

ANTHROPOLOGY 4350/5350

ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD AND LABORATORY RESEARCH
(SUMMER ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD SCHOOL)

SUMMER 2009, SESSION A

1 June through 2 July

COURSE SYLLABUS

The University of Colorado, Boulder, archaeological field school will focus on the Ceramic Period (AD 1 through 1500) occupation of the Pine Ridge area around Crawford and Chadron, in northwestern Nebraska. This project will provide training in the basics of archaeological excavation and possibly some survey, as well as preliminary laboratory processing of recovered materials.

Course Content

This is a six-credit five-week class designed to train students in the basics of field excavation and survey techniques; students should be prepared for full days (roughly 8 hours but possibly more) of digging and/or walking, often in fairly remote areas. Depending on the amount of material we recover, we will also have the opportunity to train students in basic laboratory techniques, including cataloging and basic artifact analysis. Lab sessions may either fill in field time that is lost to weather or, if necessary, may be conducted in the evenings. The class will be taught by Dr. Douglas Bamforth of the CU-Boulder Anthropology department, and will be staffed by CU-Boulder graduate students. We may also be working with interested avocational archaeologists and with other professional archaeologists. In addition to practical training, students will have occasional lectures on regional archaeology and geomorphology, archaeological research design, and other topics. Your grades will be based on your performance in the field and lab, and on your record keeping and excavation summaries.

The specific work we will be doing falls into two basic areas. First, our main activity will be to extend an excavation we have worked on for two years and to test sites just upstream from that excavation. Second, depending on time and opportunity, we may also survey areas along drainages leading into the Pine Ridge near Chadron, searching particularly for sites that may have been small farming communities roughly 600 or 700 years ago.

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 Plains, where bad weather is common: high winds and sudden rains are typical, and rains can turn dirt roads into impassable mud, leaving vehicles and the people in them stranded for hours. Summer temperatures on the Plains can be high, and water in areas away from our field camp will often be limited to what we carry with us. The fauna of the Great Plains include hawks, eagles, and antelope, as well as rattlesnakes and,

in some areas, remarkably large snapping turtles. We will be living in campgrounds where we can build campfires in the evening. Outdoor campfires are always smoky and potentially hazardous. The roads in the area we will be in are often very remote, whether they are paved or not, and people often drive them with the expectation that there is no one else on them. In one of our past fieldschools, several of us came to an intersection only minutes after a horrendous, and fatal, accident involving a passenger car and a semi truck on the road between our camp and town that resulted from this expectation.

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 (Chadron Community Hospital); 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 15 to 20 people, many of whom have never before met one another, who are expected to live together as a functioning community in a relatively isolated place for five weeks. You should recognize that your actions contribute mightily to the success of this community. Make friends with the people you like and participate in social activities as you want to, but 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 a small, rural community, and that, whether we know it or not, this community is extremely aware of our presence. You will represent the University of Colorado in a place where CU is rarely visible, and your actions can substantially affect the way in which the communities around our camp view CU in general. Be aware that much of the world, and particularly much of the rural American West, views CU-Boulder unfavorably because of our institution's publicity over the last few years, and that your behavior on the fieldschool has the power to influence this view for good or ill. You are also participating in an ongoing program of archaeological research that is highly dependent on the good will of the local community: you may not ever come back to northwestern Nebraska, but the field school staff will. Have fun, but use your common sense and treat the local community with politeness and respect. The bottom line for this class is that, if it is illegal in the state of Nebraska, it is illegal and unacceptable on the field school. Field school students whose activities either 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 Trip

We will probably take at least one field trip, possibly overnight, during the field season. We may have to work out sleeping accommodations for trips like these, and these accommodations may

involve local motels. Expenses for trips like these will be everyone's responsibility. There are also local sites around the area we will be in that are worth visiting, and we may take occasional day trips to these. These include historic sites (like Fort Robinson, where Crazy Horse was murdered), paleontological sites, and national parks and monuments. You may want to visit some of the more distant of these on your days off (for example, the Little Big Horn monument is within driving distance).

Sleeping, Eating, Washing, and Using the Phone

I am negotiating use of facilities for our field camp and the details are not set yet. However, you should expect to sleep in a tent and have access to a kitchen, bathroom, and hot shower. Unless I can find facilities with completely separate sleeping areas for men and women, you will not be sleeping inside in real beds even if the facility we rent has them. The only exception to this is in the case of illness/injury or extremely bad weather, when we will all be inside. Whatever facility we use will also have sufficient parking for you to drive your own car up if you want to. There will be electricity available, but you will not be able to run private lines into your tents.

Cell phone service in some areas where we will be is sketchy, but it is usually a short distance to locations where you can get a signal.

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.

Costs

All students will take the class for six credits and will pay the corresponding CU summer school tuition. In addition, all students will pay for food (this will cover all of the costs involved with breakfast, lunch, and dinner for every day we are working), and must purchase a set of hand tools (listed below). The costs of food other than that prepared for the group as a whole, and any other expenses you may choose to incur, are your responsibility. Weekly food costs are uncertain at the moment, but last summer we were able to feed everyone comfortably for \$30 per five days. The cost of renting a field camp is not yet clear, but you should anticipate a maximum of \$400 and probably less.

