

ANTH 3350 Archaeology Field School – Summer Session I, 2020

Course: ANTH 3350 (CRN:xxxxx), Summer Session I
Title: Archaeological Field Methods
Class Schedule: 6:30 AM – 3:00 PM, May 15 – June 25
Class Location: Tallahassee, Florida
Credit: 3 or 6 hours
Faculty: Morgan F. Smith, 104 Brock Hall, 423-425-4509
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Course Description:

Theory, method, and techniques of field research in archaeology, training and practice in surveying, photography, field recording, and other basic skills. Every summer. Prerequisites: department head approval.

Archaeological Field Methods:

Students who successfully complete this course will be able to:

1. Lay out a metric grid for survey and testing horizontal control.
2. Set up, level, and operate a total station and prism.
3. Properly lay out and excavate survey pits and correctly record their grid locations on a Trimble GPS unit.
4. Correctly record survey data in a field notebook, including narrative notes and quantification of artifacts.
5. Clean artifacts using nondestructive methods.
6. Sort artifacts by material types, and record frequencies and weights.
7. Construct provenience records and artifact analysis spreadsheets.
8. Correctly label artifact storage bags.
9. Constructively interact with the public and accurately communicate the goals and progress of our projects.

Grading/Assessment:

There will be weekly quizzes based on readings and in-class discussion while we're in the field (20%). You will also be responsible for synthesizing and summarizing one article from the class during the lab section of the course during a brief (5-7 minute) presentation (5%). The remainder of your overall grade is based on timely and correct completion of assigned field and lab tasks (50%) and your field notebook (25%).

Teaching/Learning Strategies:

The 2019 UTC Summer Archaeological Field School will conduct problem-oriented archaeological research on precontact archaeological sites near Tallahassee, Florida. During our time researching in the field together, you will learn the basics of a large sample of archaeological techniques, including pedestrian survey, Phase I survey, and intensive Phase II testing. These research techniques are part of a larger effort to groundtruth geospatial and geophysical anomalies related to two cemeteries and a potential slave cabin. This is a good opportunity to, first off, see if you even like archaeology. Secondly, this will give you a wide set of experiences that may help you to refine your future research interests and potential specialties.

ANTH 3350 Archaeology Field School – Summer Session I, 2020

Your contribution in the 2019 field school will consist of achieving proficiency in the use of the total station and high powered GPS unit (Trimble GeoX7); laying out a grid in jungle-like environments; efficiently excavating numerous survey and shovel tests; recording information derived from the survey units; mapping in units and features; field photography; cleaning, identifying, and rough sorting artifacts; inputting analysis data into spreadsheets to be used with Access, Excel, and GIS; processing, analyzing, and stabilizing metal artifacts; and producing detailed field and lab notes.

Logistics

There will be a short orientation meeting at 10:00 am on May 15 in 104 Brock; see description below. Besides introductions and last-minute instructions, we will determine the car pooling arrangements. The next morning we will meet at 7:00 am and load the UTC truck with equipment, then head *en masse* for Tallahassee. If you carpool with a fellow student, contribute to the driver's gas tank, coming *and* going.

The fieldwork will be conducted five days a week, May 17 through (approximately) June 25. We will create an aggressive field lab that will clean and catalog all artifacts on-island; if necessary, this will be part of a rotating student schedule. Paperwork will be perfected in the field and digitized in lab. Geospatial data will be curated on-island and updated daily. We will rotate responsibilities. Following the fieldwork, additional artifact analysis and GIS work will occur at the UTC Institute of Archaeology laboratory and will conclude on June 25.

To beat the afternoon heat, the fieldwork begins at 6:30 AM and ends at 3:00 PM, with 30 minutes for lunch. Initially, everyone will also be required to participate in after-work total station/GIS data upload practice sessions at least twice a week. These supervised sessions will continue until you demonstrate proficiency in the application of the respective instrument and software. The Memorial Day holiday on May 28 will be a work day and will be made up during the analysis phase at UTC. Our projects will be open to the public, so expect to do some interpretation for visitors. That means it is critically important that you read all the materials on previous research that are posted through Canvas. Lab work at UTC will start at 8:30 AM and conclude at 2:30 PM, 30 minutes for lunch. All students enrolled in this class are required to complete both the field and lab components.

Course Requirements

Your grade is based primarily on field and lab performance, meaning that you should work thoughtfully and diligently for the entire project; this class is one of the few you'll ever enroll in that requires complete integration of body, mind and spirit. Attendance (and punctuality) count, big time, and you are expected to make up any missed field or lab work. Besides your fieldwork tasks, you are required to keep a daily field book documenting your activities (it will be graded weekly), and you will be quizzed on the assigned plantation archaeology readings. A class devoted to just that subject is scheduled weekly. Students will take turns producing a daily blog that discusses and illustrates each day's activities. By the end of the field school, your notes are required to be input into a Word file for permanent and public curation. Finally, we will be immersed in a group living situation. Getting along successfully with your fellow archaeologists is therefore a requirement of this course.

