

**CLST 1306-001**  
**Archaeology in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century**

Spring 2024

Tuesday/Thursday 10:15-11:44AM  
141 Fisher-Bennett Hall

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**Canvas:** <https://canvas.upenn.edu/courses/1761360>

**Assignments:**

*Midterm,* %

*Final Exam,* %

Oral critique of a museum in Philadelphia (15 minutes), followed by a 3-5 page paper based on that report. The topic should be identified by **Tuesday, October 1**.  
***This will be worth 20% of the grade.*** **20%**

*Class Participation: 5%. Attendance in class and discussion of the monuments is fundamental, since much has not been published in English, and in many cases, the archaeological evidence remains unpublished. Some of the classes will be held in the Penn Museum.*

**Description:**

The romantic image of archaeological excavations as massive operations of hundreds of local workers moving enormous amounts of earth in dusty desert climes or impenetrable jungles to reveal palaces and temples, overseen by dashing Euro-American male director-heroes, is a relic of bygone days. The real practice of archaeology in the 21<sup>st</sup> century has been transformed by three factors: the constant infusion of new technologies, changing questions we ask about the past (and who is asking them), and the discipline's legal and ethical framework. In this course, we

will explore each of these factors. New technologies such as Global Positioning Systems (GPS), Geographic Information Systems (GIS), and drones have changed the way we record our data and map our sites and landscapes. The questions archaeologists are asking are less about finding great monuments and elite people, and more about the everyday lives of non-elites, as well as those who rarely appear in historical sources, such as women, children, and the poor. Finally, archaeologists have worked to shed the colonial and often racist practices of the past. This effort has both a legal framework, such as laws governing the treatment and repatriation of Native American objects or conventions concerning the international market in looted antiquities; and a profound ethical dimension, such as the treatment of human remains. We can explore many of these themes in the Penn Museum, whose history of collections and practices has been at times admirable, and at other times, less so. We will discuss how archaeology can be more wide-ranging, more inclusive, more high-tech, and in the end, more fascinating.

This course is a non-technical introduction that does not require prior knowledge of coursework in archaeology. PowerPoint lectures and discussions will be supplemented by exercises hosted on the course Canvas site.

### ***Schedule***

#### **Week 1: January 18: Introduction**

Changing Sensibilities and Changing Practices in a Changing World (Brian, Tom)

#### **Week 2: January 23/25: Chronological Overview of Middle Eastern and Mediterranean Archaeology**

*Tuesday, Jan. 23: From the Ancient Middle East through the Aegean Bronze Age (Tom)*

Reading: Reading: Gates, Charles. 2011. *The Archaeology of Urban Life in the Ancient Near East and Egypt, Greece, and Rome*. Routledge. 52-66, 78-117.

*Thursday, Jan. 20: Greece and Rome (Brian)*

Reading:

White, Donald, et al. 2002. *Guide to the Etruscan and Roman Worlds at the University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology*. University Museum Press.

White, Donald, et al. 1995. *The Ancient Greek World. The Rodney S. Young Gallery, Penn Museum*. University Museum Press.

**Week 3: January 30/February 1: Techniques of Excavation and Survey; Geophysics and Geospatial Approaches**

*Tuesday, January 30:* Excavation and Survey (Brian, Tom)

Reading:

*Thursday, February 1:*

Emily Hammer (NELC): Geospatial Approaches

Jason Herrmann (CAAM/Anthropology): Geophysics

Reading:

**Week 4: February 6/8: Lab-Based Archaeology**

**Tuesday, February 6:** Lab-Based Archaeology: Inorganic Materials

Marie-Claude Boileau (CAAM): Petrography

Vanessa Workman (CAAM): Archaeometallurgy

Reading:

**Thursday, February 8:** Lab-Based Archaeology: Organic Materials

Chantal White (CAAM): Botanical Analysis

Kate Moore (CAAM): Faunal Analysis

**Week 5: February 13/15: Lab-Based Archaeology II**

**February 13:** New Tools for Fieldwork (Tom)

**February 15:**

Kathy Morrison (Anthropology): Paleoenvironmental Reconstruction

Theodore Schur (Anthropology): DNA and Genetics

Reading:

**Week 6: February 20/22: Site Conservation and Reconstruction**

**Feb. 20:** Introduction and Overview (Brian)

**Feb. 22:** Problems in Site Conservation

Frank Matero (Historic Preservation, School of Design)

Reading:

**Week 7: February 27/29: Midterm and Ethnoarchaeology**

Tuesday, Feb. 27: Midterm

Thursday, Feb. 29: Ethnoarchaeology (Tom), presented by Zoom

**Week 8: March 5/7: Spring Break, no class**

**Week 9: March 12/14: Archaeological Ethics and Museums**

Tuesday, March 12: Introduction and Overview (Brian)

Conn, Steven. 1998. *Museums and American Intellectual Life* (University of Chicago Press, 3-31, 75-113.

