

Medieval Archaeology

Time and Location

T 11:45-1:40 PM; R 12:50-1:40
Flint 101

Description and Goals

Historians of the Middle Ages readily acknowledge the advantage that documentary evidence gives them over archaeologists. After all, why would anyone need to dig in the dirt, when so many archives remain unexplored? Why would anyone prefer the drab remains of past material culture to the spiritual and artistic achievements of the Middle Ages? Many view archival material as a control lacking in archaeology. The true task of the archaeologist is thus to discover whether the evidence of material culture properly reflects the documentary record or *vice versa*. Over the last decades, however, the discipline of medieval archaeology experienced a spectacular growth. It has become clear that the research carried by archaeologists has no direct connections with, or implications for, the question posed of the documentary record by historians. However, the medieval history of material culture raises some important issues, all of which are of historical importance. The study of urban history, for example, cannot be conceived today with a solid training in medieval archaeology. Problems of production and distribution, as well as intricate questions of group identity, gender, and social status can now be re-phrased in the light of the archaeological research. Increasingly, medieval archaeology has become a major component of Medieval Studies.

The main goal of this course is to outline some of the most important areas of current archaeological research and to point to major results. From rural settlements to pottery, the impact of medieval archaeology on the study of medieval society cannot be ignored without the risk of serious distortion. Following a topical, rather than chronological, order, we will look at life in the Middle Ages through the window opened by archaeologists. We will look at how they gather their sources, analyze them and reached conclusions of historical importance.

Textbooks

- *The Archaeology of Medieval Europe*. Ed. by James Graham-Campbell and Magdalena Valor. Vol. 1. Aarhus: Aarhus University Press, 2007; ISBN: 9788779342903 (pbk.) [hereafter *Graham-Campbell and Valor*]; on two-hour reserve in [Library West](#).
- *The Archaeology of Medieval Europe*. Ed. by Martin O. H. Carver and Jan Klápště. Aarhus: Aarhus University Press, 2011; ISBN: 13 9788779342910 (pbk.) [hereafter *Carver and Klápště*]; on two-hour reserve in [Library West](#).
- Kevin Greene and Tom Moore. *Archaeology. An Introduction*, 5th edition. London/New York: Routledge, 2010; ISBN: 9780415496391 [hereafter Greene and Moore]; on two-hour reserve in [Library West](#).

NOTE: It is essential that you read the assigned sections in the textbook(s) at the time they are due. Class meetings will be organized around a lecture/discussion format and quizzes will necessitate familiarity with the material.

Requirements

There is no attendance policy, but you are responsible for attending all lectures and reading the required texts. Class participation may be taken into account to determine the overall grade. The basis for evaluation of performance will be four quizzes, 10 journal entries, and two exams (Midterm and Final). The quizzes will consist only of multiple-choice questions (no essay). A careful study of the readings is necessary for a good performance at the quiz. The journal entries consist of e-mail messages sent on my address (fcurta@ufl.edu), in which you will discuss briefly the readings for the topics marked with (*) in the list of course weekly topics below. You can ask questions about the readings and/or make comments, raise issues that need clarification, etc. All journal entries should arrive at least 15 hours before the corresponding class meetings. Be sure to

keep your postings to a reasonable length (175 to 250 words long). I do not want you to spend too much time on them, but I expect you to give an articulate presentation of your thoughts. Needless to say, I also expect you to check on correct grammar and spelling before clicking on "Send." The Midterm and Final exams will cover everything from lectures and readings. Both will consist of a short answer portion and a longer essay. Please review the University's [academic honesty guidelines](#) and the [Disability Resource Center resources](#). Make-up quizzes, journal entries, or exams exam will be given only for very serious reasons. In every case, I will ask for written justification or proof. Extra-credit work will be accepted only for students with active participation in class discussions. The format of the extra-credit option shall be discussed with the instructor during regular office hours. The following point system will be used in determining the final grade:

- Quizzes: 20 points
- Journal entries: 20 points
- Midterm: 30 points
- Final exam: 30 points
- Total: 100 points

Grading Scale

Points	Grade
95-100	A
90-94	A-
87-89	B+
81-86	B
75-80	B-
68-74	C+
61-67	C
55-60	C-
48-54	D+
41-47	D
35-40	D-
under 30	E

