

COURSE SYLLABUS
ANTIGUA ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD SCHOOL, SUMMER 2017
ANTH 380 or 480/Field Archaeology (4 units of credit)

STAFF AND FACULTY

Principle Investigator: Dr. Reginald Murphy, Host and Antigua Archaeologist, UNESCO Representative
Field School Director: Dr. Georgia L. Fox, Department of Anthropology, California State University, Chico
Dr. Matthew Brown: State University of New York, Farmingdale
Dr. Cory Look: Brooklyn College
Christopher Waters: Syracuse University. Ph.D. Candidate

DESCRIPTION OF THE COURSE

This summer, our 11th year, our research and field work will concentrate on Indian Creek (PA-04), one of the most important pre-Contact sites in the Caribbean. Radiocarbon dates show that it was continuously occupied for about 2,000 years, spanning the entire Ceramic Age of the Eastern Caribbean. Archaeological research at Indian Creek by Dr. Irving Rouse of Yale University in the 1960s, established the ceramic-based cultural chronology of Antigua and the Eastern Caribbean. This chronology stood as the benchmark for the pre-Contact settlement and migration of Arawak-speaking peoples into the Eastern Caribbean. In the 1990s, subsequent research on Puerto Rico and the northern Lesser Antilles began to question the validity of Rouse's chronological sequence from Indian Creek. Answers to these questions can only be gained by a re-investigation of the site. Today Indian Creek is privately owned and threatened by development. It will likely be destroyed within the next five years. It is therefore essential that archaeological research be carried out prior to development. During the field season, students will be expected to participate in all aspects of the field school, including mapping and surveying, learning field excavation methodology, recording field notes and processing artifacts. We will also be offering the opportunity for students to learn field conservation of archaeological artifacts. The field school will include evening lectures on current research objectives as well as various aspects of Antigua's prehistory and history, with guest lectures by visiting scholars. Students will also be trained in the ethics and professionalism of the current standards and practices of archaeology as advanced by the Register of Professional Archaeologists (RPA); the field school is RPA certified and was awarded Best Field School by the RPA and American Anthropological Association in 2013. There will also be weekend field trips to investigate Antigua's archaeological sites, as well as excursions to the island's points of interest and some of its lovely sun-dappled beaches.

COURSE OBJECTIVES AND INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES

- ❖ Appreciate the richness and diversity of past and present Caribbean culture through an anthropological perspective.
- ❖ To learn contemporary field archaeology methodology, ethics, and professionalism through hands-on training.
- ❖ To learn about the ethics and field methodologies, and professionalism in bioarchaeology and osteology in working with human skeletal remains.
- ❖ To study and learn about scientific archaeology and reasoning, and how archaeology contributes to our understanding of both the past as well as the present.
- ❖ Appreciate and be able to argue for the relevance of archaeological research as it applies to issues that concern human welfare world-wide.

REQUIRED MATERIALS

A *Course Reader* and *Field Notes Recordation Forms* will be provided by the field project.

EVALUATION CRITERIA

First, your participation is essential and integral in this project, so all that you do will not only reflect your work ethic, but the ultimate success of the project. In this respect, your participation will be evaluated on three criteria: 1) your overall professional conduct in and out of the field; 2) your field notes, which will be examined on a regular basis; and 3) a few short quizzes based on the readings from your course Reader. For the field school, you are expected to be responsible for your assigned daily duties, as well as your conduct in the field and on the island, which is to be respectful toward your fellow students and local islanders, and to be able to work with others in a congenial, helpful, and professional manner.

1. THE FIELD NOTES

Your field notes, which are recorded in Field Sheets, will be evaluated on the following criteria:

- Accuracy and Completeness
- Consistency and Neatness
- Descriptions and Sketches
- Thoroughness and Professionalism

Field notes are only as good as you make them: **Remember, the greater the detail, the better!**

Remember, your field notes are the backbone of the excavation! What you are doing is very central to the project in terms of recording what you observe on a daily basis. This helps us reconstruct the site, which ultimately affects our interpretation of what happened in the past. Some of the common problems, errors, and omissions when writing field notes are:

Spelling errors
Inconsistent precision of measurements
Confusing dimensions
Inconsistent format
Not using a straightedge
No reference to a datum
No sketches or incorrect sketches
Lack of pride indicated by messy and/or illegible notes

