

Fieldwork and Museum Internships

The department strongly encourages students to gain fieldwork experience over the summer and assists them in getting positions on field projects in North America and overseas. The department is undertaking several field projects in China, Iraqi Kurdistan, and Lebanon. Further field projects in the eastern Mediterranean are foreseen for the future. Advanced undergraduates may participate in these projects, provided that it is deemed safe by the college.

Museum internships, either during the summer or during the term, also constitute valid major experiences beyond the classroom. The department is awarded annually one fully paid summer internship by the Nicholas P. Goulandris Foundation for students to work for four to six weeks in the Museum of Cycladic Art in Athens, Greece. An announcement inviting applications is normally sent by the department chair in the spring.

Opportunities to work with the College's archaeology collections are available throughout the academic year and during the summer. Students wishing to work with the collections should consult Marianne Weldon, Collections Manager for Art and Artifacts.

Funding for Summer Learning Opportunities

The department has two funds that support students for summer internships, summer fieldwork projects, and archaeological summer projects of their own design. One, the Elisabeth Packard Fund for internships in Art History and Archaeology, is shared with the Department of the History of Art, while the other is the Anna Lerah Keys Memorial Prize. Any declared major in good academic standing may apply for these funds. An announcement calling for applications is normally sent by the chair to majors in the spring, and the awards are made public at the annual college awards ceremony in April. To help cover expenses related to archaeological learning opportunities, which can be expensive, the department encourages majors to consider applying for funding offered by Bryn Mawr College and external funding sources.

Bryn Mawr College

Classical and Near Eastern Archaeology

2026 - 2027



CONTACT INFORMATION

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Faculty

Jennie Bradbury
Associate Professor, Graduate Advisor, and Major Advisor (A-J)
Prehistory of South-West Asia; survey methodologies; mortuary ritual; GIS

Henry Colburn
Visiting Assistant Professor
Art and archaeology of ancient Iran; ancient imperialism; seals and coins; history of archaeology; museum studies

Astrid Lindenlauf
Associate Professor, Chair, and Major Advisor (K-Z)
Classical art and archaeology; practices of disposal and recycling; intellectual history of archaeology

Rocco Palermo
Assistant Professor
South-West Asia, from Iron Age to Roman Period; ancient empires; Landscape Archaeology; Digital Archaeology; GIS

Wu Xin
Assistant Professor [on leave 2026-2027]
Achaemenid Empire; Central Asian art and archaeology; cultural interactions between the East and West

Courses Fall 2026

ARCH 101 Introduction to Egyptian and Near Eastern Archaeology, Henry Colburn, MWF 10:10am-11:00am
A historical survey of the archaeology and art of the ancient Near East and Egypt.

CITY 201 Introduction to GIS for Social and Environmental Analysis, Dirk Kinsey, TTh 10:10am-11:30am or 1:10pm-2:30pm
Basic principles of GIS and its use in spatial analysis and information management with emphasis on applications for social and environmental analysis.

ARCH 222 Alexander the Great Henry Colburn, MW 2:40pm-4:00pm
This course examines the life, personality, career, and military achievements of Alexander the Great, as well as the extraordinary reception of his legacy in antiquity and through modern times.

ARCH 233 Topics in Archaeological Principles and Methods: Fieldwork Jennie Bradbury, TTh 2:40pm-4:00pm
This course covers the innovative changes that have been brought about in Archaeology and Heritage Studies by new technologies and methodological approaches.

ARCH 252 Pompeii TBA, TTh 10:10am-11:30am
Introduces students to a nearly intact archaeological site whose destruction by the eruption of Mt. Vesuvius in 79 C.E. was recorded by contemporaries. The discovery of Pompeii in the mid-1700s had an enormous impact on 18th- and 19th-century views of the Roman past as well as styles and preferences of the modern era.

ARCH 336 Mortuary Archaeology in the 21st Century: Ethical Engagement

Jennie Bradbury, F 9:10am-12pm

Death is a shared human experience; however, it provokes a huge variety of responses; from the ad hoc and hasty burial of the deceased through to elaborate and lengthy funerary rituals. One of the most direct forms of evidence we have for the people who lived thousands of years ago are burials; vestiges of once living people. The burial record, however, raises as many questions as it does answers.

ARCH 313 The Archaeology of Empires in the Ancient Near East

Henry Colburn, F 1:10pm-4:00pm

Imperialism has long been a central topic in archaeological research, with the Roman Empire in particular occupying an especially prominent place. Yet the earliest empires in recorded history emerged in the ancient Near East (including Egypt), and the region was very often either an imperial core or subject to foreign rule.

ARCH 398 Senior Seminar in Classical Archaeology **TBA, M 7:10pm-10:00pm**

A weekly seminar on common topics with assigned readings and oral and written reports.

Courses Spring 2027 (Approved)

ARCH 102 Introduction to Classical Archaeology **Astrid Lindenlauf, MW 11:10am-12:00pm, breakout discussions Friday 10:10am-11:00am & 12:10pm-1:00pm**

A historical survey of the archaeology and art of Greece, Etruria, and Rome.

