

Anthropology 326
Archaeological Field and Laboratory Methods
Summer 2008, Linfield College
Dr. Cameron M. Smith

Course Structure:

This is a course in archaeological field and lab methods, in which students will learn the basics of field archaeology and site documentation as well as laboratory curation of artifacts, quantitative analysis, and basic site report-writing. Much of the instruction will be hands-on, on a number of landscapes, including archaeological sites, on Parrett Mountain Farm, a privately-owned portion of Parrett Mountain, Oregon (just outside Newberg, and about 10 miles out from Linfield College in McMinnville). Linfield College has an agreement with the owners of Parrett Mountain Farm (which is maintained by the Crystal Dawn Smith Rilee Foundation) to do archaeological survey this summer and in the future. Portland State University (where Dr. Smith normally works) is also involved, lending field equipment to this field school project.

In addition to learning in the field, students will be finding archaeological sites, and excavating them, and documenting them professionally. There will be at least two field trips, taking the class to see Portland State University's Laboratory of Archaeology, the Cathlapotle Chinookan Village site on the Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge, and the Fort Vancouver National Historic Park. These experiences will expose students to a variety of archaeological sites and methods of excavation, analysis and curation.

In the field Dr. Smith will occasionally be assisted by Mr. William Cornett, MA. Smith and Cornett (an adjunct professor of anthropology at Portland State University) have worked on archaeological projects in the Pacific Northwest since 1991; Cornett's experience includes many years of supervising prehistoric and historic archaeological projects including the important Cathlapotle village site. Mr. Cornett will supervise excavations as well as give field lectures on a number of topics. The combined experience of Dr. Smith and Mr. Cornett will provide the student with over 40 years of experience finding and excavating sites ranging from early human to Middle Stone Age, Neolithic, Medieval, and historic.

The course is divided into classroom and field days. Each classroom day is broken into AM and PM sessions. AM sessions begin at 9:00am and continue until 12:00am. A break for lunch takes us from noon until 1:00pm, when we begin the PM session, which goes until 5pm. Each field day begins at 8:00am, when we assemble at Linfield to drive to Parrett Mountain, which is about 30 minutes away; once at the site, we spend the entire day in the field; more on what students need to bring below. We drive away from the site at 4pm, getting back to Linfield around 5pm. A calendar of field and lab day activities is provided later in this syllabus.

Course Readings:

There is currently no good, affordable field manual of field archaeology that covers the range of topics of this course. Rather than a text, students will read articles prepared and distributed by Dr. Smith throughout the class. These readings will be on field and lab methods as well as archaeological theory.

Grading:

The course grade will be based on four assessments.

First, an essay on the principles of field and laboratory archaeology will be due on 23 June. This will be 5 pages long (1,500 words) and cover topics of the first two lecture days. This will be worth 20% of the class grade.

Second, an exam will be given in the field on 02 July. This will cover field topics covered in the field sessions and will be worth 20% of the class grade.

Third, each student's excavation notebook and site report will be evaluated at the end of the class (due on 14 July). This will be worth 20% of the class grade.

The final 20% of the class grade will be an evaluation of the student's conduct in the field. Getting along with field partners, and doing work in the field where conditions might not always be entirely pleasant, are important parts of being a good fieldworker, so this will be evaluated on a continual basis.

Supplies:

Students will be supplied with trowels and other tools, but must each be equipped with the following:

- Clipboard & paper
- Notebook
- 5-meter tape measure
- Work gloves
- Protractor / ruler

Schedule:

The following calendar summarizes instruction and activities on the class and field days. Note that the 16 field days have a detailed schedule, but that weather, discoveries in the field, and other contingencies will undoubtedly effect the exact sequence of topics covered. Nevertheless we will cover all topics.

JUNE

M	16	AM	Orientation: Class mechanics
		Lectures:	What is Archaeology? History of Archaeology Archaeology of Modern Humans & Colonization of the Americas
		Break	
		PM	
		Lectures:	Prehistoric Archaeology Historic Archaeology

