ARCADIA UNIVERSITY
THE COLLEGE OF GLOBAL STUDIES

Instructor (s):	Davide Tanasi
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Course Title:	**Digging Abroad: Field School in Archeology**
Course Code:	**MCAR FSDA 310S**
Credits:	**4**
Semester/Term:	☐ **Spring** ☐ **Fall** ☒ **Summer**
Course Description:	This program offers the opportunity of taking an active part in the archaeological dig of a still unexplored branch of the St. Lucy's Catacombs at Syracuse. This huge cemeterial complex exploited by the Christian community of Syracuse in the 3rd century AD was excavated within the Greek aqueduct of the city, transforming underground channels and cisterns into corridors and chapels. The program includes the theory and practice of current archaeological excavation methods, a direct in depth study of Greek pottery, and field studies and on site classes on main archaeological sites of Greek and Roman Sicily. The program comprises two sections: two weeks of introductory classes about methods of archaeological excavation and research, forensic anthropology, technical drawing and classification of findings and an intensive course of Italian; four weeks of excavations, data processing, lab activities and researching.
Course Requirements:	**Required Text** 1. P.L. Drewett, Field Archaeology. An introduction, 2nd edition (March 18, 2011), Routledge, New York, **ISBN-10:** 0415551188 (digital text provided by the program). 2. S. Mays, The Archaology of Human Bones, 2nd edition (June 2010), Routledge, London, **ISBN-10:** 0415480906 (digital text provided by the program). 3. C. Renfew – P. Bahn, Archaeology: Theories Methods and Practice, 4th edition (June 2004), Thames & Hudson, London, **ISBN:** 0-500-28147-5 (digital text provided by the program). 4. R. J. Evans, Syracuse in antiquity, University of South Africa Press, Pretoria 2009. **ISBN:** 978186888407-0 (digital text provided by the program).

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Assignments

Course Requirements	Percentages
1. Attendance	10%
2. Quiz 1	15%
3. Quiz 2	15%
4. Research Notebook	20%
5. Final Paper	40%
Total	100%

Learning Outcomes and/or Expected Student Competencies:

Students will become familiar with main features of Greek and Roman cultures, including material production (as pottery and architecture) and religious rites and rituals of the every-day life. The participants to the program will learn the principles of the archaeological excavation and recovery of skeletal remains in archaeological context as it is conceived in Europe. They will become proficient in the data recording on field, the technical drawing, the manual and instrumental survey, the stratigraphic analysis and restoration of archaeological findings and human bones. Students will able to identify main classes of archaeological findings, to interpret them in the cultural context of Greek and Roman Sicily and learn technical terminology and methodology for cataloguing archaeological findings and bones. In addition, through practical exercise, they will learn basic principles of technical drawings of ancient pottery and skeletal remains.

Course Outline:

Session/ Date	Topic
Session 1	• Course introduction • Archaeological and historical issues of the Mediterranean basin • Principles of archaeological research • Field archaeology and forensic anthropology at a glance *Readings: Renfrew-Bahn, chapters 2-3;Drewett, chapters 2-3.*
Session 2	• Outline of Greek and Roman history and archaeology of Sicily • The case study of Siracusa *Readings: Evans, chapters 1, 3 (pp. 47-53, 67-73), 5*

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Session 3	• Classes of archaeological artifacts • Pottery in archaeology • Technical drawing • Cataloguing of archaeological artifacts *Readings: Renfrew-Bahn, chapter 8.*
Session 4	• Archaic Ortygia: Temple of Athena, Temple of Apollo, Temple of Artemis, Arethusa Spring • Immersive 3D theater "Syracuse reborn 3D" **QUIZ 1**
Session 5	**Catania field study** • Norman cathedral • Roman theater • Roman amphitheater • Medieval Ursino Castle
Session 6	• Excavation methods • Principles of archaeological stratigraphy • Practical exercise with Harris' Matrix on ArchEd • Rules of metrical survey • Practical exercise of metrical survey *Readings: Drewett, chapters 4, 6, 7*
Session 7	• Catacombs of Siracusa: features and function • Excavating underground: issues, methods and security on site • The case study of St. Lucy's catacombs
Session 8	• Anthropology and zooarchaeology • Bones in archaeology • Technical drawing • Cataloguing of skeletal remains *Readings: Mays, chapters 2, 3, 8*
Session 9	• Archaeological Museum of Syracuse • Piazza della Vittoria archaeological area **QUIZ 2**
Session 10	• Tour of the St. Lucy's catacombs • Excavation • Lab activities: cleaning, restoration, drawing, cataloguing and studying of the bones and archaeological findings
Session 11	• Excavation • Lab activities: cleaning, restoration, drawing, cataloguing and studying of the bones and archaeological findings
Session 12	• Excavation

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		• Lab activities: cleaning, restoration, drawing, cataloguing and studying of the bones and archaeological findings • Matrix review
	Session 13	• Neapolis Archaeological Park of Siracusa • Greek theater • Roman Amphitheater • Hellenistic great altar • Greek quarries **Laboratory notebook review**
	Session 14	**Aeolian Islands field study** • Lipari Castle • Norman monastery • Archaeological Museum of Aeolian Islands • Archaeological area of Lipari acropolis
	Session 15	• Excavation • Lab activities: cleaning, restoration, drawing, cataloguing and studying of the bones and archaeological findings
	Session 16	• Excavation • Lab activities: cleaning, restoration, drawing, cataloguing and studying of the bones and archaeological findings
	Session 17	• Excavation • Lab activities: cleaning, restoration, drawing, cataloguing and studying of the bones and archaeological findings • Matrix review
	Session 18	• Euryalos Castle and Park of the late Classical fortifications of Siracusa **Laboratory notebook review**
	Session 19	• Excavation • Lab activities: cleaning, restoration, drawing, cataloguing and studying of the bones and archaeological findings
	Session 20	• Excavation • Lab activities: cleaning, restoration, drawing, cataloguing and studying of the bones and archaeological findings
	Session 21	• Excavation • Lab activities: cleaning, restoration, drawing, cataloguing and studying of the archaeological findings • Matrix review
	Session 22	• Agora and Forum of Siracusa • Greek Dockyards • Sanctuary of Egyptian deities • Jewish Baths **Laboratory notebook review**

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	Session 23	• Excavation • Lab activities: cleaning, restoration, drawing, cataloguing and studying of the bones and archaeological findings
	Session 24	• Excavation • Lab activities: cleaning, restoration, drawing, cataloguing and studying of the bones and archaeological findings
	Session 25	• Excavation closing • Preparation of the preliminary report of the excavation
	Session 26	• Archaeological Park of Akrai • Temple of Aphrodite • Agora Extraurban sanctuary of 'Santoni' **Project submission**
Prerequisites:	None	
Rationale and Impact of the Course:	This program represents an unique hands on experience in Greek and Roman Archaeology, where students while learning have the chance to contribute directly to the knowledge about the spread of Greek and Roman culture in Sicily. The ensemble of contact hours, field studies, on site classes, fieldworks, personal researches and continuous contact with professional archaeologists working with local authorities is an immersive scientific experience in the field of Greek and Roman archaeology that could be crucial for increasing the career opportunities of the students	

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