ANTH 319
RESEARCH METHODS IN
ARCHAEOLOGICAL & BIOLOGICAL
ANTHROPOLOGY

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Yin-Man Lam

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES

This course will guide students through the research methods employed by archaeologists and biological anthropologists. How do you start a research project, and what are the keys to designing strong methodologies and interpretations? What is ‘enough data’, and how do you understand what it means? How are research results communicated to diverse audiences, and what can you do to deal with writer’s block and pressures to publish?

Week by week, this course will follow the research process, engaging with designing and managing independent research projects, developing and testing hypotheses, sampling, building and managing databases, presenting data, and communicating findings. It will also explore the integration of new technologies to answers critical questions in these sub-disciplines. This will be complemented by discussions of best practice, realities in academic-, public- and private-sector jobs today, and the ways that research is impacted by political, economic and social developments.

SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

Combining lectures with hands-on workshops, this course aims to develop critical understanding of the research process and confidence to apply these methods in a range of settings. Students will develop the skills to critically examine scholarly research in archaeological and biological anthropology, alongside pursuing a research project. Working in small groups and independently, students will benefit from hands-on experience in research and writing, focusing on developing skills in communication, critical thinking, and project management.