Introduction

Archaeology comprises the study of the material cultural remains of human activities in order to reconstruct, interpret and comprehend the past. The syllabus covers themes such as the origin and evolution of humans in Africa, the precolonial history of the early inhabitants of sub-Saharan Africa, prehistoric rock art, the development of complex societies in different parts of the world, historical archaeology, as well as the application of archaeological knowledge in heritage conservation, cultural resource management and archaeotourism. Opportunities are also created for practical training in the relevant research methods, including site surveys and mapping, excavations and the classification and analysis of finds. A wide range of scientific techniques is used in archaeology to date and analyse archaeological sites and finds, as well as to reconstruct the natural environment in which early communities lived. The prehistory and early history of humans throughout the world constitute the primary focus of archaeological research.

General Information

- Archaeology may be taken as a major subject for both the general BA and the general BSc degree.
- Modules in Archaeology are also included in the specialised degrees such as Early World Civilisations, Historical Studies, Environmental Management, (BA and BSc), African Studies and Language and Culture for International Tourism.
- Students who register for Archaeology as a major subject are advised to include Anthropology (APY101, 102) in their curriculum.
- Practical training in archaeological research techniques is offered during discussion classes, visits to archaeological sites and departmental excavations. For more information on course contents and the annual fieldwork programme contact the Department of Anthropology and Archaeology at 012 429 6418 or consult the departmental home page at http://www.unisa.ac.za/dept/vir/index.html.
- Credit for a degree is granted for:
  (i) either ACE100 or SAR100
  (ii) either ACE200 or SAR200

Transitional Arrangements

Students who passed only one of the two papers of South African Archaeology II (SAR200) prior to 1994 retain credit for the paper passed and must now register for the equivalent of the uncompleted paper. See the table below. Such registration will be for non-degree purposes (NDP) but students will be credited with a pass in Archaeology II (ACE200) as soon as they have passed the paper concerned.

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<tr>
<th>Study unit passed</th>
<th>Study unit which may not be taken</th>
<th>Outstanding study units</th>
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<td>ACE100</td>
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Archaeology as a Major Subject

Compulsory modules for a major subject combination:

- First level: AGE101, 102
- Second level: AGE201, 202, 203
- Third level: AGE301, 302, 303, 304

Syllabus

NB

All modules in this subject are offered as YEAR MODULES.

FIRST-LEVEL MODULES

AGE1014 Introduction to archaeology
Purpose: to introduce students to the scope, aims, data and methods of archaeological research.

AGE1025 The prehistory of South Africa
Purpose: to introduce students to the prehistory of southern Africa from the emergence of the earliest hominids about three million years ago to the beginning and impact of the colonial era.
SECOND-LEVEL MODULES

Prerequisite: TWO first-level modules in this subject or any FOUR first-level modules

AGE2018 Archaeological fieldwork techniques and analytical methods
Purpose: to introduce students to the mapping and surveying of archaeological sites, excavation techniques, the recovery, conservation, classification and analysis of archaeological finds and collections.

AGE2029 Archaeology and fossils: the study of human evolution*
Purpose: to introduce students to evolutionary theory and the fossil evidence for human evolution, including the Australopithecinae, Homo habilis, Homo erectus, the Neandertals, archaic and anatomically modern Homo sapiens.

AGE203A African archaeology
Purpose: to introduce students to Africa's rich archaeological heritage, including Stone Age societies, Iron Age migrations in eastern and southern Africa, the development of early states in sub-Saharan Africa (e.g. Mapungubwe and Great Zimbabwe) as well as aspects of historical and maritime archaeology.

THIRD-LEVEL MODULES

Prerequisite: TWO first-level modules in this subject or any FOUR first-level modules

AGE301B The interpretation of archaeological data*
Purpose: to gain insight into current theoretical perspectives in archaeology, and to demonstrate an understanding of the reconstruction of prehistoric technology, economic systems, diets, settlement patterns, social and political organisation, religion, gender relations, and the interpretation of culture change in the past.

AGE302C Applied archaeology: heritage conservation, cultural resource management and archaeotourism
Purpose: to introduce students to heritage legislation and conservation, cultural resource management, archaeotourism, contract archaeology and environmental impact assessments, the role of archaeology in education, public and community involvement in archaeology, and archaeology as a profession.

AGE303D World prehistory*
Purpose: to introduce students to the spread of early human populations throughout the world, the archaeological evidence for the advent and development of food production in various parts of the world, and the origin and development of complex societies (cities, states and civilisations), inter alia, in Europe, Asia, the Near East, North Africa, Mesoamerica and the Andes.

AGE304E Prehistoric rock art*
Purpose: to introduce students to the prehistoric rock art of Africa (including the rock art of the San and southern Africa's Iron Age farmers), Western Europe, Australia and North America, and demonstrate its significance for understanding the religious beliefs and customs of early societies.

HONOUR'S LEVEL

Students must complete five papers, two of which, HARCH1E and HARCH6K are compulsory

HARCH1E Theory and interpretation in archaeology
Purpose: to describe and critique the theoretical underpinnings of archaeological research.

HARCH2F Hunter-gatherers and herders in Africa
Purpose: to describe and evaluate the archaeology of hunter-gatherers and herders in Africa during the Stone Age.

HARCH3G Early African farming communities and complex societies
Purpose: to describe and evaluate the archaeology of early African farming communities and complex societies in sub-Saharan Africa.

HARCH4H Historical Archaeology
Purpose: to describe and evaluate the archaeology of the modern world in national and international contexts.

HARCH5J Managing archaeological heritage
Purpose to evaluate and apply heritage legislation and management principles that are integral to the practice of Archaeological Heritage Management (also known as Cultural Resource Management).

HARCH6K Archaeology in practice
Purpose: to equip students with analytical and fieldwork skills to conduct advanced archaeological research.