

ANTHROPOLOGY 4960 COURSE SYLLABUS
SUMMER 2010 SUU ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD SCHOOL
FIRST SUMMER SESSION (May 31st – July 1, 2011)

Course Description: The 2011 SUU Archaeology Field School will introduce you to the key elements of archaeological field work in one of the most beautiful settings in the western United States. This is a 6 credit, five-week class designed to train you in the basics of archeological excavation and survey techniques. You should be prepared for full days (roughly 8 hours) of digging and/or walking, sometimes in fairly remote areas. You will also be instructed in basic laboratory techniques, including how to catalog finds and perform basic artifact analyses. In addition to practical training, there will be a number of fieldtrips to area archaeological sites and lectures on regional prehistory, history, geomorphology, and ecology.

This summer we will spend half of our time excavating an ancestral Pueblo (Virgin Anasazi) site in Kanab. As Kanab is located 85 miles away from Cedar City, we will stay in Kanab while working there. Food and lodging will be provided for students while in Kanab. The rest of our time will be spent conducting archaeological surveys on local federal lands, primarily in the nearby Dixie National Forest. There is also a possibility that we will also spend a few days helping excavate a pioneer fort down in New Harmony. During the time we are surveying, we will be based in Cedar City. In Cedar City, you are responsible for your own food and lodging. We will refund you the appropriate proportion of your student fee for food/lodging for the time we are not in Kanab, and also help you find lodging if this is an issue for you. There are rooms available in student housing and there is also the possibility of renting a furnished condo from one of my colleagues.

Course Objectives: By the end of this course you should be able to:

- read and use topographic maps, compasses, and global positioning systems (GPS)
- identify artifacts, features and sites from the prehistoric through historic eras
- survey for archaeological sites and know how to record and map them on official state site forms
- conduct an excavation (specifically you will learn how to set up the excavation grid, map with a total station, excavate in stratigraphic and arbitrary levels, record finds, screen for artifacts, draw archaeological plans and profiles, take digital photographs, etc.)
- explain -- in general terms -- the prehistory and early history of the American Southwest to your friends, family, and acquaintances.
- work effectively in groups

Course Texts:

- Field Methods In Archaeology by Thomas R. Hester, Harry J. Shafer, Kenneth L. Feder, Left Coast Press, 2008 (1997), Seventh ed., ISBN# 978-1-59874-428-6, paperback (**OPTIONAL**)
- Reading packet with articles on archaeological methods, local prehistory, and archaeology (to be passed out to you by your instructors on the second day of class). (**REQUIRED**)

Course Assessment:

Your command of course skills and concepts will be evaluated via:

- your ability to master and demonstrate the skills mentioned above in the field
- your participation and attitude (your willingness to work hard in the field, to share in camp duties, to deal in a mature manner with your instructors and your peers)
- the quality of your record keeping (the thoroughness and accuracy of your forms and field-notes)

- the quality of your final excavation and laboratory reports (the critical analyses and data based insights you come up).

Specifically, your course grade will be determined by the instructors’ assessment of your:

• Participation and Attitude	30%
• Command of archaeological skills in the field	30%
• Field-Notes, Survey, and Excavation Forms	20%
• Final Excavation Summary & Laboratory Analysis	20%
TOTAL	100%

The field-work we will be doing falls into three basic areas. First, we will conduct some survey in the Dixie National Forest, identifying and recording prehistoric and historic sites. Second, we will carry out test excavations at a prehistoric Pueblo site in Kanab, UT, and possibly a historic pioneer fort in Fort Harmony, UT. Third, we will catalog and conduct basic analyses of the artifacts we recover during survey and excavation.

Course Fee(s): In addition to summer session tuition there is a \$300 course fee, designed to help cover equipment, vehicle, and food costs. Payment is due by the first day of field school. Checks should be made out to “Southern Utah University.” If you are enrolled in the 3 credit option you need only pay \$150.00.

Field School Staff: The class will be co-directed by Barbara Frank, director of the SUU Archaeological repository and local contract archaeologist, and Dr. Emily Dean, Assistant Professor of Anthropology at SUU.

Safety: Field archaeology is hard physical work that often involves sharp and/or heavy tools (shovels, picks, etc.). You will be out in the open in the high desert, where summer temperatures can reach upwards of 100 degrees Fahrenheit, and heat stroke is a real possibility. The fauna of the region includes some dangerous species, such as rattlesnakes and scorpions. We will make every effort to teach you how to conduct yourself safely on an archaeological site, but you are always responsible for exercising caution and attending to the world around you. You must have health insurance in effect for the full term of the field school, and you need to be sure that you know what kind of access you have to the emergency rooms at the local hospital (Iron County Hospital, Cedar City, UT or Kane County Hospital, Kanab, UT). Depending on your coverage, you may be “out of network” there. If you have special medical needs (for example, if you are diabetic and need insulin shots), be sure that the staff knows what you need in case something goes wrong and we need to call for help. Please note that we do not have anyone with formal medical training on our staff. You will need to sign a waiver of liability form to participate in this class; if you are under the age of 18, your parents will need to sign this for you.