CITY 201 Introduction to GIS for Social and Environmental Analysis

Dirk Kinsey, MW 10:10am-11:30am

Basic principles of GIS and its use in spatial analysis and information management with emphasis on applications for social and environmental analysis.

ARCH 253 Gender Archaeology in Pre-Islamic Asia **Henry Colburn, MW 2:40pm-4:00pm**

This course explores the intersections of gender and archaeology in Western Asia during the pre-Islamic periods. It examines how diverse social groups use multiple means to construct, perform, and negotiate gender, sex, identities. The course discusses gender's intricate relationship with class, sexuality, and religion through analysis of texts, visual representations, spatial organization, and other material traces of the past.

ARCH 305 Archaeology of Greek Religion **TBA, T 1:10am-4:00pm**

This course approaches the topic of ancient Greek religion by focusing on surviving archaeological, architectural, epigraphical, artistic and literary evidence that dates from the Archaic and Classical periods. By examining a wealth of diverse evidence that ranges, for example, from temple architecture, and feasting and banquetting equipment to inscriptions, statues, vase paintings, and descriptive texts, the course enables the participants to analyze the value and complexity of the archaeology

of Greek religion and to recognize its significance for the reconstruction of daily life in ancient Greece.

ARCH 399 Senior Seminar in Near Eastern Archaeology

Henry Colburn, W 12:10pm-2:00pm

A weekly seminar on common topics with assigned readings and oral and written reports.

Archaeology Lecture Series

Majors, minors, and graduate students are strongly encouraged to attend the archaeology lecture series. Lectures take place on Mondays throughout the semester, 12:30-2pm, with refreshments beforehand from 12:00-12:30pm. Join the department to hear about some of the exciting archaeological research being carried out by researchers from the US and abroad.

Major Requirements

The major requires a minimum of 10 courses. Core requirements are two 100-level courses distributed between the ancient Near East and Egypt (ARCH 101) and ancient Greece and Rome (ARCH 102), a course on Topics in Archaeological Principles and Methods (ARCH 233), and two semesters of the senior conference (ARCH 398 and 399). At least two upper-level courses should be distributed between Classical and Near Eastern subjects. Additional requirements are determined in consultation with the Major Advisor. A Praxis Independent Study or additional coursework in allied subjects may be presented for major credit, but must be approved in writing by the Major Advisor; such courses are offered in the Departments of Anthropology, Greek, Latin and Classical Studies, Growth and Structure of Cities, and History of Art. In consultation with the Major Advisor, one course taken in study abroad may be accepted for credit in the major after review of the syllabus, work submitted for a grade, and a transcript. Credit will not be given for a course that is ordinarily offered by the department. Students can also take courses at the University of Pennsylvania in consultation with the Major Advisor.

The writing requirement for the major consists of two one-semester Writing Attentive courses offered within the department.

Each student's course of study to meet major requirements will be determined in consultation with the Major Advisor in the spring semester of the sophomore year, at which time a written plan will be designed. Students considering majoring in the department are encouraged to take the introductory courses (ARCH 101 and 102) early in their undergraduate career and should also seek advice from departmental faculty. Students who are interested in interdisciplinary concentrations or in study abroad during the junior year are strongly advised to seek assistance in planning their major early in their sophomore year.

Minor Requirements

The minor requires six courses. Core requirements are two 100-level courses distributed between the ancient Near East and Egypt and ancient Greece and Rome, in addition to four other courses selected in consultation with the Major Advisor. Study abroad courses do not count toward the minor.

A.B./M.A.

The department participates in the A.B./M.A. Degree Program, which allows students the unique opportunity to work towards their bachelor's and master's degrees concurrently and to count up to two courses towards both degrees.

Languages

Majors who contemplate graduate study in Classical fields should incorporate Greek and Latin into their programs. Those who plan graduate work in Southwest Asian or Egyptian fields may take appropriate ancient languages at the University of Pennsylvania, such as Middle Egyptian, Akkadian, and Sumerian. Any student considering graduate study in Classical and Near Eastern archaeology should study French and German.

Honors

Honors are granted on the basis of academic performance as demonstrated by a cumulative average of 3.50 or better in the major.

Study Abroad

A semester of study abroad is encouraged if the program is approved by the department. Students who seek major credit for courses taken abroad must consult with the Major Advisor before enrolling in a program. Major credit is given on a case-by-case basis after review of the syllabus, work submitted for a grade, and a transcript. Credit will not be given for more than one course and not for courses that are ordinarily offered by the department.

Independent Research

Majors who wish to undertake independent research, especially for researching and writing a lengthy paper, must arrange with a professor who is willing to advise them, and consult with the Major Advisor. Such research normally would be conducted by seniors as a unit of supervised work (403), which must be approved by the advising professor before registration. Students planning to do such research should consult with professors in the department in the spring semester of their junior year or no later than the beginning of the fall semester of the senior year.