Rose, Brian. 2017. Beyond the UNESCO Convention: The Case of the Troy Gold in the Penn Museum. *Journal of Eastern Mediterranean Archaeology and Heritage Studies*, 87-91.

Thursday, March 14: Dealing with Permits for Archaeological Fieldwork (Brian, Tom, and Holly Pittman (History of Art)

**Week 10: March 19/21: Archaeology, Armed Conflict, and Destruction**

March 19: Archaeology and Armed Conflict (Brian)

Meskel, L. "Negative Heritage and Past Mastering in Archaeology." *Anthropological Quarterly* 75.3: 557-574.

Osborne, J. 2017. [Counter-monumentality and the vulnerability of memory](#). *Journal of Social Archaeology* 17.2: 163-187.

March 21: Looting (**Richard Leventhal**)

Atwood, Roger (2004). *Stealing History: Tomb Raiders, Smugglers, and the Looting of the Ancient World*. New York: St. Martin's Press.

Nicholas, Lynn. 1995. *The Rape of Europa: The Fate of Europe's Treasures in the Third Reich and the Second World War* Paperback – April 25, 1995.

Watson, Peter, and Cecilia Todeschini. 2007. *The Medici Conspiracy: The Illicit Journey of Looted Antiquities-- From Italy's Tomb Raiders to the World's Greatest Museums*.

### **Week 11: March 26/28: Art/Antiquities Crime/Unesco**

March 26; Art/Antiquities Crime; Smuggling  
Jacob Archer, FBI

March 28: Unesco and Cultural Heritage Protection (Brian)

### **Week 12: April 2/4: Cultural Heritage Projects**

April 2: Brian Daniels (Penn Museum, CHC)

Cuno, James. 2008. *Who Owns Antiquity?* Princeton. ix-43.

April 4: Megan Kassabaum (Anthropology): Community-Based Archaeology

### **Week 13: April 9/11: Museums, Ethics, and Archaeology**

April 9: Introduction and Overview (Brian)

April 11: NAGPRA/Human Remains

\*Chris Woods (Williams Director, Penn Museum): Human Remains from the MOVE Bombing and the Morton Collection

\*Stacey Espenlaub: NAGPRA and Native American Cultural Material

Monge, Janet. 2008. The Morton Collection and NAGPRA, *Expedition* 50.3.

<https://www.penn.museum/sites/expedition/the-morton-collection-and-nagpra/>

Monge, Janet, and Kate Quinn. 2017. When Museums Tackle Tough Topics, *Expedition* 59.2. <https://www.penn.museum/sites/expedition/when-museums-tackle-tough-topics/>

<https://penntoday.upenn.edu/news/report-handling-human-remains-1985-move-tragedy>

<https://www.penn.museum/about-collections/statements-and-policies/statement-on-human-remains>

## **Week 14: April 16/18: Museums, Ethics, and Archaeology (continued)**

Tuesday, April 16: The Elgin Marbles (Brian)

*Beard, Mary (2010). The Parthenon (2nd ed.). Profile Books.*

*Hitchens, Christopher (1987). Imperial Spoils: The Curious Case of the Elgin Marbles. London: Chatto and Windus.*

*Titi, Catharine (2023). The Parthenon Marbles and International Law. Springer. ISBN 978-3-031-26356-9.*

Thursday, April 18: Orphaned Objects in American Museums

Leventhal, Richard, and Brian Daniels. 2013. "Orphaned Objects", Ethical Standards, and the Acquisition of Antiquities. DePaul Journal of Art, Technology & Intellectual Property Law 23.2.

