ANTH 485
Digital Archaeology: Virtual Heritage & Practice in the 21st Century

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Katherine Cook

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES

Archaeology apps on phones, web-based museum exhibits, 3D printed artifacts: archaeological methods for research and heritage management have been revolutionised by 21st-century technology. In this course, we will explore the applications and impact of these technologies on archaeological practice, experiences of heritage, and community engagement.

Lectures and case studies will focus on contemporary methodological, theoretical and ethical issues in digital practice, while hands-on workshops and assignments will introduce software and tools available for digital imaging, mapping, web-based platforms, gaming and augmented reality, and social media. Future avenues for the application of digital technologies in archaeology will also be considered.

SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

Students will emerge with a portfolio of digital projects developed through skills workshops and applied assignments. They will also understand the strengths and challenges in digital applications, while developing strong digital literacy and communication skills. Through the combination of critical discussion and hands-on experience, students will be able to critically and reflexively assess and apply best practice in digital archaeology and heritage management, reflecting knowledge of the context of approaches to the past, ethics, and the practicalities of digital preservation. These foundational skills will provide the platform necessary for students to continue to pursue education, research, or employment in the realms of digital archaeology.

There are no prerequisite skills in computer programming or software applications, however creative thinking and curiosity will be an asset in this course!