Weekly Topics

Week 1 (January 8-12): Introduction

What is medieval archaeology? History and Archaeology

- *Graham-Campbell and Valor* 13-28
- See the cover of the journal *Archaeologia historica* (published in Prague)
- See a [plan](#) and an [image](#) of Vladimír Nekuda's excavations in Pfaffenschlag (with a [reconstruction](#) of the village) and images of the excavation site in [Mstěnice](#) (Czech Republic)
- See also the remains of a soldier fallen in the battle of [Visby](#) (1361), and the [cover](#) of Bengt Thordeman's book; see also pictures of [Paul Grimm](#), [Richard Pittioni](#), and [Michel de Boüard](#)
- Visit the website of the [Society for Medieval Archaeology](#)

History of archaeology. The Three-Age system, stratigraphy, and typology

- *Greene and Moore* 1-50
- See a **brief presentation** of Cyriacus of Ancona and the beginnings of antiquarianism
- See the portraits of **Olof Rudbeck, William Stukeley, General Augustus Lane-Fox Pitt-Rivers, and Oskar Montelius**
- See a **brief presentation** of Thomsen's Three-Age system
- See also pictures of the Museum of Natural History in Oxford (**facade; interior** with Victorian, neo-Gothic architecture, the evolutionary displays for **fish and elephants**, and the commemorative **plaque** of the historical Huxley-Willberforce debate on evolutionism; see also General Pitt Rivers's collection of **rifles**, as well as the display showing the evolution of **bull-roarers and human head-trophies**)

Week 2 (January 15-19): History of Archaeology

From culture history to the New Archaeology

- *Greene and Moore* 256-272
- see the portraits of **Friedrich Ratzel, Edward B. Tylor, Gustaf Kossinna, Julian Steward and Lewis Binford**

Post-processualist approaches. New techniques: aerial photography and Geographic Information Systems

- (*, due on Wednesday, January 17, in the evening) *Greene and Moore* 51-88 and 273-285; *Carver and Klápště* 25-34
- see the portraits of **Ian Hodder, Helge Ingstad and Mortimer Wheeler**
- visit the Viking-age site in **L'Anse aux Meadows**
- see examples of a **systematic survey** with transects for each person to walk and scan and of **resistivity surveying**
- see an example of **crop marks** (with an explanation of their usefulness) and a few applications of **aerial archaeology**

Week 3 (January 22-26): Theory and Practice of Archaeology

Excavation and interpretation

- *Graham-Campbell and Valor* 29-42; *Carver and Klápště* 34-47
- *Greene and Moore* 89-147
- visit the site of the **Harris Matrix** and watch a short **film** explaining its basic principles

Dating the past: methods of dating

- (*, due on Wednesday, January 24, in the evening) *Green and Moore* 148-189; *Graham-Campbell and Valor* 42-43
- see a **presentation of the principles of radiocarbon dating** (with a description of its application in age calculations), and pictures of **Willard Libby, Andrew Elicott Douglass**, and of an **accelerator mass spectrometry lab**
- watch an introduction to the use of **dendrochronology for archaeology** and visit the **Laboratory of Tree-Ring Research at the University of Arizona**

Week 4 (January 29-February 2): Urban Archaeology

From Roman to medieval cities: decline or transformation? Quiz 1

- *Graham-Campbell and Valor* 111-121

- see a map of Roman and medieval London; visit the Mithraeum in London, the Westminster Abbey, the Church of St. Alban, the White Tower, and the Tower Bridge; see a gold coin and a sceatta issued in early medieval London
- see a map of the fort of Caesarodunum and a view of Tours; see examples of North African lamps and a view of the cathedral of Tours
- see a general plan and general views of the Roman city of Gerasa (Jerash)
- see a general plan of Justiniana Prima (Caricin Grad), a view of the current excavations, and the reconstruction of the city