2. THE ARTIFACT CATALOG

The Artifact Catalog comprises each and every relevant artifact and ecofact that is recovered from a scientifically controlled and provenienced location from the site including: 1) human made or modified artifacts; and 2) animal bone, charcoal, shell, seeds, or other diagnostic ecofacts. The Artifact Catalog is highly dependent on the accuracy of the person(s) doing the data entry. In other words, using the guidelines of the terminology glossary, Ceramics Catalog, and other informational sources provided by the field school, and with assistance from the field school staff and director, it is your responsibility to accurately record what you have found in your excavation units, including accurate measurements, northings and eastings or quadrants, and all helpful categorical descriptive data. Omitting information from the catalog or entering data as “indeterminate” when there is clearly available information about the function or material of an artifact is unacceptable. The project relies on your careful attention to detail, conscientious approach, and thoughtful and careful entering of this important data; otherwise, the archaeological excavation is merely an exercise in “digging,” without any clear research objectives and

goals. If you do not know what the object is, or the material it is made from, as well as other information, please do not hesitate to ask any of the staff or Dr. Fox; that is what we are here for, as you gain knowledge and familiarity with the material culture of British colonization.

3. POTENTIAL SKELETAL ANALYSIS

Should any human skeletal remains be recovered, analysis will be directed by Dr. Brown. This work is painstaking, and attention to detail and great care is emphasized. We will provide you with information on identifying the human skeleton and basic principles of contemporary bioarchaeology. If you wish to bring a text with you, we encourage it. The analysis of human skeletal remains is serious and requires respect and careful handling.

4. FIELD COMPORIMENT

For the field school, you are expected to be responsible for your assigned daily duties, as well as your conduct in the field and on the island, which is to be respectful toward your fellow students and local islanders, and to be able to work with others in a congenial, helpful, and professional manner. You are to work both independently, as well as cooperatively with others, and to be respectful toward tourists and visitors to the site who are interested in what we are doing. Setting up and putting away tools and supplies at the beginning and ending of each day, being respectful of the project's supplies and equipment, and cooperatively sharing tools are all important aspects of field etiquette. Helping out staff and fellow field participants when asked, having a positive attitude, and getting along with folks is also essential to a positive working environment in the hot sun in a foreign country and to your overall conduct on the project, and contribution to the project.

OTHER SMALL, BUT IMPORTANT ESSENTIALS

Because this is a professional archaeological excavation, no headphones, iPads, or cell phones are to be used while working in the field. Please follow the project's requirements to dress comfortably, but to wear protective clothing such as long pants and shirts, boots, hat, and sunscreen to protect you against the effects of the sun and elements. There is nothing poisonous or dangerous at the sites, but please exercise caution when encountering unfamiliar critters or plants that can bite and/or sting. Most importantly, please hydrate by drinking water throughout the day to avoid dehydration. Inappropriate clothing or behavior will be dealt with by staff and the director; our goal for you is to be safe, healthy, and productive during your time in Antigua, and to enjoy the beautiful island scenery, wonderful people, and delicious food. Appreciate the opportunity and privilege to participate in the archaeological excavation of an important island heritage site, and to learn more about contemporary Caribbean culture. We hope you enjoy meeting new people and the fun and exciting challenges of field archaeology and study abroad experience as it contributes to your personal and professional growth.

COURSE SCHEDULE

WEEK 1: INTRODUCTION TO FIELD ARCHAEOLOGY TECHNIQUES

Field Exercises: Compass headings/ bearings and pacing/using a stadia and level/Total Station; recording field notes; laying out excavation units and grids; using the Munsell Color Chart; recognizing stratigraphy; artifact processing, and principles of bioarchaeology.

Fieldtrip: Day 1: Led by Dr. Reginald Murphy; Tour of Nelson's Dockyard, Shirley Heights

Day 2: In-field exercises on mapping, surveying, laying out excavation units; preparing the sites for excavation.

Evening Lecture: Lecture: Antiguan Prehistory and History by Dr. Reginald Murphy

Quiz 1: Readings from Course Reader

WEEKS 1 & 2: FIELDWORK

Begin Field work; learn basic field techniques; clear and prepare the site for excavation; begin excavation; measuring; recording field data; cataloguing artifacts, surveying and mapping.

Evening Lectures on Physical Anthropology and the Recovery of Skeletal Remains
Quizzes from Course Reader
Weekend Fieldtrip: Fort James, Fort Barrington, picnic at the beach, Rain Forest

WEEK 3: FIELDWORK

Continue excavation, cataloguing artifacts
Evening Lectures, Weekend Fieldtrip: Museum of Antigua and Barbuda, Indian Creek Site; tba.

WEEK 4: FIELDWORK: Finalize excavation, drawings, site preparation for final photographs, and cataloguing artifacts and finishing analyses.