

Field Methods in Archaeology (Anthropology 5681/5981)
2010 Summer Session Fort Burgwin
Course Dates June 3 to July 15, 2010

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Community-based research and education has become a national and international movement that acknowledges the role of indigenous or local input in the creation of projects and research design. With this in mind, SMU-in-Taos and the SMU Anthropology department have initiated the first community based archaeology field school in the American Southwest. This field school focuses on the Ranchos de Taos Plaza and surrounding Hispano villages of the Taos region. Taos is home to a vibrant multicultural community with strong connections to a Spanish Colonial past, including colorful religious, culinary, and artistic traditions. The SMU field school is unique among field schools for this reason. Students not only learn about archaeology but also experience, first hand, the larger social context in which we do our work.

More and more, local communities are setting the agenda for archeological research in ways that resonate with cutting-edge theoretical and methodological initiatives. Our research, which was developed with significant community input, focuses on the multi-ethnic history of Hispano society including the spiritual ecology of penitence and the material and social expressions of women's work. Other projects include the archaeology of childhood on the plaza and Apache and Hispanic rock art recording. The Taos community will use this research to promote traditional values and highlight the heritage and economic concerns of a village that is struggling with the onslaught of tourism and the rapid gentrification of village life.

Our program at SMU-in-Taos places students in the middle of this living, traditional village for the purposes of research and education. They not only excavate in the shadow of the historic Saint Francis de Asissí Church, erected in 1790 as a spiritual and physical refuge from raiding Plains Indians, but also in the homes and backyards of the villagers. They interact with community members on a daily basis and receive blessings and instruction in traditional culture by native scholars and village leaders. This includes participation in communal activities such as the annual plastering of the church and fiesta preparations. Rock art recording and survey encompasses spectacular vistas and one of the largest petroglyph districts in the northern Rio Grande.

State of the art and traditional archaeological techniques offer students the ability to learn skills that have broad applications in other disciplines and careers. Field school activities also ensure that students understand the scientific and social value of archaeology and the benefits of working with local communities. The primary teaching method for our archaeological field class is learning by "hands-on" experience. Formal lectures are used as an initial introduction to field and laboratory methods, regional culture histories, cultural resource law, and archaeological theory. However, lectures are only considered a brief introduction, and all students get continuous first-hand practical experience in these topics while in the field or laboratory.

The residential character of the field school facilitates the development of a "community of scholars" comprised of students and staff. Each student therefore is not only furthering his or her own education, but is part of a larger research community and project that is designed to produce significant new knowledge about the past in addition to permanent archives, collections and publications for future scholars and local descendant communities. Students will relate their work in the field to the overall research design of the SMU-IN-TAOS Archaeological Field Program.

The field and laboratory methods covered in the course include:

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| site gridding | GPS mapping |
| triangulation techniques | USGS map and compass work |
| optical transit setup and use | UTM mapping |
| EDM use (total station) | processing of site forms |
| floor plan mapping | production of site maps |
| wall profile mapping | ceramic inventory and classification |
| feature excavation | faunal inventory and classification |
| square excavation | historic artifacts inventory and classification |
| completion and processing of level forms | lithic raw material identification |
| completion and processing of feature forms | collections cataloging and coding |
| collection and processing of soil samples | exposure to regional culture history |
| collection and processing of radiocarbon samples | rock art recording |
| collection and processing of flotation samples | public and tribal relations |
| transect surveys | |

Evaluation and Grades

To excel in this class, students must actively participate as responsible, self-starting members of a research team. This means being on the site every day, doing lab work, going on field trips, attending lectures, taking part in discussions, and doing some independent reading. The newly constructed Wendorf Information Commons houses the Fort Burgwin Library and computer center includes a substantial collection of books and papers relevant to the course and to the research project. Students are expected to use this collection to follow up on topics raised in lectures and discussions. There are no required readings for the course, but lecturers will indicate which readings in the library are most relevant to their topic.

Grades will be based on participation and ability to work well in teams (50%), laboratory cataloging and analysis of spatial and artifact data (25%) and a final field practical (25%). The *Field Practical* will formally evaluate your abilities to carry out field procedures that you will be practicing all semester long, such as laying out a grid square, field identification of artifacts, compass navigation skills, EDM setup, and other field procedures.