Medieval cities. Urban growth and life

- (*, due on Wednesday, January 31, in the evening) *Graham-Campbell and Valor* 121-153 and 166-169; *Carver and Klápště* 167-170, 370-407
- see a picture of Richard Hodges (at the time of his Dark Age Economics)
- see a general plan of Dorestad and of the layout of the buildings, as well as a Carolingian denier (penny), such as found in a hoard on the site
- see a brief presentation of Birka (Sweden) and an aerial view of Haithabu
- see reconstructions of a freighter from the harbor, a Viking-age manual mill with quern stones, and of the female dress of the ninth- and tenth-century Haithabu
- see a map of Venice, and visit the Basilica of San Marco, as well as the islands of San Francesco del Deserto, Torcello, and Rialto
- visit the amphitheatre in Old Buda and the Buda Castle
- visit the Chester Castle and one of the city's many medieval townhouses
- see a medieval street in Lund and a medieval house in Lilla Torg, Malmö

Week 5 (February 5-9): Rural archaeology

Medieval Villages

- *Graham-Campbell and Valor* 76-89 and 101-105; *Carver and Klápště* 97-125, 163-167
- visit the sites of Vorbasse, Březno, Pfaffenschlag (with a reconstruction), and Okehampton Park
- see the Hekla volcano in Iceland
- visit the medieval village of Wharram Percy

Farm houses and farming, Paleoethnobotany and zooarchaeology

- (*, due on Wednesday, February 7, in the evening) *Greene and Moore* 198-214; *Graham-Campbell and Valor* 89-102, 154-164, and 181-203; *Carver and Klápště* 126-146
- see the medieval village in West Stow and an example of clay oven
- for an early rural site outside the frontiers of the Roman Empire, see the plan and the excavated long-houses (with reconstruction) and manor from Feddersen Wierde
- see a brief survey of early medieval houses and building techniques in England and see pennies of Edward I
- see a survey of timber-framed architecture
- see brief introductions to paleo(ethno)botany and zooarchaeology
- see an explanation of coppicing and pollarding, and visit the Staverton Park in Suffolk, with some of the oldest trees in England

Week 6 (February 12-16): Medieval palaces, castles, and forts

High status sites and palaces

- *Graham-Campbell and Valor* 334-339 and 342-362; *Carver and Klápště* 147-158
- see a brief presentation of crannogs (and a reconstruction of a crannog in Scotland) and visit a reconstructed crannog in County Clare, Ireland
- see a selection of wheel-made jars and bowls from Lagore, Ireland ("E-ware")

- see a reconstruction of Yeavinger, a seventh-century palatial complex in Northumbria
- see an aerial view of Ostrów Lednicki
- visit the ruins of the Clarendon Palace, the Echiquier in Caen, Eltham Palace, Westminster Palace (facade, plan, and interior vaults) and Nonsuch Palace

Donjons, mottes, keeps, castles, forts, and earthen ramparts. Quiz 2

- *Graham-Campbell and Valor* 323-334 and 339; *Carver and Klápště* 230-271
- see the image of an eleventh-century motte in the Bayeux Tapestry and a reconstruction of a medieval motte-and-bailey fortification
- see an image of the earliest castle, the keep of Doué-la-Fontaine
- see an example of tower house from Ireland
- see examples of portcullis (Edinburgh Castle), bailey, and barbican (Trim Castle, Ireland)
- for an example of kitchen range, see the plan of Skenfrith Castle
- visit three castles in Wales: Dolforwyn, Dryslwyn, and Montgomery
- see the the Edlingham Castle in Northumberland, Hadleigh Castle in Essex (England), and Château Gaillard in Eure (France, with plan)
- see also the Crusader castle of Krak des Chevaliers (Homs, Syria)
- see an aerial view of the Tower of London
- visit also the Moravian hillfort at Břeclav-Pohansko, the Viking stronghold at Trelleborg, and the Polish hillfort at Grzybowo
- see reconstructions of the mottes at Husterknupp and Elmendorf
- see a map and a picture of Offa's Dike, the inscription on the Pillar of Eliseg, an aerial view of Danevirke, a map and a field view of the Long Dike in Dobrudja

Week 7 (February 19-23): Cathedral and parish churches

Rural/parish churches

- (*, due on Wednesday, February 21, in the evening) *Graham-Campbell and Valor* 398-408 and 412-417; *Carver and Klápště* 468-478
- for an example of parish church, see the church excavated in the medieval deserted village of Vohingen (Germany)
- see the Church of the Madeleine in Geneva, the church in Brenz, and the Cathedral in Speyer (with the crypt with royal tombs)
- for an example of burials within the church, see the fifth-century graves underneath the main nave of the Saint Germain Church in Auxerre

Cathedrals and "colonial" churches . Architecture and art history.

