**ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD TECHNIQUES**

**PRE-TERM 2020**

**MAY 11 – May 28, 2020**

**SYLLABUS**

**Instructor: Andrew M. Mickelson**

**Location: AMES PLANTATION**

**Time: 7:00 am to 3:00 pm M-F**

Office: Johnson 210

Telephone: ext. 4505

Cell Phone: 901-481-9245

E-mail: [amicklsn@memphis.edu](mailto:amicklsn@memphis.edu)

Course Web Page: <http://blogs.memphis.edu/amicklsn/field-school/>

COURSE DESCRIPTION: Instruction in field excavation, specimen preparation, use of survey instruments and photography, map making, archaeological record keeping; methods and techniques in archaeological laboratory analysis; emphasis on organization and supervision of laboratory procedures.

**PREREQUISITE: PERMISSION OF THE INSTRUCTOR**

**Field/Class Conduct:**

**ALL UNIVERSITY OF MEMPHIS RULES AND CODES OF CONDUCT APPLY.**

**All students are expected to arrive at the designated location(s) on time. Students and faculty have a right to a safe and courteous learning environment. Disruptions of any sort will not be tolerated, and the offending individual(s) may be forced to leave class. All university policies are in effect even though we are off-campus. Ames Plantation is in effect an extension of the University of Memphis campus and all University rules and regulations apply for the duration of the class. We are guests of Ames Plantation and must follow their policies as well.**

**DUE TO THE REMOTE FIELD LOCATION, SPECIAL NEEDS STUDENTS CAN ONLY BE ACCOMODATED TO THE EXTENT CONDITIONS ALLOW. PLEASE CONTACT THE INSTRUCTOR FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.**

**NO FIREARMS OR OTHER WEAPONS ARE PERMITTED. NO GRILLS OR OPEN FLAME COOKING/OTHER TECHNOLOGIES ARE PERMITTED. NO DRUGS OR ALCOHOL ARE PERMITTED.**

**SAFETY PRECAUTIONS: BE CAREFUL! DANGEROUS CONDITIONS MAY BE PRESENT. Be aware of your surroundings. There is wildlife about. Watch for poison ivy and other noxious weeds, spiders, ticks, mosquitoes, snakes, coyotes. Do not sit or stand near open excavation trenches unless working. Do not get overheated-- drink water often. Do not throw anything (including, but not limited to field tools, buckets, rocks, fellow classmates, chunks of dirt, artifacts etc.). It is forbidden to build catapults or other devices of potential destruction. No swinging on trees. No water slides. No cutting down of trees greater than 4” in diameter without prior approval. You are not allowed to drive beyond Bryan Hall unless you have permission to do so (even if you have 4-wheel drive). No Fireworks. Appropriate clothing required at all times—you are not at a European beach. Please be courteous and wear clothing that does not reveal too much of yourself (i. e., pants that do not reveal the moon). During fieldwork, iPods/mp3 players or other annoying/noisy electronic devices are not permitted unless approved. Cell phones are permitted. No shenanigans will be tolerated. Remember this is NOT summer camp. Non-participant visitors need prior approval to visit the project. Failure to comply with any or all of the above may result in dismissal from class.**

**REPORT ALL INJURIES, NO MATTER HOW MINOR TO THE INSTRUCTOR OR TEACHING ASSISTANT.**

**STUDENTS ARE REQUIRED TO HAVE SIGNED THE LIABILITY RELEASE FORM**

**Field Notes Pro smartphone App:** [**https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/fieldnotespro/id457209025?mt=8**](https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/fieldnotespro/id457209025?mt=8)

**Recommended Text:**

**Hester, Thomas R., Shafer, Harry J., and Kenneth L. Feder**

**1997 FIELD METHODS IN ARCHAEOLOGY.**

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

**1. Students are expected to spend 15 days in the field, although this could change as weather may preclude going in the field. If a rain day occurs, students will be notified by 6:30 am via e-mail and/or text messaging. A field trip to a local archaeological site may be substituted for a rain day.**

**2. All students must arrive on time. Failure to do so will result in a grade reduction.**

**The van leaves from campus at 6:55 am. Students not riding in the van are expected to meet at Bryan Hall on the Ames Plantation by 8:00 am to catch transportation to the remote field site, which requires a four-wheel drive vehicle . Students are not allowed to drive their own vehicles all the way to the site without first clearing it with the instructor. IT IS THE RESPONISIBILTY OF THE STUDENT FOR SAFELY DRIVING TO AND FROM THE SITE. The project staff and the University are not liable if you choose to drive to Ames.**

