

ANTH 454 & 455 (6 credit hours)
Field School in Archaeology
&
Laboratory Methods in Archaeology
Syllabus

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Teaching Assistants: TBA

Course Description:

Field School in Archaeology will teach students the field techniques of archaeological excavation and documentation. The accompanying course, Laboratory Methods in Archaeology, covers basic laboratory techniques such as identification of artifacts, digital recordation, and curation preparation.

This course is a hands-on learning experience in archaeology. The class introduces archaeological field techniques and outlines a critical understanding of the methods and approaches by which the archaeological record and cultural heritage are understood and interpreted. Through exercises and participation in an archaeological research project, students will be introduced to the methods of archaeological survey, excavation, data and materials recovery, recording, and processing. Students will be involved in all phases of field excavation, will be trained in basic laboratory processing, and will assist with public interpretation when possible.

Throughout, students will be encouraged to critically examine how archaeological knowledge is constructed and expressed. Because the class is held in a remote location, students are also required to learn to live and work together as a group while they contribute to the success of a long-term archaeological research project.

Course Learning Objectives:

The objective of this course is to obtain the following skills:

- **Archaeological Field Methods**
 - Use of survey instruments
 - Layout and use of horizontal and vertical grids
 - Excavation of test units and shovel tests
 - Preparation of documentation (photographs and drawings)
 - Making scale drawings
 - Documentation procedures
 - Site mapping and Geophysics survey methods
- **Archaeological Lab Methods**
 - Artifact processing
 - Artifact identification
 - Archaeological Database Management
- **Equipment Care and Maintenance**
 - Cleaning and repair of excavation equipment
 - Inventorying equipment

University Academic Integrity Policy:

As a University of Illinois student, you have agreed to abide by the University's academic integrity policy. All academic work must meet the standards found at: <http://studentcode.illinois.edu/article1/part4/1-401/>.

You will conduct yourselves as representatives of the University of Illinois. You will respect your peers, the instructor and TAs, and all people that we encounter during our work this summer. You will be respectful of UI and GADNR property (equipment, land, facilities) and the property of others. The research project(s) you are participating in are significant, not just in the context of this field school, but in the lives and livelihoods of others. Failure to conduct yourself appropriately, or deliberately inaccurate work habits will have a negative impact on these projects. In order to better understand the importance and impact of our archaeological work, you will be required to attend a pre-departure meeting and discussion with representatives of the Muscogee Nation.

To obtain disability-related academic adjustments and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact the course instructor and the Disability Resources and Educational Services (DRES) as soon as possible. To contact DRES, you may visit 1207 S. Oak St., Champaign, call 333-4603, e-mail disability@illinois.edu or go to the DRES website.

Required Personal Materials:

Much of the equipment that we will be using on a daily basis will be provided, such as trowels, shovels, screens, bags, writing instruments, and forms. However, as a budding archaeologist, you will need to supply your own field pack. Basic inclusions are listed below. **Items that are absolutely needed are underlined.** If you have questions about equipment purchases, feel free to contact me.

- Backpack
- Water bottles
 - It will be very hot, and you must constantly drink water. One bottle will not be enough. Be sure and bring several water bottles or a big one. We will have a water cooler but this is for BACKUP water only.
- Hiking Boots
 - Waterproof them and break them in before field school begins!
- Hat
 - Wide-brimmed is best
- Sunscreen
- Insect repellent
- Rain poncho
- A covered clipboard
- 1 or more pairs of yard/garden gloves
 - Make sure that they fit and are comfortable
- 1 metal Bastard file
- 1 metric tape (3 meters long is fine)
- A plastic or metal line level
- A pair of small pruning clippers
- Pocket knife
- Cheap calculator
- A small First Aid kit
 - We will have a large communal first aid kit but it is a good idea to have a small one in your backpack filled with bandaids, Neosporin, ChiggerX, hydrocortisone, Tylenol, etc.

Readings:

You should print out or put on a reader the PDFs that I will provide prior to our departure. We are unlikely to have reliable internet access in the field. These readings will be the subject of evening discussions and will serve to situate the work we will be doing this summer within its regional context.

Before our initial meeting please read:

- Clancy et al. (2014), “Survey of Academic Field Experiences (SAFE)”
- Meyers et al. (2018), “The Context and Consequences of Sexual Harassment”
- Voss (2021), “Documenting Cultures of Harassment in Archaeology: A Review and Analysis of Quantitative and Qualitative Research Studies”

Before our departure please read:

- Thompson and Worth (2011), “Dwellers by the Sea”
- Ritchison (2018), “Investigating 14th Century Immigration and Settlement Response on the Georgia Coast, USA”
- Ritchison and Cochran, eds. (2023), “The Sapelo Papers: Revisited”
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Before the end of the course you may want to read:

- Thompson and Thomas, eds. (2013), “Life Among the Tides: Recent Research on the Georgia Bight”
- Sanger (2017), “Coils, Slabs, and Molds: Examining Community Affiliation between Late Archaic Shell Ring Communities using Radiographic Imagery of Pottery”
- Thompson (2018), “Collective Action and Village Life during the Late Archaic on the Georgia Coast”
- Thompson et al. (2020), “Ecosystem stability and Native American oyster harvesting along the Atlantic Coast of the United States”
- Ritchison et al. (2021), “Climate Change, Resilience, and the Native American Fisher-Hunter-Gatherers of the Late Holocene on the Georgia Coast.”