- *Carver and Klápště* Uppsala Cathedral
- visit also the Cathedral of Canterbury
- see also images of St. Philibert in Tournus (with plan; Burgundy, France), St. Sernin in Toulouse (with plan; Provence, France), the Cathedral of Speyer (with a view of the nave; Germany), Sant'Ambrogio in Milan (with details; Italy), St. Etienne in Caen (Normandy, France), the Durham Cathedral (England), the Pisa cathedral (Italy), San Miniato al Monte in Florence (Italy), the lintel at St. Genis-des-Fontaines (Pyrénées Orientales, France), the tympana at Moissac, Autun, and Vézelay (France), the Laon cathedral (with plan and a view of the interior; France), Notre Dame of Paris (with rose window, France), the Chartres cathedral (with an example of flying buttress; France), the Bourges cathedral (France), and the Amiens cathedral (France), Sainte Chapelle in Paris (with a view of the interior; France); the statues of Count Ekkehard and Countess Uta of Ballenstedt in the Cathedral of Naumburg (ca. 1245-1260); a buttress design by Villard de Honnecourt (ca. 1220)

Week 8: (February 26-March 1): Monastic archaeology

Monasteries

- *Graham-Campbell and Valor* 408-411; *Carver and Klápště* 457-467
- see a view of the Irish monastery of Clonmacnoise (with a detailed view of the tower)
- see a presentation of the Benedictine abbey at San Vincenzo al Volturno (with plan and reconstructions of the refectory and atrium)
- for examples of Cistercian houses, see a general view of the Vauclair Abbey (Gothic church, drainage system, and fountain) and two views of the Pontigny Abbey (exterior and interior)
- for examples of priories of canon orders, see the ruins of the Augustinian priory of Bolton and the Premonstratensian house at Dryburgh

Convents

- visit the Benedictine convent of Romsey; see a plan of the Templar preceptory at South Witham; visit Whalley Abbey (Lancashire), Kirkstall Abbey (Yorkshire), and Waltham Abbey (Essex)

Week 9 (March 4-8): Aspects of daily life. Midterm.

Midterm

Transportation

- *Graham-Campbell and Valor* 261-285; *Carver and Klápště* 328-339
- see an image of the Pilgrim's Way across the North Downs (England); for an (authentic) example of medieval road, see the Vohingen Ditch (Germany)
- see examples of early medieval spurs, stirrups, and horseshoes
- see the wagon and the sledge found in the ship burial in Oseberg (Norway)
- note the differences between clinker and carvel methods of shipbuilding; see a diagram of the lapstrake method of shipbuilding
- see the Hedeby 3 and the Oseberg ships, as well as the 1893 replica of the Gokstad ship
- for examples of logboats, see the Nydam dugout boats
- see a short description of the cog
- see reconstructions of the Yassi Ada and Serçe Limani ships
- see an example of lateen sail

Pottery, glassware, dress

- *Graham-Campbell and Valor* 237-259; *Carver and Klápště* 277-315
- see an example of rilling most typical for wheel-made pottery and an example of a tournette, as well as an example of open pottery firing by means of bonfire
- see examples of Pingsdorf ware, stoneware, glazed ware, and stamped ware
- see a Frankish funnel beaker and a Viking-age beaker with reticella decoration, as well as a Hedwig beaker
- see a Romanesque aquamanile and the Mästermyr tool-chest
- see examples of bone styli from Novgorod and the chess set from the island of Lewis
- for an example of polychrome style, see a sixth-century fibula from Spain

Week 10 (March 11-15): Spring Break

Week 11 (March 18-22): Burial sites and mortuary archaeology

Funerals, Quiz 3

- (*, due on Monday, March 11, in the evening) *Graham-Campbell and Valor* 432-437 and 441-446
- visit the Gamla Uppsala royal cemetery with barrows

Cemeteries and grave analysis

- - *Graham-Campbell and Valor* 425-432
 - *Greene and Moore* 214-221

- see a description of how “horizontal stratigraphy” is used for the study of Anglo-Saxon cemeteries
- see a brief explanation of how correspondence analysis is used in archaeology

