

AHISVAC03 PRINCIPLES AND METHODS OF ARCHAEOLOGY

Learning Objectives

- This is to bring awareness to the students.
- To know about the latest trends and theories in the discipline of Archaeology.
- To understand the excavation and exploration.

Course Outcome

At the end of the course, the student will be able to

- Understand properly the aspects and value of archaeology as an ancillary subject of history.
- Aware of origin and development of archaeology tracing archaeological excavations in India as well as in Tamilnadu
- Know the methods of exploration and excavation along with conservation techniques.
- Explore the possibilities and scope for further excavations in Tamilnadu for Reconstructing its history.

Unit 1

Definition, Scope and Value of Archaeology – Types of Archaeology – Economic Archaeology, Ethno Archaeology, Marine Archaeology, Aerial Archaeology and Salvage Archaeology – Archaeology and Other Disciplines – History of Archaeology in India.

Unit 2

Surface Exploration – Methods of Site Survey – Map Reading – Analysing the Physical Features – Ethnographic Data – Historical Literature – Field Observation and Ceramic Survey – Scientific Aids in Exploration – Proton Magneto Metre, Thermo-Remnant Magnetic Survey, Electricity Resistivity Survey, Chemical Method, Aerial Survey and Photography.

Unit 3

Excavation Staff and their Functions – Equipments – Methods of Excavation – Stratigraphy – Kinds of Excavation – Vertical, Horizontal and Quadrant Method – Excavation of Towns and Burials – Documentation – Plan and Section – Drawings – Photographic Documentation.

Unit 4

Dating Methods – Relative Dating and Scientific Dating – Radio Carbon Dating – Thermoluminescence Dating – Potassium Argon Dating – Flourine Dating – Nitrogen Dating – Pollen Analysis – Dendrochronology.

Unit 5

Conservation of Artifacts – Organic and Inorganic Objects – Museum Display – Publication – Excavation report – Stratigraphy – Interpretation – Conclusion – Bibliography.

Text Books:

Barker, P., *Techniques of Archaeological Excavation*, London: Routledge Publisher, 2003.

Chakrabarti K Dilip., *History of Indian Archaeology from the beginning to 1947*, New Delhi: Munshiram Manoharlal Publishers, 2008.

Dowman and Elizabeth., *A Conservation in Field Archaeology*, London: Methuen Publisher, 1970.

Fleming and Stuart, L., *Dating in Archaeology*, London: Saint Martin's Press, 1977.

References:

Chakrabarti, K., *India: An Archaeological History*, New Delhi: Oxford University Press, 2008.

Paul Bahn., *Archaeology – A Very Short Introduction*, New Delhi: Oxford University Press, 2006.

Rajan, K., *Archaeology: Principles and Methods*, Thanjavur: Manoo Pathippakam, 2002.

Raman, K.V., *Principles and Methods of Archaeology*, Madras: University of Madras, 1989.

Venkatraman, R., *Indian Archaeology – A Survey*, Udumalpet: Ennes Publication, 1985.