



# AHIS3304

## Field Methods of Archaeology

Session 1, Weekday attendance, North Ryde 2020

*Department of Ancient History*

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## General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff  
Unit Convenor, Lecturer and Tutor  
A/Prof. Yann Tristant

[yann.tristant@mq.edu.au](mailto:yann.tristant@mq.edu.au)

Contact via Contact via Email

Australian Hearing Hub, South Wing, Level 2

By appointment only

Credit points

10

Prerequisites

(AHIS190 or AHIS1300) and 20cp at 2000 level

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

This unit is an examination of the methods and techniques used by archaeologists in a field situation to identify, recover, analyse and interpret their data. The course consists of lectures coupled with direct experience in field techniques of archaeology (survey techniques including aerial survey, geophysics and field walking; excavation strategies and recording; sieving and sampling strategies, etc.) using a range of modern scientific techniques. The majority of the teaching takes place in the on-campus teaching infrastructure (simulated archaeological excavation site) where students will practice the new skills acquired during the course.

## Important Academic Dates

Information about important academic dates including deadlines for withdrawing from units are available at <https://www.mq.edu.au/study/calendar-of-dates>

## Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this unit, you will be able to:

**ULO1:** Acquire knowledge of the principles of archaeological excavation

**ULO3:** Analyse archaeological features and materials (pottery, architecture, metal, bone, and ivory objects) at an advanced level

**ULO4:** Communicate with other team members about strategies for excavation of an archaeological site

**ULO5:** Demonstrate critical thinking in the interpretation of the archaeological data

**ULO2:** Apply knowledge of archaeology while participating in archaeological fieldwork on campus

**ULO6:** Synthesize and communicate acquired knowledge and understanding to produce a critical analytical report

## Assessment Tasks

### Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update

Assessment details are no longer provided here as a result of changes due to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

Students should consult [iLearn](#) for revised unit information.

[Find out more about the Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) and potential impacts on staff and students](#)

## General Assessment Information

**Unit Requirements and Expectations** Students must achieve an overall mark of 50% or above to complete this unit satisfactorily.

**Assignment submission** All written work must be submitted through the iLearn website. Please upload your assignment to the drop-box for the relevant week. Save your assignment as a pdf or a doc file (a pdf is best; please do not use docx). All assignments must include the following at the start: Student name; Student Number; Assessment Task Title or Question. Any assignment submitted without these will not be marked. All written assignments will be returned via the 'turnitin' tool on the iLearn Unit site, and will contain feedback from the marker within them.

**Extensions and Special Considerations** If you anticipate any difficulty in attending class for a scheduled test it is important that you contact us as early as possible. Please avoid asking for extensions as missing deadlines complicates the work of markers and puts you behind. If you have to ask for an extension or the opportunity to reschedule the date of a test please request it before the deadline, and only request the extension if you face serious crises that can be documented in some way (e.g. with a medical certificate). 'Getting behind with your work' or 'I ran out of time' are not excuses.

**Special Consideration Policy:** <https://students.mq.edu.au/study/my-study-program/special-consideration>

**Applying for Special Consideration:** Students applying for Special Consideration circumstances of three (3) consecutive days duration, within a study period, and/or prevent completion of a formal examination must submit an on-line application with the Faculty of Arts. For an application to be valid, it must include a completed Application for Special Consideration form and all supporting documentation. The online Special Consideration application is found at: <https://students.mq.edu.au/study/my-study-program/special-consideration> Extensions can only be granted in exceptional cases and may only be sought in consultation with the unit convenor and with

support of documentary evidence. If you anticipate any difficulty in meeting assigned due dates then it is important that you contact the course's convenor as early as possible. Please avoid asking for extensions as missing deadlines complicates the work of markers and puts you behind. If you have to ask for an extension, request it before the deadline, 'Getting behind with your work' or 'I had other deadlines' do not count.

**Late Assessment Penalty** Unless a Special Consideration request has been submitted and approved, (a) a penalty for lateness will apply – two (2) marks out of 100 will be deducted per day for assignments submitted after the due date – and (b) no assignment will be accepted more than seven (7) days (incl. weekends) after the original submission deadline. No late submissions will be accepted for timed assessments – e.g. quizzes, online tests.

**Final Marks** Please note with respect to the marks you receive for work during the session: that the marks given are indicative only; final marks will be determined after moderation. See further the note on Results in the Policies and Procedures section below: <https://students.mq.edu.au/study/exams/exam-results>

## Delivery and Resources

### Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update

Any references to on-campus delivery below may no longer be relevant due to COVID-19.

Please check here for updated delivery information: [https://ask.mq.edu.au/account/pub/display/unit\\_status](https://ask.mq.edu.au/account/pub/display/unit_status)

### Delivery

*Seminar 1:* Monday 9am-12pm ([10 Hadenfeld Ave - 212 Tutorial Rm](#))

### OR

*Seminar 2:* Wednesday 10am-1pm ([10 Hadenfeld Ave - 211 Tutorial Rm](#))

Online units can be accessed at: <https://ilearn.mq.edu.au> PC and Internet access are required for those who wish to access iLearn. Basic computer skills (e.g., internet browsing) and skills in word processing are also a requirement. Please consult teaching staff for any further, more specific requirements.

**Resources** The unit will be based on the following text books, which can be purchased at the Co-Op bookstore (<http://www.coop-bookshop.com.au>):

*Required Texts:* • Balme, J., Paterson, A., *Archaeology in Practice*, Malden, Oxford, 2014 • Burke, H., Morrison, M., Smith, C., *The Archaeologist Field Handbook*, Crows Nest, 2nd ed.