Equipment

The university supplies all large items of equipment (shovels, buckets, screens, etc.). We will also have two nine-passenger carryalls that we will use to transport ourselves to and from work each day. However, you will need two additional kinds of equipment: your personal camping equipment and your personal hand tools.

The camping equipment you will need depends on how you like to camp. Minimally, you should have a tent or other shelter, a sleeping bag, etc. Students have sometimes also brought tarps and

folding tables to make sheltered public areas for evening conversation. You should have comfortable clothes that you don't care much about, because they may be in much worse condition at the end of the class than they were at the beginning. Bring shoes you can walk all day in and shoes that you can excavate all day in. **YOU WILL NEED SUNSCREEN, PREFERABLY SPF30000, AND A HAT.** Insect repellent may also come in handy; we will be working and camping near water. Several summers ago, it was wet and we had more ticks than any of us had ever seen anywhere in our lives (and more than we ever want to see again); it has been drier more recently and this was much less of a problem. Nights will likely be cool but not cold. Wind and rain can arrive at any time, so bring rain gear and be sure you know how to anchor your tent. Low-profile tents are the best choice. We really, really mean this: storms can come in very hard, and we have had wind that snapped fiberglass tent poles.

Besides items connected to your personal comfort, you are responsible for getting your own dig kit: we cannot afford to replace these every year, and people tend to take better care of their own tools than they do of ours. Here is what you need:

- mason's trowel (with a blade about 5 1/2 inches long).
- line level
- three or five meter 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

All of these can be found locally, although you may have to call around for the meter tape (try Sutherlands or McGuckins in Boulder, or Lowes or Home Depot in Louisville). The best brand of trowel is Marshalltown, but other brands are fine, so long as the blade and the tang are one piece (the blade should not be riveted on). Metal dustpans tend to break at the point where the pan and the handle attach, producing a sharp corner; rubber or plastic ones are both more durable and less dangerous.

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO, BOULDER
ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD SCHOOL APPLICATION
SUMMER 2009 / SESSION A (1 JUNE THROUGH 2 JULY)

Name: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Address: _____

Home Phone: _____

Cell Phone: _____

Email: _____

Parents (or other emergency contact): _____

relation to you: _____

phone: (h) _____ (cell): _____

Health Insurance Company: _____ Policy #: _____

Major: _____ Academic Institution: _____

Class Standing: First Year Sophomore Junior Senior Grad

Why do you want to take the CU archaeological field school?

Outdoor Experience:

Special Skills (photography, automobile repair, first-aid training, etc):

Medical or physical issues we should know about if we are living with you in a remote area (diabetes, conditions limiting your activities, conditions that could be dangerous without regular medication, etc.). This is for information only and does not enter into a decision to admit you to the class.

Dietary limitations (food allergies, vegetarian, etc.). This is for information only and does not enter into a decision to admit you to the class.

Recommenders names and contact information (please have these people send a letter or email directly to Dr. Bamforth:

Personal:

Academic:

I affirm that I will have health insurance in force for the full duration of the field school (1 June through 2 July 2009) and that I have no medical or dietary conditions that might become problems other than the ones that I have noted above.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Please return **BOTH** this form **AND** the signed waiver (signed by your parents if you are under 18) to me **BY MARCH 6** with a copy of your most recent college transcript (**unofficial** copies of your transcript are fine) to:

Dr. Douglas Bamforth
Anthropology Dept., 233 UCB
University of Colorado
Boulder, CO 80309-0233

University of Colorado, Boulder

Release from Responsibility, Assumption of Risk and Waiver

Name _____
Activity 2009 CU Anthropology Department Summer Archaeological Field School (ANTH 4350/5350)

Date _____

Address _____

Phone Number (_____) _____ Fax Number (_____) _____

I exercise my own free choice to participate in the above designated Activity. I understand and assume all associated risks. I agree to assume all risk of personal injury or loss, bodily injury (including death), damage to or loss or destructions of any personal property occurring in connection with or arising out of participation in the 2009 CU Anthropology Department Summer Archaeological Field School (ANTH 4350/5350).

I hereby release and discharge, indemnify and hold harmless the Regents of the University of Colorado, and their member officers, agents, employees and any other persons or entities acting on their behalf, and the successors and assigns for any and all of the aforementioned persons and entities, against all claims, demands, costs and expenses, and causes of action whatsoever, either in law or equity, arising out of or in any way connected with any loss and/or bodily injury and/or disability, arising from my participation in the Activity.

I have had sufficient time to review and seek explanation of the provisions contained above, have carefully read them, understand them fully, and agree to be bound by them. After careful deliberation, I voluntarily give my consent and agree to this Release, Assumption of Risk and Waiver.

In the event of an emergency, I grant the University of Colorado permission to authorize emergency medical treatment for _____, (participant) for the duration of his/her participation in this Activity. I understand that University of Colorado does not carry or provide health or accident insurance that responds to injury or illness as a result of my participation in this Activity.

Medical Health Insurance Company _____ Policy # _____

Emergency Contact/Phone _____

If the participant is under 18 years of age, the parent or guardian in consideration of this request accepts the above terms and grants permission for the student's participation.

Participant Signature (Parent or Guardian if under 18)

Date