			History of Parrett Mountain
T	17	AM	
		Lectures:	Archaeological Field Methods
		Break	
		PM	
		Lectures:	Parrett Mountain Fieldwork Orientation
W	18		FIELD DAY: Parrett Mountain
		Topics of the day:	Site Walkthrough Landscape archaeology Site Identification and Delineation Testing Methods: Augers, Shovels, Trowels
Th	19		FIELD DAY: Parrett Mountain
		Topics of the day:	Artifacts, Features and Sites Principles of Excavation and Screening Artifacts and Ecofacts Forms: Unit, Level and Feature
		Activity:	Site Documentation / Excavation
Fr	20		FIELD DAY: Parrett Mountain
		Topics of the day:	Prehistoric Artifacts Historic Artifacts Site Cataloging Stratigraphy: Natural and Cultural Munsell Color Coding
		Activity:	Site Documentation / Excavation
Sa		Break	
Su		Break	
M	23		FIELD DAY: Parrett Mountain
			Note: Archaeological Field and Lab Methods Essay Due Today
		Topics of the day:	Archaeological Field Photography Archaeological Field Drawing
		Activity:	Assessment : Where Are We ? What Have We Found So Far?
T	24		FIELD DAY: Parrett Mountain
		Topics of the day:	Maps, GPS, Coordinates & Map-Making Historic Artifacts Stratigraphy: Natural and Cultural
		Activity:	Site Documentation / Excavation
W	26		FIELD DAY: Parrett Mountain
		Topics of the day:	Feature Mapping Drawing Stratigraphic Profiles Wet Screening
		Activity:	Site Documentation / Excavation
Th	26		FIELD DAY: Parrett Mountain

		Topics of the day:	Bulk Sampling Radiocarbon Specimen Collection Field Bagging, Tagging and Collection of Artifacts
		Activity:	Site Documentation / Excavation
Fr	27	LAB DAY: Linfield College	
		AM	
		Lectures:	Principles of Archaeological Curation The Linfield College Museum of Anthropology
		Break	
		PM	
		Lectures:	Writing Archaeological Reports Quantitative Programs for Archaeological Site Reports Graphics Programs to Illustrate Archaeological Reports
Sa		Break	
Su		Break	
M	30	FIELD DAY (8am-5pm):	Visit to Cathlapotle site on Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge
T	JULY 01	FIELD DAY (8am-5pm):	Visit PSU Laboratory of Archaeology and Fort Vancouver National Historic Park in Vancouver, WA
W	02	FIELD DAY: Parrett Mountain	
		Topics of the day:	Written Examination
		Activity:	Site Documentation / Excavation
Th	03	FIELD DAY: Parrett Mountain	
		Topics of the day:	None
		Activity:	Site Documentation / Excavation
Fr	04	FIELD DAY: Parrett Mountain	
		Topics of the day:	None
		Activity:	Site Documentation / Excavation
Sa		Break	
Su		Break	
M	07	FIELD DAY: Parrett Mountain	
		Topics of the day:	None
		Activity:	Site Documentation / Excavation
T	08	FIELD DAY: Parrett Mountain	
		Topics of the day:	None
		Activity:	Site Documentation / Excavation
W	09	FIELD DAY: Parrett Mountain	
		Topics of the day:	Closing an Archaeological Site
		Activity:	Site Documentation / Excavation
Th	10	CLASS DAY: Linfield College	
		AM	
		Lectures:	Writing Archaeological Reports

The Linfield College Museum of Anthropology

Break

PM

Lectures & Practical Sessions:

Quantitative Programs for Archaeological Site Reports

Graphics Programs to Illustrate Archaeological Reports

Fr 11 FREE DAY: Use to write up reports. Dr. Smith will be on hand to supervise use of computers for graphics, making tables, laying out pages, and importing / manipulating graphics.

Sa Break

Su Break

M 14 **Excavation Reports and Notebooks (individual and group) Due.**

T 15

W 16

Th 17 Grades will be posted today, Thursday, 17 July

Fr 18

What To Bring on Field Days

Field days will be spent outdoors most of the day. You should be prepared to be hot and dry, however the occasional summer shower should also be in your plans. Be sure to bring:

- Some kind of lunch / snack, and water / drink (@ least two liters daily).
- Writing implements (pencils work better in rain than pens).
- Clothes you don't mind getting wet/muddy. You don't necessarily need boots, but flip-flops or other sandals won't work for some of what we're doing.
- Camera, if you have one. We will have a camera on hand for site photography, but you might want to bring your own.
- Umbrella, if you have one (two people can share an umbrella easily enough). A nice way to sit out a sudden shower without having to put on a jacket.
- Common sense: Check the day's weather forecast, and dress / plan appropriately.
- Notebook; I will talk about this on the first day. You should be taking notes on everything, when in the field and in the classroom sessions.

Safety

Dr. Smith's first priority is to ensure safety on the archaeological site. He will have a first-aid kit available, and 911 service is available in the area. On the first day on-site we'll cover procedures to follow in the case of medical emergency.

Transportation & Maps

We'll drive out to the site every AM and back to Linfield every PM. We'll carpool and split gas costs to make it economical for everybody. A map will be provided at the beginning of class. It's easy to drive to the site.