*Recommended Texts:* • Renfrew, C. and Bahn, P. (2016), *Archaeology: Theories, Methods and Practice*, London, 7th ed. • Gamble, C. (2015), *Archaeology. The basics*, London, New York, 3rd ed.

### Dig kit:

You need to purchase a gridded lab notebook for use as a journal while in the field. Tools will be provided to you; however, if you are planning on doing archaeology again, it would be a good investment for you to put together a dig kit of your own. At a minimum it should include a pointing trowel (WHS or Marshalltown is best). Optional items include a compass, a tape measure (centimetres), a line level, a hand lens, a folding rule, a paintbrush, knee pads and work gloves (all available at Bunnings); a camera.

## Unit Schedule

### Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update

The unit schedule/topics and any references to on-campus delivery below may no longer be relevant due to COVID-19. Please consult [iLearn](#) for latest details, and check here for updated delivery information: [https://ask.mq.edu.au/account/pub/display/unit\\_status](https://ask.mq.edu.au/account/pub/display/unit_status)

Week	Seminar		Practical work	Assessment
1	24/02/2020 or 26/02/2020	Introduction to field Archaeology	MARS facility visit	Excavation practice
2	02/03/2020 or 04/03/2020	Methods and techniques of archaeological survey	Field research strategy	Excavation practice
3	09/03/2020 or 11/03/2020	Basics of site recording, stratigraphy, and excavation	Survey and mapping	Excavation practice
4	16/03/2020 or 18/03/2020	Research design and grant application	Excavation	Excavation practice
5	23/03/2020 or 25/03/2020	Aerial photography (kite and drone demo)	Excavation	Excavation practice
6	30/03/2020 or 01/04/2020	Objects and material record	Excavation	Excavation practice Research Grant Proposal Application (5 April 2020)
7	06/04/2020 or 08/04/2020	Methods for archaeological finds processing	Excavation and finds processing	Excavation practice
<i>MID-SESSION BREAK</i>				
8	27/04/2020 or 29/04/2020	Principles of chronology and archaeological dating	Excavation and finds processing	Excavation practice
9	04/05/2020 or 06/05/2020	Interpretation of archaeological finds	Excavation and finds processing	Excavation practice

10	11/05/2020 or 13/05/2020	Report and publication strategy	Excavation and finds processing	Online quiz (17 May 2020)
11	18/05/2020 or 20/05/2020	Archaeology Open Day (National Archaeology Week)	Excavation and finds processing	Excavation practice
12	25/05/2020 or 27/05/2020	Cultural Resource Management	Excavation and finds processing	Excavation practice
13	01/06/2020 or 03/06/2020	Review and summary	Excavation and finds processing	Excavation practice Excavation report (7 June 2020)

## Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from [Policy Central \(https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policy-central\)](https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policy-central). Students should be aware of the following policies in particular with regard to Learning and Teaching:

- [Academic Appeals Policy](#)
- [Academic Integrity Policy](#)
- [Academic Progression Policy](#)
- [Assessment Policy](#)
- [Fitness to Practice Procedure](#)
- [Grade Appeal Policy](#)
- [Complaint Management Procedure for Students and Members of the Public](#)
- [Special Consideration Policy](#) (**Note:** *The Special Consideration Policy is effective from 4 December 2017 and replaces the Disruption to Studies Policy.*)

Students seeking more policy resources can visit the [Student Policy Gateway \(https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/student-policy-gateway\)](https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/student-policy-gateway). It is your one-stop-shop for the key policies you need to know about throughout your undergraduate student journey.

If you would like to see all the policies relevant to Learning and Teaching visit [Policy Central \(https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policy-central\)](https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policy-central).

## Student Code of Conduct

Macquarie University students have a responsibility to be familiar with the Student Code of Conduct: <https://students.mq.edu.au/study/getting-started/student-conduct>

## Results

Results published on platform other than [eStudent](#), (eg. iLearn, Coursera etc.) or released

directly by your Unit Convenor, are not confirmed as they are subject to final approval by the University. Once approved, final results will be sent to your student email address and will be made available in [eStudent](#). For more information visit [ask.mq.edu.au](http://ask.mq.edu.au) or if you are a Global MBA student contact [globalmba.support@mq.edu.au](mailto:globalmba.support@mq.edu.au)

## Student Support

Macquarie University provides a range of support services for students. For details, visit <http://students.mq.edu.au/support/>

## Learning Skills

Learning Skills ([mq.edu.au/learningskills](http://mq.edu.au/learningskills)) provides academic writing resources and study strategies to help you improve your marks and take control of your study.

- [Getting help with your assignment](#)
- [Workshops](#)
- [StudyWise](#)
- [Academic Integrity Module](#)

The Library provides online and face to face support to help you find and use relevant information resources.

- [Subject and Research Guides](#)
- [Ask a Librarian](#)

## Student Services and Support

Students with a disability are encouraged to contact the [Disability Service](#) who can provide appropriate help with any issues that arise during their studies.

## Student Enquiries

For all student enquiries, visit Student Connect at [ask.mq.edu.au](http://ask.mq.edu.au)

If you are a Global MBA student contact [globalmba.support@mq.edu.au](mailto:globalmba.support@mq.edu.au)

## IT Help

For help with University computer systems and technology, visit [http://www.mq.edu.au/about\\_us/offices\\_and\\_units/information\\_technology/help/](http://www.mq.edu.au/about_us/offices_and_units/information_technology/help/).

When using the University's IT, you must adhere to the [Acceptable Use of IT Resources Policy](#). The policy applies to all who connect to the MQ network including students.

## Changes since First Published

Date	Description
13/02/2020	Schedule amended

