

# ANTH 319

## RESEARCH METHODS IN ARCHAEOLOGICAL & BIOLOGICAL ANTHROPOLOGY

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*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?

Students will be introduced to different types of research and participate in 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. 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 workshops, this course aims to develop a critical understanding of the research process and the ability to apply these methods in a range of settings. Students will develop the skills to critically examine scholarly research in archaeological and biological anthropology and to conduct such research themselves, working individually and in small groups. They will benefit from direct experience in research and writing, focussing on developing skills in communication, critical thinking, and project management.