# Catalog description

This course offers both a hands-on introduction to data analysis, and an introduction to the specific kinds of problems archaeologists study from the material remains of the human past, for students with no specific background other than curiosity about archaeology. The skills students develop in this course can be directly applied to other historical, literary or social-science data sets.

The course will be organized around a series of assignments using publicly available archaeological data sets, and will emphasize the distinctive problems archaeologists face in gathering, curating and analyzing archaeological data.

# Course description

This course offers both a hands-on introduction to data analysis, and an introduction to the specific kinds of problems archaeologists study from the material remains of the human past. It is intended for students with no specific background other than curiosity about archaeology. We will learn a small amount of coding and statistical methods (less than you would cover in half a semester of an introductory statistics or programming class), along with fundamental principles of archaeology. This combination will enable you to make new discoveries about real archaeological data sets.

Course assignments will give you hands-on experience describing and characterizing large data sets, clustering and classifying data into meaningful interpretive groups, spatial analysis, network analysis, accounting for the complex ways archaeologists reconstruct chronological sequences, and integrating textual and archaeological data.

The skills you develop in this course can be directly applied to other historical, literary or social-science data sets.

# Exams and assignments

The course will be centered around a series of focused projects lasting about 2-3 weeks each. You will learn analyze publicly available archaeological and historical data sets ranging from classical Athenian pottery, to Roman imperial coins, to finds from Pompeii, among others. Students will develop a small final product of their own design over the last 2-3 weeks of the course.

# Professor’s comments

While we will introduce archaeological theoretical ideas, the emphasis in our course work will be thoroughly practical. Students will become familiar with working practices (such as use of version control and unit testing) and tools that are widely used in data analysis professions today.