**3. Students are expected to enthusiastically engage themselves in learning archaeological field techniques. Participation will constitute 80 percent of the grade.**

**4. Each student will take electronic field notes and record the day’s events (See above app). This will constitute 20 percent of your grade.**

**5. A class fee, beyond tuition of $200.00 is required. This fee pays for supplies, tools, and resources utilized at Ames Plantation outside of the University of Memphis. The fee is payable directly to the bursar’s office. A receipt must be received with the application in order for you to be cleared for a permit to enroll in the class.**

**6. Students must use their university e-mail (or e-mail registered with the university). Students will provide their cell phone number. This is in case of a rain day – which means a field trip to an archaeological site is likely.**

**Grade:**

**80% - Participation**

**20% - Field Journal**

The College of Arts and Sciences requires that an incomplete grade (I) be given only for exceptional circumstances such as severe illness or work related circumstances that are beyond your control. In both circumstances documented is required. Grades will be determined as follows:

97-100 A+

94-96 A

90-93 A-

87-89 B+

84-86 B

80-83 B-

77-79 C+

74-76 C

70-73 C-

67-69 D+

64-66 D

60-63 D-

0-59 F

**OUTLINE OF THE CLASS**

**Commute to site:**

**Departmental Van will leave from lot in front of Johnson Hall promptly at 6:55 AM. THE VAN WAITS FOR NOBODY.**

**Seating is limited. Students may drive their own vehicle to the plantation. Students must park at Bryan Hall. Prior permission must be obtained to drive to the site.**

**Facets of Study:**

**1. Surface Collection and Site Discovery and Location**

**-artifact discovery**

**-site mapping**

**-use of topographic maps**

**- use of GPS and total station mapping equipment**

**2. Site Testing**

**- shovel testing and test unit excavation**

**- screening and recovery of artifacts**

**- documentation of test excavations**

**3. Large-scale Excavation**

**- mound and off-mound excavations**

**- documentation of excavation, features, stratigraphy, etc.**

**4. Geophysical Prospection**

**- use of metal detector to document historic sites**

**- use of Fluxgate Gradiometer to surface for buried subsurface remains**

**5. Laboratory Work**

**-cleaning and sorting of artifacts**

**-entering artifacts into database**

**-flotation**

**Required Field Gear**

**1. Any necessary medication (we are 45 minutes from the nearest hospital)**

**2. Hiking boots**

**3. Long sleeve shirt and pants**

**4. Hat**

**5. Sturdy work gloves - leather palms are a must for screening dirt.**

**6. Water bottle holding at least 1 liter.**

**7. Insect repellent**

**8. Sun screen**

**9. Field Notes Pro App**

**10. Mechanical pencil (0.5 mm lead size), permanent marker (Sharpie Fine-Tip)**

**11. Backpack or knapsack**

**12. Lunch**

**13. 8.5” x 11” clipboard for completing paperwork**

**Optional Equipment**

**1. Trowel - Marshalltown 45-5 pointing trowel**

**2. Metric tape measure (3 m)**

**3. String**

**THE SYLLABUS IS SUBJECT TO MODIFICATION**

**SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION AND APPLICATION FORM**

**Costs**

There are two charges:

Field School Fee

University of Memphis tuition

**Field School Fee of $200.00**

This fee covers the costs of transportation, supplies, and logistical services provided by Ames Plantation. Transportation will be provided roundtrip from Memphis each day. Students may choose to provide their own transportation, but this will not change the total course fees.

**Shots: Tetanus inoculations are required**. Shots can be arranged at university health centers or may be administered by any physician.

**Health and Accident Insurance:** All field trip participants are required to have some sort of health and accident insurance, which will cover them for the duration of the trip. **Bring the policy information**.

**Firearms:** No firearms of any sort are permitted in the field or in the dorms. Do not bring a gun.

**Smoking:** The U of M vans are non-smoking areas. We also prohibit smoking on any archaeological site. Smoking is allowed, but every smoker must be responsible for the disposal of cigarette butts. Due to extreme wildfire conditions, make sure you extinguish your butts.

**Liquor:**  Possession of or consumption of alcoholic beverages, including beer, is prohibited in the field and in U of M vehicles.

**Drugs:** No drugs (except by prescription).

**Pets:** No pets of any kind in the camp or in the field.

**Guests:** Short visits by family and friends are welcome onsite. Remember though, this is not a vacation or summer camp.