<https://core.ac.uk/download/pdf/232975146.pdf>

Guest speaker: Elizabeth Marlowe (Colgate University)

## **Week 15: April 23/25: Gender, Class, and Politics in Archaeology**

April 23: Gender and Archaeology  
Rosemary Joyce (Univ. of California, Berkeley)

**April 25: Class and Politics**

Lauren Ristvet (Anthropology): Politics and Archaeology  
Kim Bowes (Classical Studies): Subalterns and Archaeology

Reading: Ristvet, L. 2014. Ritual, Performance and Politics in the Ancient Near East. Cambridge.

Bowes, Kim (ed.). 2020. *The Roman Peasant Project 2009-2014: excavating the Roman rural poor. University museum monograph, 154.* Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology.

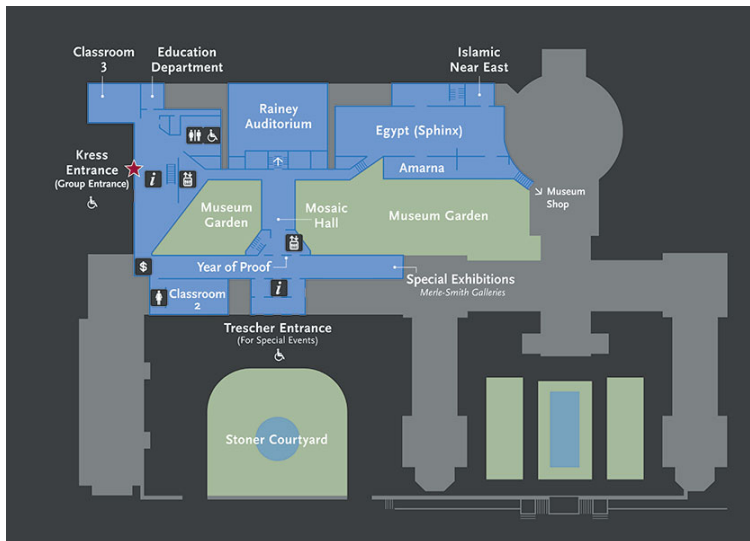
## Week 16: April 30: Conclusions and review for final exam

### Museums in Philadelphia

African American Museum in Philadelphia (<https://www.aampmuseum.org>)  
Institute of Contemporary Art, Penn (<https://icaphila.org/exhibitions/colored-people-time-banal-presents/>)  
National Liberty Museum, Philadelphia (<https://www.libertymuseum.org>)  
National Museum of American Jewish History (<https://www.nmajh.org>)  
Eastern State Penitentiary, Philadelphia (<https://www.easternstate.org>)  
Museum of the American Revolution (<http://www.amrevmuseum.org>)  
[Franklin Institute \(https://www.fi.edu\)](https://www.fi.edu)

### Final Exam:

Several of the classes will take place in the Penn Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology. When you come to the museum, you should enter via the Kress Entrance:



### Reading:

Meskel, L. "Negative Heritage and Past Mastering in Archaeology." *Anthropological Quarterly* 75.3: 557-574.

Osborne, J. 2017. [Counter-monumentality and the vulnerability of memory](#). Journal of Social Archaeology 17.2: 163-187.

Tinios, E. November 30, 2002. A short history of the Elgin marbles: why restitution is not always the answer. The Art Newspaper.

The Parthenon marbles : the case for reunification / Christopher Hitchens ; preface by Nadine Gordimer with essays by Robert Browning and Charalambos Bouras.  
**London ; New York : Verso, 2008.**

Michigan Law Review Volume 83 Issue 8

1985

Thinking About the Elgin Marbles

John Henry Merryman Stanford University

**Week 2: September 3/5:**

**September 3:** Introduction to the Ancient Near East, Egypt, and the Bronze Age I

**September 5:** Introduction to the Ancient Near East, Egypt, and the Bronze Age II

Reading: Gates, 52-66, 78-117.

**Week 3: September 10/12:**

**September 10:** Introduction to Archaic Greece and Etruria

Reading: Gates, 238-268

**September 12:** Introduction to Classical and Hellenistic Greece

Reading: Gates, 307-327.

**Week 4: September 17/19:**

**September 17:** Introduction to Republican Rome

Reading: Gates, 328-355.

**September 19:** Introduction to Imperial Rome

Reading: Gates, pp. 371-392; 414-426.

**September 24:** The Development of the Museum from Antiquity to the Present

Reading: Conn *Museums and American Intellectual Life* 1998, 3-31, 75-113.