



ANTHROPOLOGY 4350

ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD AND LABORATORY RESEARCH (SUMMER ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD SCHOOL)

**SUMMER 2022, SESSION A
31 May through 1 July**

COURSE SYLLABUS

The 2022 University of Colorado, Boulder, Anthropology Department archaeological field school, in collaboration with the Augustana University archaeological field school, focuses on the Plains Village Period (roughly AD 1250 through 1400) occupation of northeastern Nebraska. The class will provide training in detailed archaeological site excavation and, depending on time and access to private land, possibly site survey.

This syllabus will give you the basic information you need to know what the class is about, but feel free to get in touch with Dr. Bamforth (bamforth@colorado.edu) with any other questions that you have.

Course Content

This is a five-week class worth six credits designed to train you in the basics of field excavation techniques. Depending on the amount of material we recover, and the weather, we will also train you in laboratory processing, including cataloging and basic artifact identification (lab sessions may either fill in field time that is lost to weather or, if necessary, may be conducted in the evenings). In addition to practical training, students will have occasional lectures on regional archaeology and geomorphology, archaeological research design, and other topics, and we will visit local historical and archaeological sites. Like labwork, field trips depend on the

weather. Your grades will be based on your performance in the field and lab and on your record keeping.

We will be excavating a late 13th century/14th century site in northeastern Nebraska (the Lynch Site [25BD1], located on the edge of Lynch, Nebraska). The site is huge (nearly 200 acres) and likely contains hundreds of houses, along with pottery, stone tools, bison bone, agricultural implements, Our work is guided by geophysical prospecting that located nearly 1400 archaeological anomalies, many of them pits. Our emphasis this summer will be on clusters of anomalies that we think correspond to house floors.

Course Requirements

- Field notebooks are required. Keep a daily journal of field activities and unit information. We will collect and copy it at the end the field school for our records and then return it to you if you want it.
- Participation is required during all fieldwork activities and after work programs. Your final grade is based on your notebook detail and participation in field and other activities. Grades depend on participation and understanding throughout the field school as well as on your ability to fill out forms and field notebooks effectively.
- Attendance throughout the field project is required. We will probably work five days on and two days off, although this may vary with the weather and the progress of the project. You should expect to be outside in the open excavating or walking for about eight hours each day. We will have periodic evening Power Point presentations and group discussions at the retreat building to provide background on a variety of topics relevant to the field project. These are part of the class requirements.

Sleeping, Eating, Cars, Washing, and Using the Phone

The site we are working on is just above the town of Lynch, population about 250. We will be staying about 10 minutes away from the site on the edge of town, in a building that once served as a maternity hospital run by the Catholic church. It is now a retreat run by a local Catholic non-profit and includes a large kitchen, eating areas, and full bathrooms, including hot showers, sinks, mirrors, toilets, and laundry facilities. There is plenty of parking if you plan to drive your own car and there is electricity available for things like charging cellphones.

You will have the option of sleeping in tents or inside the retreat. If you choose to stay in a tent, you need to bring your own along with your own bedding. If you choose to sleep inside, we will house you two people to a room and we will assign you roommates, almost certainly someone from Augustana. We do not assign private rooms. The beds are reasonably comfortable and the retreat supplies pillows, sheets, and blankets. Each room has window air conditioner. We encourage you to use these sparingly—sleeping in an ice box guarantees that you will have trouble with the heat during the day. We can more or less guarantee that it will be hot.

We will be cooking and cleaning up collectively. Cleaning up means keeping public areas orderly all the time and also that no one leaves for days off until the whole living area is seriously cleaned (this includes vacuuming, mopping, dusting, etc.). We will have to plan ahead for meals and make sure that we have what we need (we will purchase most of our food at Sam's Club in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, about a two-hour drive from Lynch). All of that effort, 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 will follow: you will cook one day and clean up the day after. Offering additional help to people whose names are on the schedule usually makes them happy and ensures that supper is ready on time. Kitchen activities include setting up breakfast, making a supper menu and preparing what is on that menu, and cleaning up after supper. Furthermore, everyone involved in the field school is individually responsible for keeping both the retreat area and all other facilities that we use clean. We also take a couple of breaks from eating each other's cooking by taking meals at local restaurants, and we pay for these out of the overall food budget.

