

# **MODULE DOCUMENTATION**

## **Approaches to Archaeology 2: Ceramics History & the Study of Burials**

**HIST07025**

Mandatory

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<b>Full Title</b>	Approaches to Archaeology 2: Ceramics History and the Study of Burials		
<b>Status</b>	Uploaded to Banner	<b>Start Term</b>	2017
<b>NFQ Level</b>	07	<b>ECTS Credits</b>	05
<b>Module Code</b>	HIST07025	<b>Duration</b>	Semester - (13 Weeks)
<b>Grading Mode</b>		<b>Department</b>	Humanities
<b>Module Author</b>	Mr. Paul Gosling		

### Module Description

This module focuses on two sub-disciplines of archaeology relating to the technological and cultural history of artifacts and the archaeology and anthropology of burials, as follows:

- ceramics history: history of ceramic manufacture and use from Neolithic times to the present day with a particular focus on the ceramic history of Ireland;
- the study of burials: the range and variety of burial practices in human societies from prehisotic to modern times and the methodologies used by archaeologists to recover information from burials.

### Learning Outcomes

**On completion of this module the learner will/should be able to:**

- articulate on the role and value of ceramics for studying and understanding human societies, past and present;
- display a knowledge of the principal ceramic styles and traditions in Ireland from prehistoric times to the present;
- appreciate the value of ceramics as cultural and economic assets in modern societies.
- demonstrate a knowledge of the diversity of burial practices from prehistoric times to the present and the cultural beliefs and values which underpin them;
- identify and explain the methodologies and techniques employed in the study of burials;
- evaluate the range of moral and ethical issues surrounding the archaeological exhumation and study of the dead;

### Indicative Syllabus

#### CERAMICS HISTORY:

- the value of ceramics for the study of past societies: trade/exchange, storage, food preparation, food presentation, art, heirloom/antique; history of food and culinary arts;
- the manufacture of ceramics: clays, grit, hand/wheel manufacture, slips and decoartion, glazes, kilns;
- the major ceramic styles and traditions found in Ireland whether, imported or manufactured locally, from Neolithic times to the present.

#### The STUDY of BURIALS

- death and burial: the range of cultural beliefs and concepts of life, death, burial and afterlife;
- exploration of the main types of burials: inhumation, cremation, excarnation - communal burial, mass burials, single burial - burial goods, burial fittings and furniture, burial architecture, burial practices;
- an outline history of the burial practices and rituals found in Ireland from prehistoric times to the present day.

**Teaching and Learning Strategy**

## CERAMICS HISTORY:

- Formal lectures with multi-media aids;
- Seminars on the manufacture of ceramics;
- Museum visits to view ceramic collections.

## The STUDY of BURIALS

- Formal lectures with multi-media aids;
- Case studies on important excavations of cemeteries/graveyards and individuals;
- seminars on the ethical issues surrounding the study and exhibition of the remains of the dead.

**Assessment Strategy**

## CERAMICS HISTORY:

- participative seminars on pottery manufacture and pottery recording techniques;
- identification of the library and museum resources for the study of ceramic archaeology;

## The STUDY of BURIALS

- project on a specific cemetery/graveyard/person;
- oral presentation on the ethical issues surrounding particular burial practices

**Repeat Assessment Strategies**

as above

Indicative Coursework and Continuous Assessment:		50 %		
Form	Title	Percent	Week (Indicative)	Learning Outcomes
Group Project	Brochure	20 %	Any	1,2,3,4,5,6
Performance Evaluation	Oral Presentation	20 %	Any	1,2,3,4,5,6
Oral Exam	Review Quizzes	10 %	TBA	1,2,3,4,5,6

End of Semester / Year Formal Exam:		50 %		
Form	Title	Percent	Week (Indicative)	Learning Outcomes
Closed Book Exam	End of Semester Exam	50 %	End of Semester	1,2,3,4,5,6

Full Time Delivery Mode Average Weekly Workload:			4.85 Hours		
Type	Description	Location	Hours	Frequency	Weekly Avg
Lecture	Formal Classroom Lectures	Not Specified	3	Weekly	3.00
Other	Museum /Institutional Visit	Not Specified	6	Twice Per Semester	0.92
Seminar	Lbrary Seminar	Library	6	Twice Per Semester	0.92

**Literary Resources**

## CERAMICS HISTORY

Freestone, I. and Gaimtser, D. (eds.) (1997) *Pottery in the making: world ceramic traditions*, British Museum Press, London.

Orton, C., Tyers, P., and Vince, A. 1993 *Pottery in Archaeology*, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge.

G. Mac Niocaill, G. and Wallace, P. F. (eds) 1988 *Keimelia: studies in medieval archaeology and history in memory of Tom Delaney*, University Press, Galway.

Eames, E.S. and Fanning, T. 1987 *Decorated paving tiles in Ireland*, Royal Irish Academy, Dublin.

- McCutcheon, C. 2006 *Medieval Pottery from Wood Quay, Dublin: The 1974-6 Waterfront Excavation*. Royal Irish Academy, Dublin.
- Draper, J. 2001 *Post-medieval pottery 1650-1800*, Shire Publications, Princes Risborough.
- Gleeson, J. 2000 *The Arcanum: the extraordinary true story of the invention of European porcelain*, Warner Books, London.
- Archer, M. 1979, *Irish pottery and porcelain*. Irish Heritage Series: 27, Eason, Dublin.
- Archer, M. 1997, *Delftware: the tin-glazed earthenware of the British Isles*. The Stationery Office, London.
- Francis, P. 2000, *Irish delftware: an illustrated history*. Jonathan Horne Publications, London.

#### The STUDY of BURIALS

- Bahn, P.G. (ed.) 1996 *Tombs, graves & mummies*, Weidenfield & Nicholson, London.
- Chamberlain, A. and Pearson, M.P. 2001 *Earthy remains: the history and science of preserved human remains*, Oxford University Press, Oxford.
- Chamberlain, A. 1994 *Interpreting the past: human remains*, British Museum, London.
- Glob, P.V. 1969 *The bog people*, Faber & Faber, London.
- Spindler, C. 1995 *The man in the ice*, Phoenix, London.
- Tarlow, Sarah and Nilsson Stutz, Liv (eds) *The Oxford Handbook of the Archaeology of Death and Burial*. Oxford Handbooks in Archaeology. Oxford: University press, 2013.

#### Online Resources

1. <http://www.potweb.org> - A website established by the Ashmolean Museum in Oxford. It provides excellent colour photographs of many types of pottery from prehistoric to modern. Now a 'fossil site' but still useful.  
<http://www.thepotteries.org/pottery.htm> - A web-site detailing all the major types of early modern wares, potters, kiln-types, manufacturing techniques and makers-marks.  
<http://www.acss09.hemscott.net> - Set of introductory tutorials 'web tutorials' by one Victor Bryant on various topics regarding the history of ceramics incl. the potter's wheel, kilns, glazing, Greek and Roman pottery etc.  
<http://www.mappingdeath.ie/links.html> - The Mapping Death project, based in UCD, to compile and study the burials of the 1st millennium AD in Ireland.

#### Programme Membership

- GA\_HHERG\_B07 201500 Bachelor of Arts in Heritage Studies  
 GA\_HHERG\_H08 201500 Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Heritage Studies