Note: you do not have to print out the entire Thompson and Thomas 2013 book. I included this as a supplemental resource.

Participation and Attendance Policy:

You are expected to participate in daily field work and/or laboratory analysis. The routine will be to spend Monday through Thursday 7:30 am to 2pm in active field work with a short break for lunch. Everyone needs to be ready to work and get in field vehicles with equipment, lunch and water coolers by 6:30am. We will be processing the finds as we go and have lab and/or lecture following the field most days.

Unexcused absences are unacceptable and will adversely affect your participation grade. An archaeological Field school is all about hands-on, experiential learning. Being actively engaged on site, or in the lab, is absolutely necessary. Adverse health conditions, or other unalterable circumstances that would affect participation will be evaluated on a case by case basis.

Grading:

Your grade will be comprised of Attendance/Class Participation, and completing assigned Exercises and Field Paperwork:

- Attendance/Class Participation (40%): As a course in field methods, the most important component of this class is attendance and engaged participation. To excel in this class, students must actively participate as responsible, self-starting members of a research team. This means being on the site or in class or lab every day, following appropriate archaeological methods and ethics, going on field trips, attending lectures, taking part in discussions, doing some independent reading, and completing chores. Students should come prepared for field work, with appropriate attire, water, food, and other necessities (as will be discussed in more detail in class).

Attendance and participation will be noted at every class and field session. Students must follow common courtesy during all class meetings at all times. This is particularly true in the field, where we may be interacting with state or local officials and the general public. The participation grade for this course demands that students respect their peers, instructors, officials, and interested (or even uninterested) observers.

- Notebooks and Field Paperwork (60%): Archaeology is often a destructive science. Because of this, ethical archaeological fieldwork requires extensive documentation. Thus, another component of the grade for this class will consist of the paperwork that is completed in the course of classroom exercises and fieldwork. The maps, forms, notes, and other paperwork that are turned in for exercises and as a record of field work must be accurate, legible, and complete. All forms will receive comment and oversight by the instructional staff. In addition, you will be required to keep up with a field notebook. This notebook should serve as a daily record of your archaeological activities in the field and lab. This notebook is an important element of archaeological record keeping.

In this course, both **subjective** and **objective** factors will determine the student's grade.

The **objective** factors are:

- Acquisition of field skills
- Accuracy, completeness and relevance of field notes
- Accuracy, completeness of field forms and drawings
- Attendance (attendance is required, and tardiness will count against you!)

The **subjective** factors are:

- Cooperation with your team leadership
- Reliability/responsibility
- Improvement of skills/initiative
- Language
- Acting in a professional way on a public site
- Interaction with the public

Code of Conduct:

Everyone will be divided into groups that will rotate weekly so that everyone does equal work (equipment maintenance, cleaning, cooking). Each group will also be responsible for a weekend grocery trip.

- You are representing UIUC - Be appropriate in attire and attitude
- Teamwork is a must
- ZERO tolerance for drugs
- Alcohol- 21 and older are only allowed to drink (wine and beer) after all of your work is finished. You *will* be required to work, even if you have a hangover. There will be no special treatment.
- No alcohol in university vehicles
- Keep your living and sleeping areas clean, be considerate.
- Take care of yourself- health and hygiene. This includes eating and drinking enough water.
- Be considerate of laundry facilities
- Be considerate of shower time and hot water
- DO NOT eat each other's personal food without permission
- DO NOT use each other's personal items without permission
- BE ON TIME!
- NO complaining
- NO obscene jokes or profanity
- NO abuse to people or equipment
- Public interaction- be respectful
- Field school is not easy- please practice endurance and patience
- BE FLEXIBLE – Plans will inevitably change due to weather, logistical concerns, scheduling, and ongoing discoveries and related interpretations. Do not get attached to a single course of action!

Remember, your conduct counts towards your grade and your ability to remain a part of the field school. Act appropriately!

Statement on Sexual Harassment:

The field school has zero tolerance for sexual harassment. We abide by Section 703 of Title VII of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, which states:

Unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal and physical conduct of a sexual nature constitute sexual harassment when, 1) submission to such conduct is made either explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of an individual's employment, 2) submission to or rejection of such conduct by an individual is used as the basis for employment decisions affecting such individual, or 3) such conduct has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual's work performance or creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working environment.

In addition, you will be required to attend pre-departure presentations by our Title IX office and the Women's Resources Center.

Statement on the Syllabus:

This syllabus represents an agreement between you and us, your instructional team, to participate in the best practices outlined above. It is a contract for the project. Consequently, you are required to fill out the following form. This will serve as both an acknowledgment of the risks inherent in a field program as well as your understanding of the field school's rules and policies as outlined in this document.