Cell phone service in some areas where we will be is sketchy (much of Lynch is in a blank spot for cell service), but it is usually a short distance to locations where you can get a signal. There is wifi service at the retreat building, but you will crash it as soon as you all try to connect to it at the same time. We have experience with this.

Getting to Lynch

Lynch is just west of the confluence of the Niobrara and Missouri rivers, in Boyd County, northeastern Nebraska. It is about a 8-hour drive from Boulder. We will meet there on Monday, 30 May, to get settled and start work on Tuesday, 31 May. We will have vehicles to get you back and forth from the site and to take you on field trips, but not to get you out there. If you want to fly east, we can pick you up at the Lincoln, Omaha, or Sioux Falls airports (Frontier has remarkably cheap direct flights from Denver to Sioux Falls). People usually want to have cars with them in the field, so many students drive and we can send out lists of names to arrange carpools.

Costs

Students should take the class for six credits and therefore have to pay the corresponding CU summer school tuition (in-state: about \$2700; out-of-state about \$7500; check the Bursar's Office website). Colorado residents are eligible for the College Opportunity Fund to cover part of this, but you have to apply for that. The Summer School Office can tell you what to do. Fees for the summer session are a little less than \$400.

In addition, all students will pay for food and housing, and must purchase a set of hand tools (listed below). We will cover basic elements of breakfast and lunch from this, although you are free to supplement these as you wish. These funds cover all costs of supper for all of the days we are working. The costs of food other than that prepared for the group as a whole and of any other expenses you may choose to incur are your responsibility. Based on our costs in 2019, we should be able to cover food, housing, and miscellaneous expenses (field trip admissions, for example) for the entire class for a total cost of \$700.00 per person in addition to your tuition.

You need to give a check in that amount to Diana Wilson in the Anthropology Department. We cannot take cash.

Safety

Field archaeology is hard physical work that often involves sharp and/or heavy tools (shovels, etc.). You will be out in the open in the Plains, where bad weather is not unusual: high winds and sudden rains are typical and rains can turn dirt roads into mud. Summer storms on the Plains can bring serious hail and summer temperatures can be hot. The fauna of the Great Plains include hawks, eagles, and antelope, which are very cool to see. They also include rattlesnakes and, in some areas, remarkably large snapping turtles, neither of which are very fond of human beings. People talk about cougars and bears in our field area, although we have not seen any and we do not perceive them as a threat. One of our dogs had an intimate encounter with a skunk near the retreat a couple of years ago. So mind your safety when walking around the sites or the retreat.

We will 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 hospitals (the Niobrara Valley Hospital in Lynch is literally right next to the retreat we are staying in; bigger facilities are some distance away). Depending on your provider, you may be “out of network” in these locations—be sure you know how your coverage bills for emergency room visits in this situation. If you have special medical needs (for example, if you are diabetic and need insulin shots), be sure that the field school staff knows what you need in case something goes wrong and we have to call for help (we are asking students accepted to the field school to fill out a detailed medical form). I have only had to visit emergency rooms three times on field schools since 1990 and I have no interest in increasing this number, but we need to know what to do if it is necessary, and so do you. One of our directors is a trained and certified field medic and we are prepared to deal with minor injuries and a variety of everyday ailments. Disclosing health issues to us in the medical form will not exclude you from the project, it will just ensure that we know how to help in an emergency.

You will also 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. There are no exceptions to this requirement or to the requirement that you have health insurance in force for the full duration of the class.

Social Issues

We are running two field schools collaboratively, one from CU Boulder run by Dr. Bamforth and one from Augustana University in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, run by Dr. KC Carlson. Neither of the field directors sees any distinction between these classes and our expectations are exactly the same for both groups. Expect to share a room with someone you do not know and to be grouped with people to work, cook, and clean without regard to where you are getting academic credit.

