Save Ancient Studies Alliance

Summer 2024 Teaching Ancient Studies: Continuing Education Reading Group

Decoding the Past: A Guide to Reading Archaeological Maps

Led by Habiba Hussein El-Tayeb

Introduction to Reading Group:

This reading group delves into the fascinating world of archaeological maps, equipping you with the skills to decipher their symbols and unlock the stories hidden beneath the surface. We'll explore the purpose and history of archaeological maps, learning to interpret the symbols that reveal details about past civilizations and their settlements. Through group discussions and interactive exercises, we'll analyze real archaeological maps, drawing conclusions about site layout, features, and potential activities. You'll have the opportunity to practice your map reading skills with online resources and explore the exciting future of digital mapping in archaeological research.

This group welcomes anyone curious about the secrets buried in the past. No prior knowledge of archaeology is required, just a thirst for knowledge and a passion for unraveling the mysteries left behind. Join us on a journey through time, guided by the language of archaeological maps!

Reading Group Objectives:

- Equip participants with the skills to decode archaeological maps. This includes understanding the purpose of these maps, recognizing common symbols and conventions, and interpreting the data they present.
- Develop critical thinking and analysis skills by applying map reading skills to real-world archaeological examples and drawing conclusions about past societies.
- Explore the evolution of archaeological mapping techniques from traditional methods to cutting-edge digital technologies like 3D laser scanning and drone photography.
- Spark an appreciation for the role of maps in archaeological research and their contribution to unlocking the mysteries of the past.

Your SASA Educational Ambassador:
Habiba Hussein El-Tayeb
Studying Ceramology, Egyptology at Cairo University

Google Classroom:

During our weekly Zoom meetings, we'll discuss our readings and delve into the topic. We will also use Google Classroom to provide easy access to reading materials, and resources, and facilitate ongoing discussions through open forums. This platform will also be where participants submit their assignments.

Dates:
Thursday @ 10:00 am EDT

- Session 1: June 27
- Session 2: July 4
- Session 3: July 11
- Session 4: July 18
- ~~Session 5: July 25~~ **(Rescheduled- August 1)**

Week 1: Introduction to Archaeological Maps and Symbols
Objectives: Understand the purpose of archaeological maps and become familiar with common symbols and conventions.

Readings:

- Harley J. B., Woodward, D. (1987). The History of Cartography, Volume 1. Chapter One (The Map and the Development of the History of Cartography). P. 1-42.
- Alexander J. Kent, Peter Vujakovic. (2018). The Routledge Handbook of Mapping and Cartography. Introduction.
- Richard J. A. Talbert. (2014). Ancient Perspectives, Maps, and Their Place in Mesopotamia, Egypt, Greece, and Rome. Introduction.
- M. Gillings. (2019). Re-Mapping Archaeology Critical Perspectives, Alternative Mappings. Introduction.
- Campana, Stefano. (2008). Archaeological site detection and mapping.

Week 2: Interpreting Archaeological Maps and Data
Objectives: Learn to analyze data presented on archaeological maps and draw conclusions about the site.

Readings:

- Anthamatten, P. (2020). How to Make Maps: An Introduction to Theory and Practice of Cartography. (The Language of Maps, p.36- 62)
- Burke, H., Morrison, M., Smith, C. (2017). The Archaeologist's Field Handbook: The Essential Guide for Beginners and Professionals in Australia. (Chapter Three: p. 55-84)
- White, G. G., King, T. F. (2016). The Archaeological Survey Manual. (Chapter Five, Chapter Six, and Chapter Seven: p. 29-51)
- Tyner, J. A. (2017). Principles of Map Design. (Introduction, p. 3-16, Chapter 5, p.73-90, Chapter 6, p.91-130)

Activities:

- Case study: Analyze a provided archaeological map (with varying complexity depending on the group's progress) and discuss the information it reveals about the site (settlement layout, potential activities, chronological sequence, etc.).
- Group exercise: Comparing and contrasting two different archaeological maps of the same site (e.g., one focusing on topography, another on specific features).

