

Module Details	
Module Title	Archaeometry
Module Code	ARC7035-B
Academic Year	2024/5
Credits	20
School	School of Archaeological and Forensic Sciences
FHEQ Level	FHEQ Level 7

Contact Hours	
Type	Hours
Lectures	12
Lectures	14
Tutorials	6
Laboratories	6
Directed Study	140

Availability	
Occurrence	Location / Period
BDA	University of Bradford / Semester 2

Module Aims
<p>To explore the role of scientific methods in addressing key areas of study of the past: chronology, diet and identity. What has been achieved? How do we evaluate the importance of the findings? What challenges remain and how might they be addressed?</p> <p>To give the opportunity to study stable light isotope analysis and its archaeological applications in detail.</p> <p>Particular emphasis will be placed on the applications of techniques and the inherent challenges in placing interpretation into a wider understanding of people in the past. There is an emphasis on specific themes and the use of case studies based on recently published research.</p>

Outline Syllabus

The module will introduce, through case studies & the development of specific themes, a range of techniques & approaches used in archaeology to address questions of identity, diet and chronology. It will also cover the lessons learned from previous studies & future potential.

The identity theme will cover the place of molecular investigation in defining identity, residence & migration; source, stability & transformation of molecules; ancient DNA: What survives? How does it survive? What does it tell us about people in the past? The danger of contamination & the importance of sampling strategies; Biogeochemical studies & their use in identifying migration.

The diet theme will examine chemistry of lipids & proteins & their application in identifying past use of food; pottery vessel function; stable light isotopes & trace elements as indicators of diet.

The chronology theme will cover an introduction to chronology & issues of precision and accuracy, dating using short and long lived isotopes, radiation exposure dating and dating using patterns of change, including newly developed methods.

The stable light isotope theme will provide specialist knowledge in the principles of stable light isotope mass spectrometry, sample preparation, instrumental fundamentals and design. The specialist knowledge will be reinforced by the 'hands on' practical component and will include use of the analytical centre instruments, collecting and analysing data, troubleshooting and method development/enhancement. The practical sessions will also involve following written experimental protocols, working in a small group, and working to deadlines.

Learning Outcomes

Outcome Number	Description
01	Critically discuss the contribution that scientific methods make to the study of identity, diet and chronology in the past.
02	Critically review the principles of key scientific approaches.
03	Evaluate and apply knowledge and understanding of the theories of stable light isotope analysis, including sample preparation and analysis (if this theme is selected).
04	Critically review the theoretical and methodological framework for evaluating the contribution of isotopic, molecular and scientific dating studies within an archaeological context.
05	Interpret and critically evaluate published work.
06	Manipulate samples for selection, preparation and analysis; analyse, interpret and critically review experimental data generated with isotope techniques; identify poor quality analytical results and suggest/apply remedial action (if this theme is selected).
07	Apply enhanced analytical and problem-solving skills gained through the evaluation and synthesis of recently published research.

Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategy

Lectures will be used to introduce key principles and case studies will be developed in seminar/workshops which will include group discussion and primary data evaluation. The module will be delivered using a blended approach, with a mixture of on-line and on-campus provision. Laboratory sessions will be used to gain hands-on experience of light isotope analysis. The emphasis on evaluating current research will be demonstrated by the assessment, which will comprise critical reviews of recently published research and a laboratory report. Detailed feedback will be given on each critical review before the next submission is due and there will be an opportunity to view annotations on the scripts: individual meetings arranged by appointment. During Directed Study hours students are expected to undertake reading to consolidate and expand on the content of formal taught sessions; research and prepare for assessments; revise material from formal taught sessions; and undertake specific elements of reading as directed.

Mode of Assessment

Type	Method	Description	Weighting
Summative	Coursework - Written	Critical Review (1000 words)	33%
Summative	Coursework - Written	Critical Review (1000 words)	33%
Summative	Laboratory Report	Laboratory Report (1500 words)	34%

Reading List

To access the reading list for this module, please visit <https://bradford.rl.talis.com/index.html>

Please note:

This module descriptor has been published in advance of the academic year to which it applies. Every effort has been made to ensure that the information is accurate at the time of publication, but minor changes may occur given the interval between publishing and commencement of teaching. Upon commencement of the module, students will receive a handbook with further detail about the module and any changes will be discussed and/or communicated at this point.