# Survey of monuments

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***COURSE AIMS AND INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES***

The topographical survey of archaeological stratigraphy is an essential learning and study tool for scientific investigation in ancient artefacts. Due to the high levels of communicability and immediacy characterising drawings, this discipline is crucial for the training of archaeologists, who must rigorously document their field research.

The workshop aims to provide the theoretical and technical tools which are needed in order to correctly carry out basic graphic documentation, regarding both investigation on the entire archeological deposit and the graphic description of single stratigraphic units: planimetric survey; vertical survey; axonometric projection. Furthermore, there will be an in-depth focus on the systematic use of freehand drawing in the context of archaeological advice on building sites: design sketch; examples of application of the method; practical exercises.

The course will focus on practical direct and indirect surveying exercises, carried out on physical models, also with the aid of topography tools (optical level and distance meter), which students will tackle in order to test their acquired knowledge.

The last topics which will be briefly covered during the course will be the stratigraphic diagram/Harris matrix and the adoption of relevant graphic symbology.

INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES

At the end of the course, students will be able to:

Design a sketch based on the archaeological investigation that they wish to conduct and exploit its full potential.

Prepare the orthogonal topographic grid references for the Direct Survey Method and know the suitable theoretical procedure for carrying out the same task using the indirect method.

Use the Direct Survey Method for trilateration and the abscissa and ordinate measurement, both for planimetric surveys and for vertical surveys.

Carry out elevation measurements with the Direct Survey Method (using the clinometer with bubble level) and the Indirect Survey Method (using the optical level).

Make an axonometric projection of a detail of an excavation or the theoretical reconstruction of archaeological evidence (bulk of geometric volumes of stratigraphic units).

Know the basic theory on Total Station survey measurement techniques in the context of archeological investigation.

Know the basic theory on the vectorisation of excavation surveys using CAD software.

Construct and draw the stratigraphic diagram/Harris matrix using the required symbology.

***READING LIST***

PPT presentation supplied in PDF format.

For reference and in-depth study:

M. Medri, Manuale di rilievo archeologico, Rome Bari, La terza, 2003.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

The exam will consist of two parts, which are both compulsory:

1. Written paper to be submitted in PDF format 20 days before the exam session in which the student intends to take the oral exam. The paper consists in a technical report of an archaeological stratigraphic sequence, hypothesised and illustrated by the student with freehand drawings. In order to write the paper, the students will be provided with a two-dimensional model of the stratigraphic units in PDF format, complete with detailed instructions useful for carrying out the task. The marks which will be awarded will range from 0 to 4 points. In order to be able to take the oral exam, students must have achieved a mark higher than 0.
2. The oral exam will consist of open questions based on the written paper.

In the written paper, students will be assessed on the basis of their knowledge of the logic underlying the phenomena regarding the stratification of the archeological deposit and on their ability to apply the appropriate drawing and survey techniques required to provide a graphical documentation of the shape of the stratigraphic units, and, by means of the relevant symbology, also the respective stratigraphic relationships. In the oral exam, students will have to reply to questions on topics explained during lectures: Direct and Indirect Survey Methods; graphical representation techniques adopted during exercises; understanding and construction of the stratigraphic diagram/Harris matrix through hypothetical examples.

The final assessment will also be based on the relevance of students’ replies, the appropriate use of the lexicon of the discipline and their knowledge of the various survey methods and their consequent ability to define the best graphical representations for different excavation situations.

The maximum mark which students may achieve in the oral exam is 26/30, to be integrated with the points awarded for the written paper.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

Being introductory, there are no prerequisites on knowledge of content in order for students to attend the course; However, it is assumed that students have acquired knowledge of the stratigraphic method used in archeological surveying.

*Further information can be found on the lecturer’s webpage at http://docenti.unicatt.it/web/searchByName.do?language=ENGor on the Faculty notice board.*