



AHIS1300

Digging up the Past: An Introduction to Archaeology

Session 1, In person-scheduled-weekday, North Ryde 2025

School of Humanities

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

Senior Lecturer & Unit Convenor

Karin Sowada

karin.sowada@mq.edu.au

Contact via Email

Room 167, Level 1, 25B WW

By Appointment

Associate Professor

Kenneth Sheedy

ken.sheedy@mq.edu.au

Contact via Email

29 Wally's Walk (X5B) Room 341 - ACANS Office

By Appointment

Senior Lecturer

Danijel Dzino

danijel.dzino@mq.edu.au

Contact via Email

By Appointment

Credit points

10

Prerequisites

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

This unit serves as a broad introduction to archaeology, where students become familiar with its fundamental principles and concepts. Students will study the emergence of archaeology as a discipline, its purpose and aims. This unit will provide students with a foundation in the various methods and analytical techniques used to study archaeological evidence by using a combination of theory and practical case studies drawn from all periods of archaeology. Students will explore the various ways of interpreting archaeological remains, taking into account the multidisciplinary nature of the discipline.

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 archaeological discipline

ULO2: Analyse source material, including archaeological records, ancient sources, and modern scholarship

ULO3: Identify fundamental developments, theories and techniques of archaeology

ULO4: Communicate archaeological information and concepts through oral, visual and written formats

ULO5: Demonstrate critical thinking in reading of the literature and interpretation of the data

General Assessment Information

Rubrics and other guidance for the Assessments will be posted on our iLearn site and discussed in class. To complete the unit successfully you will need a minimum mark of 50% overall, and you will have to attempt all the assessments. F / FA: 0-49% P: 50-64% CR: 65-74% D: 75-84% HD: 85-100%

LATE SUBMISSION OF ASSESSMENT TASKS: Please always let one of us know ahead of time if you are having difficulty completing an assessment or if you will not be able to attend class or complete the online tutorial task. It's just good for us to know what is going on with you -- it is not necessary to give specifics of your situation -- but it helps to hear from you, partly because Special Considerations get be delayed in busy times.

Most importantly though, **please** make sure to apply for a Special Consideration if you are not able to submit a task on time. That will help us to help you. I highly recommend that you become familiar with the procedure before you are in the position of having to use it - so that it does not become another challenging hurdle when you are already experiencing difficulties.

Here is the link to the webpage that will talk you through the requirements and process of Special Considerations.

<http://connect.mq.edu.au>

LATE ASSESSMENT SUBMISSION PENALTY: Unless a Special Consideration request has been submitted and approved, a 5% penalty (of the total possible mark) will be applied each day a written assessment is not submitted, up until the 7th day (including weekends). After the 7th day, a mark of '0' (zero) will be awarded even if the assessment is submitted. Submission time for all written assessments is set at 11.55pm. A 1-hour grace period is provided to students who experience a technical issue. This late penalty will apply to written reports and recordings

only. Late submission of time sensitive tasks (such as tests/exams, performance assessments/presentations, scheduled practical assessments/labs will be addressed by the unit convenor in a Special consideration application.

IMPORTANT NOTE ON MARKS: Grading decisions for each assessment task will be moderated against the set criteria and standards before task results are released.

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due
Artefact study	35%	No	14/04/2025
Essay	30%	No	12/05/2025
Final examination	35%	No	Exam Period

Artefact study

Assessment Type [1](#): Case study/analysis

Indicative Time on Task [2](#): 25 hours

Due: **14/04/2025**

Weighting: **35%**

Describe, analyse and document an artefact

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Identify fundamental developments, theories and techniques of archaeology
- Communicate archaeological information and concepts through oral, visual and written formats
- Demonstrate critical thinking in reading of the literature and interpretation of the data

Essay

Assessment Type [1](#): Essay

Indicative Time on Task [2](#): 25 hours

Due: **12/05/2025**

Weighting: **30%**

1000 word essay

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Acquire knowledge of the archaeological discipline
- Analyse source material, including archaeological records, ancient sources, and modern scholarship
- Communicate archaeological information and concepts through oral, visual and written formats
- Demonstrate critical thinking in reading of the literature and interpretation of the data

Final examination

Assessment Type ¹: Examination

Indicative Time on Task ²: 30 hours

Due: **Exam Period**

Weighting: **35%**

A two-hour examination on all course content

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Acquire knowledge of the archaeological discipline
- Analyse source material, including archaeological records, ancient sources, and modern scholarship
- Communicate archaeological information and concepts through oral, visual and written formats
- Demonstrate critical thinking in reading of the literature and interpretation of the data

¹ If you need help with your assignment, please contact:

- the academic teaching staff in your unit for guidance in understanding or completing this type of assessment
- the [Writing Centre](#) for academic skills support.

