Module Details	
Module Title	Interpreting The Past
Module Code	ARC5025-B
Academic Year	2024/5
Credits	20
School	School of Archaeological and Forensic Sciences
FHEQ Level	FHEQ Level 5

Contact Hours	
Type	Hours
Lectures	22
Seminars	16
Directed Study	162

Availability	
Occurrence	Location / Period
BDA	University of Bradford / Semester 1

Module Aims

The module provides the student with an understanding of key developments in archaeological theory, and the crucial role of theory in archaeological interpretation, including an understanding of how theory informs research design, method and the construction of archaeological knowledge. Students will also consider the role that archaeology plays in informing contemporary society, including its socio-political impact.

Outline Syllabus

'Interpreting the Past' will introduce key theoretical paradigms and their main proponents in archaeological study. The module will also explore approaches to archaeological interpretation through various themes, such as materiality and material culture, gender and sexuality, identity, and human-animal relationships. Contemporary areas of study will be addressed through attendance and critique of the Archaeological Sciences Guest Lecture Series, where students will report back and discuss themes covered by Guest Lecture speakers. Throughout the module, the role of the past in the present will be considered, focusing on the socio-political impact of archaeology. A heritage-based fieldtrip, and reporting back in a group task, will encourage students to reflect on the role of archaeology today and its presentation.

Learning Outcomes

Outcome Number	Description
O1	Analyse the theoretical underpinnings of the works of scholars in the discipline, whether or not these are explicit
O2	Apply appropriate scholarly, theoretical and scientific principles and concepts to archaeological problems
O3	Articulate the historical, social, cultural, ethical and political contexts of archaeological research, interpretation and presentation

Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategy

This module combines synchronous and asynchronous, online and face-to-face seminars and lectures to provide a blended learning experience.

Course content will be provided through lectures, seminars, attendance of archaeology guest lectures, and through written coursework. There will also be a field trip which will focus on the presentation of the past in the present. Students are expected to undertake reading to: consolidate and expand on the content of formal taught sessions; research and prepare for assessments; revise material from formal taught sessions; and undertake specific elements of reading as directed.

Assessment will take the form of a 4000 word project. This extended piece of coursework will enhance students' independent research skills. As part of the project, they will also be required to submit a project plan (for formative feedback), and to provide an ongoing reflection of their learning in relation to lectures, seminars and archaeology guest lectures. Group working skills will also be formatively assessed through a group presentation.

Mode of Assessment

Type	Method	Description	Weighting
Summative	Coursework - Written	Written project on the application of a chosen theoretical approach (4000 words)	100%
Formative	Coursework	Project Plan	N/A
Formative	Presentation	Group presentation	N/A

Reading List

To access the reading list for this module, please visit https://bradford.rl.talis.com/index.html