University Policies

Disability Accommodations: Students needing academic accommodations for a disability must first contact Ms. Rebecca Marin, Coordinator, Services for Students with Disabilities (214-768-4557) to verify the disability and establish eligibility for accommodations. They should then schedule an appointment with the professor to make appropriate arrangements. (See University Policy No. 2.4.)

Religious Observance: Religiously observant students wishing to be absent on holidays that require missing class should notify their professors in writing at the beginning of the semester, and should discuss with them, in advance, acceptable ways of making up any work missed because of the absence. (See University Policy No. 1.9.)

Excused Absences for University Extracurricular Activities: Students participating in an officially sanctioned, scheduled University extracurricular activity should be given the opportunity to make up class assignments or other graded assignments missed as a result of their participation. It is the responsibility of the student to make arrangements with the instructor prior to any missed scheduled examination or other missed assignment for making up the work. (University Undergraduate Catalogue)

Plagiarism: Plagiarism is the misrepresentation of the work of another as your own and is a serious infraction of the University Honor Code. Instances of plagiarism or any other cheating will be reported to the University Honor Council, and will at the very least result in failure of this course. The University policy on plagiarism may be found at:

http://www.smu.edu/studentlife/PCL_05_HC.asp and in the Student Handbook at:

http://www.smu.edu/studentlife/PDF/SMU_Student_Handbook_06-07.pdf

Arrival and Departure

Participants should plan to arrive at Fort Burgwin by **12:00 on June 3, 2010**. Upon arrival, check in at the Fort Office to get your campus information packets. Dinner will be served from 5:00 - 6:30 p.m., and afterwards we will have a brief orientation session in the dining hall.

We will spend the next few days in classes, getting an orientation on archaeological approaches, recording techniques, and excavation protocol. We will learn surveying techniques and use of the total station to map artifact scatters and site features. Fieldwork will consist of excavation and mapping of various homes on the Ranchos de Taos plaza and several days recording rock art at a more remote location. One day will be spent making pottery under the direction of Mr. Felipe Ortega. Laboratory analyses of recovered artifacts and features will take up the rest of the course.

Please Note

All field school participants must be prepared to camp for the full six -week term unless other arrangements have been made in advance.

**The last day of instruction is July 14 with departure no earlier than 12:00 am the 15th of July
Leaving the field school prior to this time is against Fort policy and will result in significant
grade reduction or grade failure**

Transportation

Field School participants going to Fort Burgwin by air will fly into Albuquerque. Because there are no commuter flights from Albuquerque to Taos, transportation must be either by shuttle or rental car.

Shuttle - There are shuttles run by Faust Transportation (505-758-3410 and 505-758-7359) (<http://www.newmexiconet.com/trans/faust/faust.html>) and Twin Hearts Transportation (505-751-1201) (no web site) from the Albuquerque Airport to Fort Burgwin. We will meet you upon your arrival at the Fort. You must make reservations before your arrival in Albuquerque to insure a seat on the shuttle. Call the above numbers to make reservations.

Automobile - For those driving from Dallas, the trip is approximately 12-14 hours, depending on your travel route. If you are driving part or all of the way, we would appreciate knowing your travel information so that we know when to expect you at Fort Burgwin. If you are looking to car pool, please let me (Adler) know and I'll try to match you up with people driving out to Taos.

Environment

Summer temperatures can range from the mid-40's, particularly in the evenings, to the low-90's in Taos. Most days the temperature will be in the 70-80 degree range. Afternoon rain showers are common later in the summer. The altitude of the Fort Burgwin campus is 7,500 feet, greatly increasing the potential for sun exposure and sunburn. Due to the altitude, participants may also encounter fatigue and shortness of breath during the first few days on campus.

Field School participants will be camping in a group camping area designated solely for our use on the Fort campus. We will have shower and toilet facilities. All field school participants will be required to have a meal plan at the Taos campus, and there will be no cooking in the field school camping area.

Address and Telephone Number

Cell phone coverage is available at the Fort. A pay phone also is provided for personal telephone calls. The number is 505-758-0922. Personal messages can be left on the Fort Burgwin answering machine at 505-758-7208. This message machine is checked twice a day and messages are delivered to the dining hall bulletin board. Emergency calls only can be made to the official Fort Burgwin number 505-758-8322. This phone is answered by machine after 4:30 p.m. each day.