Due to liability concerns as well as state law, ANTH 3350 is a drug-free course--no smoking, and no illegal drugs are allowed inside our housing; use of tobacco is only allowed outside (this includes vaping). Due to a serious fire threat, there is no smoking at any time at the sites. If you

ANTH 3350 Archaeology Field School – Summer Session I, 2020

are under 21, don't even think about consuming alcoholic beverages. Any violation of these policies is grounds for an early trip home with a melancholy grade for the course. Headphones, etc. are prohibited during field and lab work because they distract from the task at hand and you need all senses operational with shovels swinging.

Living Arrangements

It is absolutely essential that you respect the property, personal space, and privacy of your fellow archaeologists at all times. Until you hear different, 10:00 PM is an **absolute** quiet hour because you will need to rise before 6:00 AM the next morning. If you have to talk, please be courteous of your roommates and go outside and speak quietly. Please refrain from wandering in the woods at night, as they can be disorienting in the dark. Exploring during the day and with a buddy is encouraged!

Other Requirements (You must bring the following):

-your brain.

-a Marshalltown trowel, 4", 5" or 6", pointed ([available online](#) or at building supply places like Walter A. Wood on Rossville Blvd, or Lowe's - look on the "Concrete" isle). As you build your kit, you may also want a margin trowel. This is ok if procured in conjunction with the pointed trowel (and is not required to purchase). *Bring your trowel to the May 15th meeting, so you can sharpen it on the lab grinding wheel.*

-a small personal first aid kit, including any medicines you might need (think eyedrops if you get sand in your eye, Benadryl if you get a sting, alleve, Neosporin, bandaids for blisters, etc.)

-a line level and metric measuring tape.

- a cheerful disposition and the ability to get along with others.

- a small plastic baseplate compass that you can wear around your neck or put in your pocket (\$10-\$15; see <http://www.thecompassstore.com/baseplate-compasses.html>; also sold at REI). Cell phone compass apps are notoriously undependable, so a stand-alone compass is necessary.

- the course outline you are now reading, and a field and lab manual (provided at orientation).

- a sturdy notebook, to keep your daily journal entries in.

- several pdf's posted on Canvas that deal with site histories and previous excavations.

Suggested Stuff

- a functional hat; work gloves; clothes that you don't mind getting filthy dirty and very stinky; long pants (I bring a pair of thick canvas pants like Carhart's for days in heavy woods and a pair of thin techie pants when we're in cleared areas); no-nonsense shoes (some form of footwear, like hiking boots or at least running shoes is required in the field); *lots* of bug repellent-whatever works best for you, as the area abound with chiggers, mosquitos, and ticks. Permethrin® (sold online or at REI) is highly recommended for ticks and chiggers; a light-fabric long-sleeve shirt to

ANTH 3350 Archaeology Field School – Summer Session I, 2020

ward off sand gnats; also, light rain gear--we will work through a drizzle, unless there's lightning. Bring a bathing suit and a beach towel if you like the ocean—we'll go as much as possible.

Additional Suggested Stuff

- I highly recommend TecNu® as an anti-poison ivy defense and Bullfrog® as a sunblock. TecNu actually removes poison ivy oil from your skin if used within 5 hours of exposure.
- you'll need something (like a backpack) for daily transport of your lunch, beverage, bug spray, compass, trowel and notebook.
- Water will be provided in the field.

What You're Likely To Get Out of This Course

- familiarity & experience in systematic archaeological research on prehistoric and historic sites.
- an understanding of excavation and analytical methods and techniques.
- the sublime satisfaction of meaningfully contributing to a better understanding of the past.
- blisters, evolving eventually into calluses.
- in the fullness of time, upper body strength, and noticeable weight loss; ideally, a lean and mean physique.

Pre-Project Meeting & Travel Schedule

- The required orientation meeting in 104 Brock Hall will occur on Tuesday morning at 10:00, May 15. At that meeting we will introduce ourselves, arrange carpooling, sharpen trowels, receive the Field School Manual, exchange cell phone numbers, and organize equipment. On Wednesday morning, May 16, Team Island Time will assemble promptly at 7:00 AM at the Archaeology Equipment Room to load up supplies and tools into the field truck. Then everyone will form a convoy and drive to the dorm, arriving around 3:00 to catch the ferry. As a safety measure, we will exchange cell phone numbers prior to our departure.

Class Participation/Attendance Policy: Any missed time must be made up before the course ends. Penalties for unexcused absences from the field or lab is 10%/day.

ADA STATEMENT: Attention: If you are a student with a disability (e.g. physical, learning, psychiatric, vision, hearing, broken hip, concussion, etc.) and think that you might need special assistance or a special accommodation in this class or any other class, call the Disability Resource Center (DRC) at 425-4006 or come by the office, 102 Frist Hall
<http://www.utc.edu/Administration/DisabilityResourceCenter/>.

If you find that personal problems, career indecision, study and time management difficulties, etc. are adversely affecting your successful progress at UTC, please contact the Counseling and Career Planning Center at 425-4438 or
<http://www.utc.edu/Administration/CounselingAndCareerPlanning/>.