² Indicative time-on-task is an estimate of the time required for completion of the assessment task and is subject to individual variation

Delivery and Resources

DELIVERY

Lectures will be delivered in person. I like to have some discussion during the lecture, so please

come along to class, I will be very happy to see you there! You will also be able to access the lectures on the Echo360 platform via our iLearn site. Lecture and Tutorial slides will be posted after the respective classes.

Tutorials for Internal students will be held face-to-face. The tutorials will often build on our discussions from the lecture, so make sure to engage with the lectures before coming to your tutorial.

Online forums, which will replicate as far as is possible the content that we cover during the in-person tutorials, will be held each week for Online/Flexible (External) students. Please post to the forums by the Sunday of that week's lecture. I look forward to reading your posts.

Please note that quiz questions and essay questions for the Final Exam will be taken from the readings, the lectures, and the tutorial materials.

Required Text

The unit readings will largely be based on this required text book. It is best if you own your own copy: Renfrew, C., Bahn, P. and De Marrais, E. 2024. *Archaeology: Theories, Methods and Practice*, 9th ed. London, Thames and Hudson.

Recommended Texts

You will find these texts helpful for this class and for those you take in the future. The Encyclopedias are good places to start your research for assessments and they are easily available through our library on MultiSearch:

Bahn, P., 2012. *Archaeology: A Very Short Introduction*, Oxford, Oxford University Press.

Gamble, C., 2015. *Archaeology. The Basics*, 3rd ed. London, New York, Routledge•

Pearsall, D. M., 2008. *Encyclopedia of Archaeology*, San Diego, Elsevier.

Smith, C., 2014. *Encyclopedia of Global Archaeology*, New York, Springer.

Supplemental Readings

We will also assign or recommend supplemental readings whenever we find an article or chapter that particularly supports what we are doing in the lecture and tutorial. Please Note: All readings for class should be completed before the lecture, and must be completed before attending the tutorials. Real learning, which is based on independent, active learning, depends on coming to the tutorials prepared to discuss the material from the lecture and the readings.

UNIT WEBPAGE AND TECHNOLOGY USED AND REQUIRED

This unit will use the iLearn system (<https://ilearn.mq.edu.au/login/MQ/>) to communicate with the students, so you will need access to a computer and a good internet connection. Basic computer and word-processing skills are also required.

Unit Schedule

Please see our iLearn page for this unit for details on our class locations, weekly topics, readings, tutorials/online forums.

Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from [Policy Central](https://policies.mq.edu.au) (<https://policies.mq.edu.au>). 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](#)
- [Assessment Procedure](#)
- [Complaints Resolution Procedure for Students and Members of the Public](#)
- [Special Consideration Policy](#)

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

To find other policies relating to Teaching and Learning, visit [Policy Central](https://policies.mq.edu.au) (<https://policies.mq.edu.au>) and use the [search tool](#).

Student Code of Conduct

Macquarie University students have a responsibility to be familiar with the Student Code of Conduct: <https://students.mq.edu.au/admin/other-resources/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 connect.mq.edu.au or if you are a Global MBA student contact globalmba.support@mq.edu.au

Academic Integrity

At Macquarie, we believe [academic integrity](#) – honesty, respect, trust, responsibility, fairness and courage – is at the core of learning, teaching and research. We recognise that meeting the expectations required to complete your assessments can be challenging. So, we offer you a range of resources and services to help you reach your potential, including free [online writing and maths support](#), [academic skills development](#) and [wellbeing consultations](#).

Student Support

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

The Writing Centre

The Writing Centre provides resources to develop your English language proficiency, academic writing, and communication skills.

- [Workshops](#)
- [Chat with a WriteWISE peer writing leader](#)
- [Access StudyWISE](#)
- [Upload an assignment to Studiosity](#)
- [Complete the 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

Macquarie University offers a range of [Student Support Services](#) including:

- [IT Support](#)
- [Accessibility and disability support](#) with study
- Mental health [support](#)
- [Safety support](#) to respond to bullying, harassment, sexual harassment and sexual assault
- [Social support including information about finances, tenancy and legal issues](#)
- [Student Advocacy](#) provides independent advice on MQ policies, procedures, and processes

Student Enquiries

Got a question? Ask us via the [Service Connect Portal](#), or contact [Service Connect](#).

IT Help

For help with University computer systems and technology, visit 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.

Unit information based on version 2025.02 of the [Handbook](#)