We will have as many as 40 people on the project who have mostly never met one another before and 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.

You also need 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. Local people often stop by to see what we are doing; the various people who own parts of the site we are working on are all quite interested in our discoveries. You will represent Augustana and the University of Colorado in places where universities are rarely visible and your actions will substantially affect the ways the communities around us view both institutions. Your behavior on the field school has the power to influence this view for good or for ill. You are also participating in an ongoing program of archaeological research that depends profoundly on the good will of the local community. People in different parts of Nebraska and elsewhere on the Great Plains have welcomed us and given us access to private property for a long time. You may not ever go back there, but we will. Have fun, but use your common sense and treat the local community with politeness and respect.

Conduct

Besides understanding that it is important to treat each other and the local community well, there are several specific issues that are not negotiable.

- You may not bring weapons of any kind on the field school. Pocketknives are appropriate tools and are useful in field settings; those are fine. Nothing else. No exceptions.
- Anything that is illegal in the state of Nebraska is illegal and totally 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. This includes, but is not limited to, the use of drugs. Do not be confused about this. "Medical" marijuana is not legal in Nebraska and the state of Nebraska is keenly aware of the fact that Colorado laws do exactly nothing to control the export of marijuana across state lines. A few years ago, the Nebraska State patrol took a serious interest in one of our students' cars when we stopped for lunch. They did not decide to search anyone, although I do not doubt that they called the license plate number in, but they easily could have. Nebraska state police did search the vehicle of a field school student who they stopped for speeding some years ago. If you get searched and they find something, the university will do nothing to help you out, we will send you home (unless they have you in jail, in which case you will stay there), and you will get an F for the class.

- The archaeological community and the universities we represent are committed to creating and maintaining a community where all persons who participate in university programs and activities can work and learn together in an atmosphere free from all forms of harassment, exploitation, or intimidation. We have a strict zero tolerance policy concerning sexual harassment, sexual assault, and sexual misconduct. If you ever feel uncomfortable because of the behavior or actions of another student, members of the field school staff, or someone in the community, tell a supervisor immediately. If you are not comfortable telling a supervisor, you can report any incident to the Institutional Equity Office and Title IX Officer at CU or Augustana (contact information below).
- Diversity is one of the strengths of our society as well as one of the hallmarks of a great university. Both universities support diversity and are committed to maintaining employment and educational settings that are multicultural, multiracial, multiethnic, and all-inclusive. Respecting differences is one of our missions. The universities do not discriminate or permit discrimination by any member of its community against any individual based on race, color, religion, political beliefs, national origin, age, or sex.
- The archaeological community and the universities we represent condemn discrimination based on sex or gender, sexual orientation discrimination, and discrimination based on gender identity or expression. Again, if you feel you are being discriminated against, tell a supervisor. Persons who have complaints alleging discrimination based upon sex or gender, which may include sexual harassment, sexual assault, sexual orientation discrimination, discrimination based on gender identity or gender expression, and sexual misconduct, may file their complaints by contacting the Institutional Equity and Title IX Office (contact information below).
- University policy also prohibits retaliation against a person for filing a complaint of discrimination or harassment under this policy or other applicable federal, state or local laws. This policy also prohibits retaliation against any person who assists someone with a complaint of discrimination or harassment or who participates in any manner in an investigation or resolution of a complaint of discrimination or harassment.
- Violation of any of the above-mentioned policies will result in immediate dismissal of the field project and a failing grade for the course. Any such activity committed by a member of the University community may subject the individual to University sanctions as well as to civil and criminal penalties.
- Augustana University and CU Boulder are committed to creating and fostering a learning and working environment based on open communication and mutual respect. This is an integral part of the academic mission to enrich our students' educational experiences and prepare them to live in and contribute to a global society. If you encounter sexual harassment, sexual misconduct, sexual assault, or discrimination, please contact the

Title IX Coordinator (Augustana: at [605-274-4044](tel:605-274-4044) or belam@augie.edu; CU Boulder: 303-492-2127 or <https://www.colorado.edu/oiec/>). If you make a report of this nature to any of the field school teaching staff, they are required to notify the relevant Title IX Coordinator about the basic facts of the incident (you may choose whether you or anyone involved is identified by name). For more information about options at Augustana, please visit www.augie.edu/titleix; at CU, visit <https://www.colorado.edu/oiec/>.

