

ARCHAEOLOGY 503

Archaeological Field Methods: Survey and Excavation

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COURSE DESCRIPTION:

An interdisciplinary course dealing with field and laboratory techniques; research methods, concepts, and problems in archaeological theory; and formulation of research designs.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Your final grade in this course will be based on your attendance at and attention to detail during lab activities (25%), field notebook records (50%), and proficiency in basic field methods (25%). The field notebooks will be collected and graded each week for a total of 10 weeks, for a maximum of 5 points each week. The weekly allotment of points will be based on accuracy of record, illustrations, location details, interpretation, and legibility.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

There is one textbook required for this course. In addition, articles pertaining to a variety of artifacts and procedures related to San Bartolo will be distributed via email. Assigned readings should be completed each week to reinforce your understanding and proper application of lab methods.

(FM) *Field Methods in Archaeology Seventh Edition*, Hester et al., 2009.

TOPICS AND READING ASSIGNMENTS:

Week 1 **Introduction to Antigua and Archaeological Thinking**
Mon. Orientation
Tue. Tour of Antigua
Wed. Introduction to Prof. Saturno
Thur. Introduction to San Bartolo and Xultun

Fri. Review of this Season's Excavations

Students often organize their own trip to a coffee or chocolate farm or they hike one of the local volcanoes, Pacaya being the most popular.

Week 2

Mapping and Profiles

Mon. Mapping Techniques pp. 177-234

Tue. Drawing and Pacing: Mapping Techniques in Application

Wed. Profiles and Stratigraphy pp. 235-252

Thur. Drawing a Colonial Cathedral: Architectural Stratigraphy in Practice

Students Travel to Lake Atitlan, visit the shrine to Moximom, and stop at the Highland markets along the lake.

Week 3

Documenting Finds: Archaeological Photography and Illustration

Mon. Photographing Objects pp. 159-176

Tue. Drawing Ornamentation: Tracing Assignment

Wed. Drawing Objects: Communicating Shape in 2D

Thur. Ceramics: How to Document and Use this Data, Sharer pp.161, 181, 244, 288, 378, 501, 590.

Students travel to the Pacific Coast of Guatemala to the Black Sand beach, Monterrico. Here we visit wild life sanctuaries, sponsor baby turtles, and relax in the sun!

Week 4

The 'Artifacts' of Life: Documentation and Analysis of Faunal and Human Remains

Mon. Faunal and Human Remains

Tues. Documenting Remains *in situ*

Wed. Inferring Intent: Differences between Garbage and Ritual Deposits

Thur. Lithics: What Can They Tell Us About their Creators and Users?

Fri. P-XRF: Looking into the Source of it All

Free weekend in Antigua with the option of going to a local museum or craft market.

Week 5

Digital Archaeology: Remote Sensing and Other Applications

Mon. GIS and Remote Sensing, pp. 69-112

Tue. Total Station pp. 215-223, Saturno et al. 2006, *Putting Us on the Map: Remote Sensing Investigation of the Ancient Maya Landscape*.

Wed. Photogrammetry: Rendering Objects in 3D

Thur. Building a Virtual Maya World: Sketch-Up, Blender, and Unity

Fri. Methods Discussion and Review

Students will begin to repack for the field and buy the various snacks and materials still needed for their months camping.

Week 6

Research Assignments and Project-Specific Logistics

Mon. Individual Meetings with the Professor and TF's to discuss Research plans

Tue. Review Journals and Lot Forms, pp. 113-142

Wed. Receive Research Assignments and meet with Principal Researchers to go over past research, new questions, and this season's aims.

Students will travel to the Ancient Maya sites of Copan, Quirigua, and Tikal as well as see the famous Lago Peten in the Guatemala Lowlands. Prior to heading in to the Jungle we will stay on the island of Flores.