Week 12 (March 25-29): Social structure and archaeology

Age groups

- (*, due on Monday, March 25, in the evening) *Carver and Klápstě* 516-527
- see an example of an [Anglo-Saxon square-headed brooch](#)
- see the two drinking horns from [Taplow](#)
- see a brief bio of [Barbara Hanawalt](#)
- see the [toy swords and spear](#) found in Staraja Ladoga

Descent groups, status and identity

- see the [sarcophagus](#) of the female burial at St. Denis (believed to be of Queen Ardegunde) and some of the associated artifacts; see also the [burial mounds](#) and [ship burial](#) at Sutton Hoo with associated artifacts ([helmet](#), [belt buckle](#), [shoulder clasps](#), [scepter](#), [spoons](#), and [coins](#))

Week 12 (April 1-5): The archaeology of power

Centers of power, rise of medieval states

- see portraits of [Marshall Sahlins](#) and [Maurice Godelier](#)
- see a [map of the Anglo-Saxon kingdoms](#) during Bede’s lifetime
- see a brief presentation of gift-giving in [potlatch](#) ceremonies on the northwestern coast of America

Kingdoms

- see the Viking-Age trade center of [Tjølling-kaupang](#) in Norway, an aerial view of [Ribe](#), and the royal cemetery at [Jelling](#) in Denmark
- see examples of [bracteates](#) from Denmark and [sceattas](#) from England
- see the [runic inscription](#) on one face of the stone in Jelling

Week 13 (April 8-13): Demography and migration

Demography, DNA Analysis, and experimental archaeology

- (*, due on Wednesday, April 10, in the evening) *Greene and Moore* 221-227; *Graham-Campbell and Valor* 420-425; *Carver and Klápstě* 512-513
- *Greene and Moore* 221-227
- see a [map](#) of Viking-Age Iceland showing the earliest attested settlements

Archaeology of migration, ethnicity and cultural change

- see a brief presentation of the [Lankhills](#) cemetery near Winchester with an example of [crossbow](#) brooch; see examples of [cruciform](#) and [saucer](#) brooches
- see an example of [Animal Style I](#) decoration on the sword hilt from a warrior grave in [Snartemo](#) (Norway)
- see the portraits of [Fredrik Barth](#), [Ian Hodder](#), [James Sackett](#), and [Polly Wiessner](#)

Week 14 (April 15-20): Crafts and trade

Crafts

- *Graham-Campbell and Valor* 208-234; *Carver and Klápstě* 315-327

- see an example of **bog iron**, a picture of a compact bloom, and read a brief introduction to Viking-age **iron-working** (with a reconstruction of a **smelting furnace**)
- see an example of a blade made of **Damascus (Wootz) steel** (“Charlemagne’s Saber” in the Kunsthistorisches Museum in Vienna)

Trade

- (*, due on Wednesday, April 17, in the evening) *Graham-Campbell and Valor* 289-312; *Carver and Klápště* 340-369
- see portraits of **Henri Pirenne** and **Sture Bolin**
- visit the ruins of **Schola Praeconum** in Rome, of **Carthage**, and of **Luni**
- see different types of Late Roman **amphorae** and the Kashmiri statue of **Buddha** from Helgö

Week 15 (April 22-24): Gender and religious identity

Gender, Quiz 4

- *Greene and Moore* 288-290
- see a brief introduction to the **archaeology of gender** and a **paper** on the relation between gender and feminist archaeology

Religious identity

- (*, due on Wednesday, April 24, in the evening) *Carver and Klápště* 479-493
- see the **mihrab** of the Ulu Camii (Bursa, Turkey)
- see the **minbar** of the Sultan Hassan mosque in Cairo (Egypt)
- see the spiral **minaret** in Samarra near Baghdad (Iraq)
- see the **sahn** (inner courtyard) of the al-Hakim mosque in Cairo (Egypt)
- visit the Cathedral (formerly Great Mosque) of **Almería** (Spain), the mosque of **Shah Hamadan** in **Kashmir** (India), the **ribat** in Tunisia, and the **Alcázar** in Seville
- see a detail of the sahn at the **Quw wut ul-Islam mosque** in **Delhi** (India)
- see a view of the ruins of **Pella** (Jordan)

Week 16: Archaeology for whom?

Why do we need medieval archaeology?

- *Graham-Campbell and Valor* 46-74

Archaeology and the public

- *Green and Moore* 294-312

Friday, May 3, 12:30-2:30: Final exam