Field Trip(s)

There are things to do and see in the areas around our project, and we try to do them and see them. Specific trips generally depend on the weather: usually, when it is too cold and/or wet to work, we try to go someplace that is educational. Places we may visit include historic sites, locations with other archaeological projects, and paleontological sites. You may want to visit more distant places on your days off. When we go as the field school, we will drive university and staff vehicles. Trips you take on your days off are up to you.

Equipment

The university supplies all large items of equipment (shovels, buckets, screens, etc.). We will also have vehicles to transport ourselves to and from work each day. However, you will need to bring your personal hand tools.

You should have comfortable clothes that you don't care too much about, because they may be in worse condition at the end of the class than they were at the beginning. Bring shoes you can walk in all day in case we are able to do survey and light shoes that you can excavate all day in. Excavation requires that you wear tennis shoes, not boots, although boots are nice for shovel work when we have to do that. Sandals are great around camp and can be comfortable digging, but be aware that there are sharp things hiding in the grass on the site. Think in terms of normal early summer attire, but pack a light long sleeve shirt (to wear once you get sunburned), pants for cooler days, shorts for warmer days, a sweatshirt for cooler days, a rain coat/poncho for wetter days, and swimming attire (there is a water nearby, including swimming pools). Bring a towel or perhaps two.

YOU WILL NEED SUNSCREEN, PREFERABLY SPF30000, AND A HAT. Insect repellent may also come in handy; we will be working and camping near water, and sometimes there are mosquitoes. Ticks can be an issue, although we have seen very few over the last two seasons. There is a spray containing a chemical called Permethrin (REI sells it and so does Target) that you can put on your clothing to repel ticks. It is also good to spray it on your tent if you choose to sleep in one. It works great for as long as five weeks, it does not wash off in the rain, and it is safe and non-toxic once it dries. However, DO NOT EVER, EVER put permethrin on your skin.

Nights will likely be cool but not cold, but it is entirely possible that I am totally wrong about this: we will be on the Plains, where unpredictability is the rule, and you should have clothes to cover a range of temperatures. Wind and rain can arrive rapidly, so bring rain gear, and rain is

generally more common in the earlier than the later parts of the summer. Storms on the Plains are absolutely beautiful in the distance but less beautiful up close. We have shelter both on site and at the retreat.

You can also bring things for leisure time activities, like hacky sack, horse shoes, Frisbees, fishing equipment, cards, games etc.. There is a basketball backboard at the retreat.

Besides items connected to your personal comfort, you are responsible for getting your own dig kit. Here is what you need:

- mason's trowel (either square or triangular, with a blade about 4 ½ to 5 ½ inches long). These are classically American excavation tools; the Japanese equivalent is designed differently and is called a Nejiri or Nejiri kama. They both work well.
- line level
- three or five meter tape with a lock
- dustpan (heavy duty rubber is better than metal) or plastic feed scoop
- clipboard, preferably with a folding cover
- a couple of different sizes of soft paintbrushes
- cane, bamboo, or plastic clay modeling tools, or orange sticks (guys: orange sticks are used in manicures and you can get them in beauty supply stores). NO DENTAL PICKS ALLOWED, EVER.
- a water bottle
- bandaids
- gloves
- knee pads, a gardening pad, or carpet squares

All of these are usually easy to find, although you may have to call around for the meter tape. 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 or welded on as a separate piece). 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. Feed scoops are really good for getting sediment out of small spaces.