At Fort Burgwin, mail is delivered daily at dinner time. All mail correspondence to you should be addressed to:

SMU-in-Taos
6580 Highway 518 South
Ranchos de Taos, NM 87557

Email and Internet

The new Wendorf Information Commons is equipped with computers, all of which have high-speed internet and emailing capabilities. All students will have access to the WIC (located next to the Archaeology Lab) at all times.

Check Cashing

There will be no check cashing at the Fort, so participants will have to either use the ATM's in Taos or make arrangements with Taos area banks to cash checks.

Meal Schedule

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| Breakfast | 6:30-7:30 in dining hall (We will leave for the field no later than 7:30 a.m.) |
| Lunch | You will pack a sack lunch at breakfast and bring it with you to the site on field days. |
| Dinner | 5:00 - 6:30 p.m. |

Laundry Facilities

There is a laundry building on the Fort Burgwin campus with washers and dryers for Fort residents. The facility is walking distance from the dining hall. Bring enough clothing for several days.

Recreation

The activities of the field school will keep you quite busy, but there will be time for recreation. The Fort campus has a volleyball court and tennis court for student use, and the campus is surrounded by Carson National Forest, complete with hiking trails, fishing streams, and biking areas. You can mountain bike on and around the campus.

Equipment List

The items below are basic tools needed during your camping and field research at Fort Burgwin. If you are flying out, you can send the bulkier items to Fort Burgwin via the mail (see General Information) or have someone drive them out for you.

Required Equipment and Supplies

- Watch, Alarm Clock
- Bug repellent (more effective sprays contain DEET)
- Canteen (at least ½ gallon, the larger the better)
- Clothing that you don't mind getting dirty (and staying dirty)
- Coat / fleece pullover

- Comfortable hiking shoes (tennis shoes are most comfortable on site during excavations, but hiking shoes/boots will be worth having during the survey part of the course in Taos)
- Flashlight
- Foam Pad or folding cot (for camping)
- Tent (we will help you put it up, don't worry). DO get a tent with a rain fly and sealable seams, since it does rain in the afternoons during the latter part of the summer (you can get SeamSeal at most outdoor/camping supply stores, or if you got a new tent, it probably came with a tube of SeamSeal).
- Hat or cap, broad brim (the sunlight is very intense)
- Jacket (evenings will be cool (around 50°F, we are at 7500' elevation in Taos)
- Leather work gloves
- Notebook for lecture notes (spiral binding best)
- Pack or Field Bag (do not need large frame backpack, only a day pack)
- Paint brush (1 - 1 ½")
- Rain gear (Poncho or rain jacket)
- Sleeping Bag and Pillow
- Sunglasses
- Sunscreen or lotion (SPF 30 or higher recommended)
- Toiletries, Towel
- Writing implements (ballpoint pens or lead pencils)
- Any required personal medication

Optional Equipment:

For those intending to go on in archaeology, most projects will assume that you come to the job with these tools in hand, but we will supply them if you are unable to obtain your own for the field school.



- 3-meter tape measure (must have metric scale)
- 5" pointing trowel (ask at Home Depot or a hardware store. **Marshalltown** brand is the standard in archaeology, but **Goldblatt** is acceptable, make sure it is drop forged. That means the metal part of the handle is forged onto the blade, not soldered on).
- Sylva Ranger 515 CL Sighting Compass: With scales of 1:24,000, 1:25,000, and 1:50,000. Other features include a 0-360 degree bezel with 2 degree increments, clinometer, 1/20-inch scale, millimeter rules, silicone feet for map gripping, adjustable declination, sighting mirror with v-notch, and lanyard with adjustable slider (See Figure). Cost: \$58-\$70 on line.

Optional personal gear

- Camera that can endure heat, sun, and dust
- Portable personal computer for use at Fort Burgwin (computers are available Fort Burgwin, but keep in mind that conditions can be dusty, and not that great for laptop computers)
- Radio or tape player that can endure heat, sun and dust, music (no iPods/headphones on the site, please)

Mucous Membrane Warning

New Mexico has a very dry climate. If you are coming from an area with high humidity (including Texas), then you may also want to purchase eye drops (artificial tears or Visine) and nose spray (saline solution) to prevent nosebleeds. Moreover, if you wear contact lenses, you may need additional cleaning solution, which can be purchased in town. Please bring a backup pair of prescription glasses if you wear contacts or glasses. Excavation tends to be dusty and this can make things uncomfortable for contact lens wearers.