Week 3: Advanced Map Interpretation and Chronological Considerations
Objectives: Develop advanced map interpretation skills and explore how maps help understand chronological sequences of occupation at a site.

Readings:

- Howard, P. (2006). Archaeological Surveying and Mapping: Recording and Depicting the Landscape. United Kingdom: Taylor & Francis. (Chapter 1:3)
- Wheatley, D., Gillings, M. (2013). Spatial Technology and Archaeology: The Archaeological Applications of GIS. United Kingdom: CRC Press.
- Brown, M. R. (2014). Practices of Archaeological Stratigraphy. United Kingdom: Elsevier Science. (Secrion 3 & 4)
- Banning, E. B. (2020). The Archaeologist's Laboratory: The Analysis of Archaeological Evidence. Germany: Springer International Publishing. (pp. 1-33)
- Mehrer, M. W., Wescott, K. L. (2005). GIS and Archaeological Site Location Modeling. United Kingdom: Taylor & Francis. (Sections 1 & 2)
- White, G. G., King, T. F. (2016). The Archaeological Survey Manual. United Kingdom: Taylor & Francis. (pp. 15-119).

Activities:

- Group discussion analyzing the case study and the role of maps in understanding the chronological development of an archaeological site.
- Interactive activity: Using an online resource showcasing a multi-period archaeological site, participants explore maps from different excavation phases and discuss the changes evident over time.

Week 4: Beyond Paper: Digital Mapping in Archaeology
Objectives: Explore the potential of digital mapping technologies like 3D laser scanning and drone photography in archaeological research.

Readings:

- Scianna, A., & Villa, B., (2011), GIS Application in Archaeology, Archeologia e Calcolatori.
- Handbook on geographic information systems and digital mapping. (2000). Department Of Economic and Social Affairs, Statistics Division.
    - "Digital Map Database Development" *(pp. 46-71)* delves into the intricacies of constructing a database specifically tailored for digital maps.
    - While the core concepts of GIS and digital map development are presented in the main section, consulting the *Annex (pp. 121-181)* can provide a deeper understanding by offering in-depth explanations, supplementary examples, and valuable references.
- Boardman, C., & Bryan, P. (2018). 3D Laser Scanning for Heritage, Advice and Guidance on the Use of Laser Scanning in Archaeology and Architecture (3rd ed.). Swindon: Historic England.
    - "For a comprehensive understanding, it's recommended to read *pp 1-40* to grasp the foundational concepts. Additionally, on page 28, you'll find the intriguing output of 3D laser scanning of the archaeological sites, which could be a valuable visual aid."
- Matthews, N. A. (2008). Aerial and Close-Range Photogrammetric Technology: Providing Resource Documentation, Interpretation, and Preservation. Denver, Colorado 80225: U.S: Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, National Operations Center.

Multimedia Resources:

- Short video showcasing the use of 3D laser scanning or drone photography in archaeological fieldwork.

Activities:

- Group discussion on the advantages and limitations of digital mapping technologies in archaeology compared to traditional methods.
- Online exploration: Participants visit online resources showcasing archaeological sites mapped using 3D laser scanning or drone photography, allowing them to interact with the data in a virtual environment.

Week 5: The Future of Archaeological Maps: Putting Skills to Use
Objectives: Review the knowledge gained throughout the program, discuss the future of archaeological mapping, and consider applying learned skills.

Readings:

- Provided materials will introduce citizen science opportunities in archaeological mapping.

Activities:

- Group discussion on the future of archaeological mapping and the potential role of citizen science initiatives.
- Brainstorming session: Participants discuss how they can apply their newly acquired map reading skills to their own interests or potential future projects.

Culminating Assignment:
Instructions for this assignment can be found in your Google Classroom under Coursework.

Certificates of Completion:
The following criteria must be met by participants in order to receive a certificate of completion:

- Complete culminating assignment
- Attended all 5 live class discussions

* If you are seeking continuing education/professional development credits SASA recommends that you check with your school district, continuing education committee, or other relevant authority in advance to ensure you receive the proper credit and advancement for your coursework. Save Ancient Studies Alliance does not guarantee acceptance by your school, district, or licensing authority.