

**COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES - GREEK AND ROMAN STUDIES**  
**CLCV/ARCY 3301, ARCY 3000 - *Archaeological Field Work***

Instructor: Prof. Laura Banducci  
Office: PA 2A52  
Phone: 613.520.2600 Ext. 2930  
Email: laura.banducci@carleton.ca  
Office Hours, summer: by appointment, via zoom

**Course Description:** Students will participate in the excavation or field survey work of an archaeological site for a minimum of three weeks in the early or late summer semesters. They will learn various techniques of excavation (shovels, trowels, buckets, brushes), as well as the collection and recording of artifacts. They will gain experience in measuring and drawing stratigraphy, features, and plans. No previous fieldwork experience is required. The permission of the Program in Greek and Roman Studies and the permission of the Director of the excavations are required.

**Course Evaluation:**

Attendance (20%)

Students will be present on site each day, demonstrate punctuality, respect for the archaeology, and professional conduct. The minimum time requirement is three weeks full-time, i.e. 5 days a week for a full day's work, and attendance will be monitored.

Fieldwork (40%)

Students will be evaluated on their work on site by the directors and supervisors of the excavation. The evaluation will include consideration of skills learned and use of tools and equipment, as well as techniques of measuring, drawing, and recording, and an understanding of stratigraphy as it relates to the particular area in which they work. This may vary depending on the nature of the site and the type of work involved (e.g. survey, test pits, full-scale excavation). Students will learn to take initiative and demonstrate that they are acquiring these skills over the course of the excavation.

Reflection (20%)

All students will keep a daily journal or log during the weeks that they are involved in the excavation. This may be composed of observations, drawings, comments, and reflections on the day-to-day activities. This may be in digital or hand-written format (photos/scans of each page). It is to be submitted to Dr. Banducci at the end of the excavation (at a time to be agreed upon with her, on a case-by-case basis dependent on travel).

Understanding and Dissemination (20%)

Archaeology at Carleton Blog – Students will write two online blog posts over the course of the excavation. I suggest you write one in the middle of your time on site, and one at the end of your time on site. The format and content of these may be similar to students' journal entries, but are for public consumption; thus, though the entry is from a personal point of view, the writing should be relatively formal and informational. The minimum number of words per entry is 600 and you should include at least one photo. You should also consider explaining/defining new terms that you are learning. The audience for such a blog is the larger Carleton and Ottawa community, and the families and friends of our Greek and Roman Studies students.

**NOTE:** Please be aware that many ongoing research excavations may not want participants to share specific details of discoveries or photographs of artefacts or features online before they have been fully studied or officially publicized. It is important to discuss what you may choose to write about in your blog with your immediate supervisor and to ask for permission. For example, you could write: “Today, we found a really interesting well feature which required us all to wear hardhats while we worked. It took us 2 hours to properly document. It got me thinking about how people in the ancient world would have accessed water etc.....” This is very different from writing, “Today we found a really interesting well feature. It was rock-cut, 3x3 metres square with vertical sides, and was approximately 10.5 metres deep. It had a cover which was a large limestone block which my supervisor says has never been found before intact at any other site. Here is a perfectly clear photo with a metre stick inserted for scale.” The first would likely be an acceptable level of detail. The latter would likely be too much specific detail and may infringe on the intellectual property of the excavators.

The blog is here: <https://cuportfolio.carleton.ca/view/view.php?t=735e719e52abf09c60d6> Click on “Archive” to see all the previous years’ entries.

I will be getting you logins/figuring out how to connect you over the course of the summer.

**Suggested Textbook:** Colin Renfrew and Paul Bahn. *Archaeology: Theories, Methods, and Practice*. 5<sup>th</sup> ed. London: Thames and Hudson, 2008.

**Suggested archaeological interest:**

Marilyn Johnson. *Lives in Ruins. Archaeologists and the Seductive Lure of Human Rubble*. Harper Collins, 2014.

**Funny novel which may or may not reflect real life situations:**

Myers, Kate. *Excavations*. 2023. <https://www.indigo.ca/en-ca/excavations-a-novel/9780063339057.html>