

PRESERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF ANCIENT EGYPTIAN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES: CASE STUDIES

2025/26. 2ND
TERM

COURSE DETAILS		
COURSE TITLE	Preservation and management of ancient Egyptian archaeological sites: case-studies	Óegyiptomi régészeti lelőhelyek megóvása és kezelése: esettanulmányok
COURSE CODE(S)	YCVÉHIBNF - NBENG00	
DEPARTMENT	Óbuda University Ybl Miklós Faculty of Architecture and Civil Engineering, Institute of Civil Engineering	
PROGRAMME, TRAINING	civil engineering BSc architect BSc	full time
COURSE DIRECTOR	Zoltán Horváth, lecturer email: horvath.zoltan@uni-obuda.hu	Office hours over the term: Tuesdays, 14:00-15:00 Wednesdays, 13:00-14:00 contact via email for appointment
INSTRUCTORS, LECTURERS	Zoltán Horváth, lecturer	
PREREQUISITES	None	
LECTURES PER WEEK	2	
CLASSROOM / LAB PRACTICE PER WEEK	0	
FIELD AND INDUSTRIAL TRAINING PER WEEK	0	
ASSESSMENT	End-term paper	
CREDITS	3	
BRIEF COURSE SUMMARY	<p>In the case of Egypt, the exceptionally rich archaeological heritage spanning thousands of years and transgressing cultural boundaries cannot be considered only as a tourist attraction, but its protection, maintenance and management places heavy burdens on the government bodies and institutional network in charge of it, while the country's economy continues to be strongly dependent on tourism, and modernization reclaims larger and larger areas of the historical landscape. The course offers an introduction to the system of concepts and actors related to the subject, outlines the legal and institutional environment for the preservation of archaeological sites, and traces their formation and changes over time. On the one hand, the presented case studies vividly illustrate the degree of destruction caused by the pressure of tourism, large investments, and urban and agricultural expansion, and on the other hand, they provide an overview of the variety of strategies to overcome the problems. Beyond the issue of the relationship between the Pharaonic past and modern national identity, we discuss the potential of community archaeology, which aims to alter and shape the long-term attitude of local communities towards the monuments found in their surroundings. Heritage protection in crisis situations (including terrorism, riots and armed conflicts as well as the COVID-19 epidemic) provide lessons to be learned. Rebuilt or virtually reconstructed replicas of destroyed or particularly endangered monuments raise interesting questions from the perspectives of experience and authenticity, and we also cover the professional and ethical aspects of the commercial use of sites and archaeological practice. Even if the topics discussed are based on and illustrated with Egyptian case studies, the knowledge to be gained is by no means specific and can be utilized in other cultural contexts as well.</p>	
RECOMMENDED AND SUPPLEMENTAL READING	<p>C. Renfrew - P. Bahn, <i>Archaeology: Theories, Methods, and Practice</i>, London 2020 F.A. Hassan - G.J. Tassie A.De Trafford - L. Owens - J.van Wetering, <i>Managing Egypt's Cultural Heritage</i> (Discourses on Heritage Management 1), London 2009 N.N. Zakaria, Egypt's cultural heritage in conflict situations: examination of past and present impact, <i>Polish Archaeology in the Mediterranean</i> 28/2 (2019) 521-550 E. Helmy - C. Cooper, An Assessment of Sustainable Tourism Planning for the Archaeological Heritage: The Case of Egypt, <i>Journal of Sustainable Tourism</i> 10/6 (2002) 514-535</p>	

Bosco, *3D Surveying Methods and Digital Information Management for Archaeological Heritage*, BAR International Series 3091, Oxford 2022
 L. Meskell, *The Practice and Politics of Archaeology in Egypt*, *Annals of the New York Academy of Sciences* 925/1, Ethics and Anthropology (2006) 146-169
 L. Baird-Naysmith, *Archaeological Heritage Management at the Memphis and its Necropolis World Heritage Site*, *Conservation and Management of Archaeological Sites* 20/1 (2018) 35-51

TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

None

COURSE SCHEDULE

WEEK	LECTURE	INSTRUCTOR	TYPE OF TRAINING	CONTENT OF PRACTICE
1	Basic concepts: heritage; cultural heritage; historical landscapes. Archaeology; archaeological site; archaeological find. Archaeological heritage; built heritage. Risks and threats. Protective legislation and measures of conservation and mitigation. International charters and conventions.	Zoltán Horváth		
2	The life-cycle of archaeological finds and sites. How the ancient Egyptians viewed their own past.			
3	Interactions with tombs: usurpation, integration, reuse of burial equipment, dismantling ancient monuments for their stonework, monuments of the past as sources of inspiration. Damnatio memoriae. Interest in and renovation of ancient monuments: Prince Khaemuset.			
4	Natural disasters in Antiquity. Pharaonic monuments in the eras of Classical Antiquity and Early Christianity.			
5	Iconoclasm in medieval Islamic Egypt. The appropriation of Egypt's cultural heritage: the beginning. Renaissance and "Cabinets of Curiosities". The era of imperialism and colonialism. The Napoleonic campaign.			
6	Muhamad Ali and the time of founding the Egyptian collections of major Western national museums. Antiquities under the British occupation and afterwards. Early excavation methods and techniques during the second half of the 19th century and the early 20th century.			

7	Beginning of legislation and the formation of an institutional background for preserving Egypt's archaeological heritage. The foundation of the Antiquities Service and the Egyptian Museum. The state of antiquities after Egypt's 1952 revolution.			
8	Archaeological heritage in crisis I: the aftermath of a series of terror attacks between 1993 and 1998, the Arab Spring in 2001, and the lessons to be learned.			
9	Archaeological heritage in crisis II: illegal land reclamations, modern iconoclasm.			
10	The Role and Significance of Archaeological Site Management in Preserving the Valley of the Kings I			
11	The Role and Significance of Archaeological Site Management in Preserving the Valley of the Kings II			
12	End-term paper			
13	End-of-semester course evaluation			

REQUIREMENTS FOR COMPLETION		
MID-TERM TASKS, ASSESSMENT AND GRADING CRITERIA		
REQUIREMENTS	SPECIFICATION	ASSESSMENT WEIGHTING (points, %, mid-term grades)
ATTENDANCE POLICY	In accordance with §46 of Obuda University Code of Studies and Exams.	-
EXCUSED AND UNEXCUSED ABSENCES FROM TRAINING AND ASSESSMENTS	In accordance with §46 of Obuda University Code of Studies and Exams. Attendance of lectures and practice classes is mandatory. Students are allowed a maximum of three absences per semester. Beyond these, no excuses - including medical certificates - will be accepted, and the student will be disqualified from course and denied credit for the course.	-
MID-TERM ASSIGNMENT (if any)		-
MINOR TASKS		-
MID- AND END-TERM TEST(S) OR EXAM(S)	The end-term paper assesses and measures the acquisition of material covered in the lectures. One retake is permitted.	100%
TOTAL VALUE		100%

COURSE COMPLETION REQUIREMENTS	
REQUIREMENTS FOR SIGNATURE	The signature is granted if the student meets the attendance and assignment criteria as specified. A minimum score of 51% is required on the end-term test. In the event of a failed end-term test, one retake is provided. Students who attended both the end-term and the retake tests but failed to achieve the 51% threshold are eligible to take a signature-retake exam. In the case of absence from the end-term test, participation in the signature-retake exam is permitted only upon presentation of a valid medical certificate.
SANCTIONS FOR ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT (PLAGIARISM)	Any student found guilty of plagiarism - i.e., violating Article 4, Section (2) of the Code of Ethics of Obuda University - will be denied credit for the course by the instructor in charge. Furthermore, the University may initiate disciplinary proceedings in accordance with Section 90 of the university's Code of Studies and Exams.
GRADING	Course grade is derived from the result of the end-term paper. Grading is based on a 5-point scale, where 5 is the highest (excellent) and 1 is the lowest (fail).