will comprise three critical reviews of recently published research. The reviews are relatively short (1000 words) to encourage students to write concisely, focussing on key points. Detailed feedback will be given on each critical review before the next submission is due and there will be an opportunity to view annotations on the scripts: individual meetings arranged by appointment. The first review is worth 20% as it is a new form of assessment and so students can use the feedback to improve the next two (worth 40% each).

Mode of Assessment			
Type	Method	Description	Weighting
Summative	Coursework - Written	Critical Review 1 (1000 words)	20%
Summative	Coursework - Written	Critical Review 2 (1000 words)	40%
Summative	Coursework - Written	Critical Review 3 (1000 words)	40%

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.