

Archaeological Field School

RELI/ARCH 122

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Course Description

An archaeological field school is more of an experience than a “course.” Learning archaeological method and technique requires a hands-on approach that you can only get in the field. In order to teach you how archaeologists excavate and why we do what we do, we’ll bring you into the field on a daily basis for six weeks to see exactly how field archaeology works. In addition, you will learn all about the record-keeping, data analysis, and laboratory techniques by working one-on-one with our excavation specialists and staff. In the evenings, twice a week, we will have lectures in order to help explain and instruct in a classroom setting. While some courses will focus on archaeological methodology (both at our site, and in general), others will deal more specifically with local archaeological sites and periods. This will enable you to have a basic background of the sites we visit on the weekend..

Course Objectives

1. To teach basic archaeological method, including excavation techniques and interpretation.
2. To introduce the archaeology and history of the region in which we are digging.
3. To give an overview of the history of archaeology in the Near East.
4. To try to recruit and train future archaeologists!

Textbook

1. Suzanne Richard, ed. *Near Eastern Archaeology: A Reader* (Eisenbrauns, 2003)—this should be purchased *prior* to coming on the dig.

Course Requirements

Evening Lectures: Twice per week there will be a lecture given by either one of the staff members or a visiting specialist. I expect everyone to be at all evening lectures. If you miss one for whatever reason, it is your responsibility to get the notes from a classmate. I don’t take attendance, but since at least 50% of the exam material covers the information given in lecture, I suspect that habitual absenteeism will be reflected in grades.

Field Participation: Each student is expected to be in the field *everyday* unless excused. Obviously, I will excuse any sort of sickness, so long as you come and see me.

(Hangovers will not qualify as a legitimate “sickness”!) Your field participation grade will be determined in consultation with your trench supervisor.

Lab Work: Everyone is required to take part in afternoon lab work at least twice per week. This may consist of a variety of duties, including pottery sorting/reading, data entry, object analysis, and assisting your supervisor in various tasks. The bad news is that you will probably have to stay a little later than everyone else, the good news is that it will get you out of pottery washing. Your lab participation grade will be determined in consultation with your trench supervisor.

Field Journal: Every student will be required to keep a field journal. The purpose of the field journal is to record the day’s events, findings, and speculations. It is *not* a personal diary. After week two, you will turn in your journal to your supervisor for critique and advice, and then again at the end of the season to be graded. Your supervisor will instruct you on how to write in and maintain a proper archaeological field journal. Your field journal grade will be determined in consultation with your trench supervisor.

Trench Presentation: At the end of every other week, we will conduct trench tours. The purpose is to let everyone know what is going on in others’ trenches throughout the excavation. Every student will be required to present his or her trench to the group at least once during the course of the season. Your trench supervisor will assist you in preparing for this.

Final Exam: The final exam will be given during the last week of the excavation and will cover all material from lectures and reading. We will discuss the format as we approach the final week of the season.

Term Paper: The term paper will be written after you return home. The assignment is to write an 8-12 page paper on one of the following topics: (a) one of the sites we visited and you found interesting; (b) another site we did not visit, but in which you are interested; or (c) some aspect of field excavation (e.g. methodology, surveying, field technique, etc.). You must clear your topic with the instructor before the final exam. Failure to do so will result in a full-letter grade penalty. The paper will be due on August 31. A full letter grade will be dropped for each day it is late. If you will not have access to your home institution’s library during the summer, please come see me so we can arrange a more suitable due date. For more information, see the “Term Paper Guidelines” hand-out.

Honor Code: All students are required to uphold the University Honor Code. Students in violation of the Honor Code will be dealt with mercilessly.

Grading

Final Grade is determined by:

Field Participation	10 %
Lab Work	10 %
Field Journals	25 %
Trench Presentation	15 %
Final Exam	25 %

Grading Scale: Letter grades for all assignments and the course are translated as follows:

- A Congratulations! You deserve a pat on the back for truly going out of your way to get the most out of this class. Your work was impressive and you showed a deep understanding of the course material.
- B Good job. You completed all the assignments satisfactorily, and in some cases exceeded the minimum. In addition, you showed a solid interest for the material, however there was probably more you could have done to show independent thinking.
- C You completed all the assignments, but you did not go beyond the bare minimum. You did not show any real interest in the material, however made a reasonable attempt to pass the class.
- D You pass the course, but your performance was unsatisfactory. Little effort was demonstrated in the assignments, and you showed no interest in learning anything useful here.
- F Congratulations! You deserve a pat on the back for truly going out of your way to get the least out of this class. Your work was virtually non-existent and you showed no interest in the course whatsoever.

Lecture Schedule

The topics are subject to change and the lecturers for each of these are to be determined.

Lecture 1	Introduction: Stratigraphy and Record-keeping
Lecture 2	History of Archaeology in the Near East and Bronze Age Archaeology
Lecture 3	Iron Age Archaeology and the Use of Textual Sources
Lecture 4	New Empires: Persians and Greeks
Lecture 5	Survey and Archaeological Theory
Lecture 6	Conservation and Materials Archaeology
Lecture 7	Hellenistic and Early Roman Archaeology
Lecture 8	Late Roman to Byzantine Archaeology
Lecture 9	Numismatics
Lecture 10	Faunal Remains in Archaeology

Lecture 11

Late Antiquity and the Medieval Archaeology

Exam

90 minutes: Slide ID's and Essay Questions