Social Issues: This class typically involves 10 to 15 people who are expected to learn, live, and work together as a functioning community for eight hours a day/ five days a week for five weeks. You should recognize that your actions contribute to the success of this community. Please be aware that it is often easier to set unpleasant events in motion than it is to stop them. Treat each other well and respectfully, and things will go smoothly. Beyond this, it is also important to remember that we are guests in small, relatively rural communities. Like it or not, you will serve as ambassadors for Southern Utah University and your actions can substantially affect the way in which the communities we work view SUU and the field school. You are also participating in an ongoing program of archaeological research that is highly dependent on the good will of local communities: you may not ever come back to southwestern Utah, but the field school staff will. Have fun, but use your common sense and treat the local community with

politeness and respect. Remember: if it is illegal in the state of Utah, it is illegal and unacceptable at the field school. Field school students whose activities endanger others, violate the law, or compromise the future of the field school will be asked to leave the camp and will receive an F for the class.

Field Trips: We will take at least several field-trips to local archaeological sites, national parks and monuments during the field season. You may want to visit some of the more distant of these on your days off (for example, Zion Canyon and Bryce Canyon National Parks are within easy driving distance).

Daily Life (food, lodging, chores): While in Cedar City, you will need to provide your own housing and food. If you need help in finding a place to stay, please contact Emily Dean (deane@suu.edu) or Barb Frank (frankb@suu.edu) ASAP and we will see what we can drum up.

In Kanab, we will stay in a rental property. Please treat these properties with respect. You are responsible for ensuring that we leave the houses in the same condition that we found them in. The properties are unfurnished -- you will need to provide your own sleeping bags, mattresses, pillows, etc. It would be helpful to bring a camp chair, camp table, or two with you if you can. There should be sufficient parking for you to drive your own car up if you want to. There will be electricity available, but please be frugal in using it (our budget is limited and we pay for utilities out of field school funds). There won't be a landline while in Kanab, but your cell phones ought to work. While in Kanab we will be shopping, cooking, and cleaning up collectively. This means that we will have to plan ahead for meals and make sure that we have what we need. All of that, including the cleaning up, will be done by all of us, including the teaching staff. We will put together a cooking and KP schedule that you are expected to adhere to. Additional help offered to people whose names are on the schedule is usually welcome. Kitchen activities include setting up breakfast, making sure that lunch supplies are packed to go to the field, helping to prepare dinner, and cleaning up after dinner. Furthermore, everyone involved in the field school is individually responsible for keeping both the camp area and all other facilities that we use clean.

Equipment: SUU supplies all large items of equipment (shovels, buckets, screens, etc.). We will also have one or two seven-passenger vans that we will use to transport ourselves to and from work each day. However, you will need to bring your own personal effects and your personal hand tools. See the packing lists below.

Personal Effects:

- Sleeping bag, pillow, camping mattress (for Kanab)
- Day pack
- Water bottle or canteen (either one large, or 2 med.)
- 5 days worth of comfortable clothes that you don't mind getting dirty and worn out. We will be spending 8-10 hours outside a day, so we suggest packing 2 pairs of trousers/jeans and 2 long-sleeved shirts so that you don't fry to a complete crisp. Goodwill, Salvation Army, and DI are good sources for excavation clothes.
- Broad-rimmed hat (Think Indiana Jones rather than baseball)
- One pair of hiking shoes or boots that you can walk all day in.
- One pair of shoes with non-tread soles (i.e. Keds tennis shoes) that you can excavate in.
- Sweatshirt and/or jacket for evenings.
- Rain gear (even if you think you won't need it – Southern Utah weather can be unpredictable).
- Swim suit.
- Laundry detergent.
- Towel and wash cloth.

- Toiletries (toothpaste, toothbrush, dental floss, nail clippers, hair brush, shampoo, conditioner, soap, deodorant, any medications, razors, tampons, etc.)
- Sunscreen, preferably SPF 30 or higher
- Insect repellent
- Personal first aid kit with antibiotic ointment; anti-itch cream; over the counter medications such as aspirin, Pepto-Bismol, antihistamine, etc.; band-aids; mole-skin for blisters; tweezers; etc.
- Sunglasses
- Extra pair of prescription glasses/contacts (** Note: contact lens wearers may prefer to wear glasses for the duration of the project. Excavations generate lots of dust.*)
- Camera
- Personal entertainment items (books, DVDs/laptops, cards, board games, sketch pads)
- Cell phones and chargers

Personal Dig Kit (all of these can be found locally, although you may have to call around for the meter tape -- try Home Depot and Ace Hardware):

- mason's trowel (with a blade about 5 1/2 inches long – Marshalltown is a good brand).
- small line level
- three or five meter (metric, not inches!) tape with a lock
- dustpan (heavy duty rubber is better than metal)
- clipboard, preferably with a folding cover
- whisk broom
- small (1 inch or so) soft paintbrush
- a couple of dental picks, cane or bamboo clay modeling tools, or orange sticks
- compass (preferably with adjustable declination)
- pocket knife
- rock hammer (not required, but handy)