

Semester II

Course code	:	ARCH 22414
Course title	:	Paleography and Epigraphy
Type	:	Core
Pre requisites	:	None

Learning Outcome:

Paleography and epigraphy course has been aimed at being familiar with reading and interpreting ancient inscriptions in Sri Lanka and India. It is expected to give a comprehensive knowledge on writing systems and their development in global and local perspectives.

Content:

Importance of the epigraphical studies in archaeology. Various types of writing systems in the world. Origin and development of writing systems. Spread of writing systems in the world. The origin of the alphabet. The origin of the brahmi script. Beginning of writing in Sri Lanka. The early Brahmi Script of Sri Lanka and its development in to the Sinhala script. The content, grammer and phonetic of the Brahmi inscriptions of Sri Lanka. A detailed study in to the selected later Brahmi inscriptions, Sigiri graffiti, inscriptions of the Polonnaruwa and post Polonnaruwa periods. Tamil inscriptions of Sri Lanka. A detailed study into the selected later brahimi inscriptions and post Polonnaruwa periods. Tamil inscriptions of Sri Lanka Colonial inscriptions of Sri Lanka. An introduction to palm leaf manuscripts Studies on the Asoka edicts and some selected epigraphs of the Indian subcontinent.

Teaching and Learning Methods: Lectures, discussions, seminars and project work.

Scheme of Evaluation: 80% of written examination 20% for assignment

Recommended Readings:

01. අමරවංශ හිමි, කොත්මලේ (1969) *ලක්දිව සෙල්ලිපි*, ඇම්.බී. ගුණසේන සහ සමාගම, කොළඹ.
02. බණ්ඩාර, නිලන්ති (2008) *පුරාණ ශ්‍රී ලංකාවේ සමාජය (බ්‍රාහ්මී ශිලා ලේඛන ඇසුරින්)*, කඩුල්ල ප්‍රකාශකයෝ , කඩවත.
03. රණවැල්ල, සිරිමල් (2004) *සිංහල සෙල්ලිපි අකාරාදිය*, පුරාවිද්‍යා දෙපාර්තමේන්තුව, කොළඹ.
04. විජේසේකර, නන්දදේව (සංස්.) (1990) *අනිලේඛන*, පුරාවිද්‍යා දෙපාර්තමේන්තුව, කොළඹ.
05. Buhlar, Georg (2004) *Indian Paleography*, Munshiram.
06. Dias, Malini (ed.) (1991) *Epigraphical Notes*, Department of Archaeology, Colombo.
07. Paranavitana, S. (1970) *Inscriptions of Ceylon vol.I*, Archaeological survey department, Colombo.

08. Perera, Lakhman. S. (2001) *The Institutions of Ancient Ceylon from Inscriptions vol. I*, International Center for Ethnic studies, Kandy.
09. Perera, Lakshman S. (2003) *The Institutions of Ancient Ceylon from Inscriptions vol. II*, International Center for Ethnic studies, Kandy.
10. Wickremasinghe, D.M.D.Z (1912) *Epigraphia Zeylanica vol. I*, Oxford University press, London.