



Department of History

EUH-3182: MEDIEVAL ARCHAEOLOGY

Professor: Dr. [Florin Curta](mailto:fcurta@ufl.edu)

Office: 202 Flint Hall

Office hours: MW 2:30-3:30, or by appointment

Phone: 273-3367

E-mail: fcurta@ufl.edu

Class will meet in Turlington 2350 on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays between 12:50 and 1:40



THE COURSE SYLLABUS

Fall 2019

Course description

Historians of the Middle Ages readily acknowledge the advantage that documentary evidence gives them over archaeologists. After all, why would anyone need to dig in the dirt, when so many archives remain unexplored? Why would anyone prefer the drab remains of past material culture to the spiritual and artistic achievements of the Middle Ages? Many view archival material as a control lacking in archaeology. The true task of the archaeologist is thus to discover whether the evidence of material culture properly reflects the documentary record or *vice versa*. During the last few decades, however, the discipline of medieval archaeology experienced a spectacular growth. It has become clear that the research carried by archaeologists has no direct connections with, or implications for, the question posed of the documentary record by historians. But the medieval history of material culture raises some important issues, all of which are of historical importance. The study of urban history, for example, cannot be conceived today with a solid training in medieval archaeology. Problems of production and distribution, as well as intricate questions of group identity, gender, and social status can now be re-phrased in the light of the archaeological research. Increasingly, medieval archaeology has become a major component of Medieval Studies.

The main goal of this course is to outline some of the most important areas of current archaeological research and to point to major results. From rural settlements to pottery, the impact of medieval archaeology on the study of medieval society cannot be ignored without the risk of serious distortion. Following a topical, rather than chronological, order, we will take a glimpse to life in the Middle Ages through the window opened by archaeologists. We will look at how they gather their sources, analyze them and reached conclusions of historical importance.

TEXTBOOKS

Required

- *The Archaeology of Medieval Europe*. Ed. by James Graham-Campbell and Magdalena Valor. Vol. 1. Aarhus: Aarhus University Press, 2007; ISBN: 9788779342903 (pbk.) [hereafter *Graham-Campbell and Valor*]; on two-hour reserve in [Library West](#).
- *The Archaeology of Medieval Europe*. Ed. by Martin O. H. Carver and Jan Klapště. Aarhus: Aarhus University Press, 2011; ISBN: 13 9788779342910 (pbk.) [hereafter *Carver and Klapšte*]; on two-hour reserve in [Library West](#).
- Kevin Greene and Tom Moore. *Archaeology. An Introduction*, 5th edition. London/New York: Routledge, 2010; ISBN: 9780415496391 [hereafter *Greene and Moore*]

NOTE: It is essential that you read the assigned sections in the textbook(s) at the time they are due. Class meetings will be organized around a lecture/discussion format and quizzes will necessitate familiarity with the material.

Course requirements

There is no attendance policy, but you are responsible for attending all lectures and reading the required texts. Class participation may be taken into account to determine the overall grade. The basis for evaluation of performance will be four quizzes, 10 journal entries, and two exams (Midterm and Final). The quizzes will consist only of multiple-choice questions (no essay). A careful study of the readings is necessary for a good performance at the quiz. The journal entries consist of e-mail messages sent on my address (fcurta@ufl.edu), in which you will discuss briefly the readings for the topics marked with (*) in the list of course weekly topics below. You can ask questions about the readings and/or make comments, raise issues that need clarification, etc. All journal entries should arrive at least 15 hours before the corresponding class meetings. Be sure to keep your postings to a reasonable length (175 to 250 words long). I do not want you to spend too much time on them, but I expect you to give an articulate presentation of your thoughts. Needless to say, I also expect you to check on correct grammar and spelling before clicking on "Send." The Midterm and Final exams will cover everything from lectures and readings. Both will consist of a short answer portion and a longer essay. Please review the University's [academic honesty guidelines](#) and the [Disability Resource Center checklist](#). Make-up quizzes, journal entries, or exams exam will be given only for very serious reasons. In every case, I will ask for written justification or proof. Extra-credit work will be accepted only for students with active participation in class discussions. The format of the extra-credit option shall be discussed with the instructor during regular office hours. The following point system will be used in determining the final grade:

Quizzes: 20 points
Journal entries: 20 points
Midterm: 30 points
Final exam: 30 points
Total: 100 points

Grades:

<i>Points</i>	<i>Grade</i>
95-100	A
90-94	A-
87-89	B+

81-86	B
75-80	B-
68-74	C+
61-67	C
55-60	C-
48-54	D+
41-47	D
35-40	D-
under 30	E

Students in this class participate in the pilot evaluation of the new course evaluation system called GatorEvals. The new evaluation system is designed to be more informative to instructors so that teaching effectiveness is enhanced and to be more seamlessly linked to UF's CANVAS learning management system. Students can complete their evaluations through the email they receive from [GatorEvals](#). Please note your other classes this semester may be evaluated in the current [GatorRater](#) online evaluation system. Thank you for serving as a partner in this important effort

COURSE WEEKLY TOPICS

For a detailed description of readings for each week, click on the topic in the right-hand column.

<i>Week</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Topic</i>
1	August 20-23	Introduction
2	August 26-30	History of archaeology
3	September 2-6	Theory and practice of archaeology
4	September 9-13	Urban archaeology

5	September 16-20	Rural archaeology
6	September 23-27	Medieval palaces, castles, and forts
7	September 30-October 4	Cathedral and parish churches
8	October 7-11	Monastic archaeology
9	October 14- 18	Aspects of daily life. Midterm.
10	October 21- 25	Burial sites and mortuary archaeology
11	October 28- November 1	Social structure and archaeology
12	November 4-8	The archaeology of power
13	November 11-15	Demography and migration
14	November 18-22	Crafts and trade
15	November 25-29	Gender and religious identity
16	November 2-4	Archaeology for whom?
17	Wednesday, December 11, 12:30-2:30	Final exam