This course introduces you to the major techniques, principal bodies of evidence, research themes and concepts deployed in the discipline in order to develop a critical understanding of how contemporary archaeologists conduct archaeological research and communicate its results in texts, pictures and museum displays. The module addresses the perceived divide between theory and practice in archaeological fieldwork and cultural resource management. It aims to produce a new kind of archaeologist, who is theoretically aware whilst grounded in the craft of archaeology. In so doing, the module will develop your capacity for interdisciplinary and innovative research in the field, based on a more critical and integrated study of landscape, architecture, and material culture. Context, and an engagement with its material and historical conditions, are crucial to this evidence-based training. A critical subject is the value of archaeology in the world and the kinds of community that participate in its practice. The case studies to be looked at in this module relate to historical, prehistorical and classical archaeology and were selected to bring out the importance of methodological insights and skills transferrable across disciplinary
boundaries.

Lecture list
Introduction: Words & Things
Archaeology and Context
Archives and Assemblages
Time in Archaeology
Tracing Architecture
Power/Status/Hierarchies
Unravelling the Landscape
Archaeology of Art
Archaeological Representation: Museums
Material Culture in Action

Introductory bibliography