

PRELIMINARY SYLLABUS

Hamilton College Archaeological Field School
Slocan Narrows Archaeological Project (SNAP)

Arch 281/282

June 18th – July 29th 2011 (Travel days June 17th-July 30th)

Staff

Principal Investigator and Instructor: Nathan Goodale, Professor

Co-Principal Investigator and Instructor: Alissa Nauman, Adjunct Instructor

Teaching Assistant: Erica Kowsz '11

Teaching Assistant: Lisa Smith (PhD Candidate, University of Montana)

Course Description

This is a field methods class held in a remote location, requiring students to learn to live and work together as a group while they learn field methods and contribute to the success of a long-term archaeological research project. All students are expected to do their share of camp chores as part of their participation in this class.

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, taking good field notes and completing site forms, doing lab work when required, going on field trips, attending lectures, taking part in discussions, doing some independent reading, and completing camp chores. Instructors and Teaching Assistants will evaluate student performance on a weekly basis. The camp will have a small reference 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 reference collection are most relevant to their topic.

There will also be a short project and a final practical exam in applying what you have learned about field methods. Grades will be based on:

Participation: 50%

Field Notes & Forms: 20%

Field Practical: 20%

Project: 10%

The *Field Practical* will formally evaluate your abilities to carry out field procedures that you will be practicing all season long, such as laying out a grid square, field identification of artifacts, EDM setup, and other field procedures.

Expectations for the field project will be fully outlined upon commencement of the course.

Course Objectives and Coverage

The primary objective of the course is to provide students with instruction and practical experience in basic methods and techniques of archaeological fieldwork. The experience is gained in the context of a long-term research project designed to produce specimens, records, and data that will support further laboratory analysis and eventual publication of research results. Students thus will be making important contributions to the research while they are learning basic field methods. Through discussions and practical applications, students will develop a thorough understanding of how their work in the field relates to the overall research design of the Slocan Narrows Archaeological Project.

The field, laboratory and classroom objectives covered in the course include:

- site gridding
- triangulation techniques
- EDM set up and use (total station)
- floor plan mapping
- wall profile mapping
- feature excavation
- square excavation
- completion and processing of level forms
- completion and processing of feature forms
- collection and processing of soil samples
- collection and processing of radiocarbon samples
- GPS mapping
- map and compass work
- UTM mapping
- processing of site forms
- production of site maps
- artifact identification
- exposure to regional cultural history
- exposure to Salish language
- community outreach/ public archaeology
- indigenous consultation

Camp Life and Logistics

The summer season is a total of 6 weeks with a number of 1-2 day breaks; see the attached schedule for details. Everyone is required to be present and participate from June 18 through July 29. During breaks we will have scheduled trips to Nelson and/or Castlegar for food shopping and other needs. Travel to these locations (and possibly others) will be available during breaks; conversely, there are plenty of things to enjoy at or near camp during days off.

Students will be responsible for getting themselves to Spokane, Washington on June 17th where they will stay the night at a current Hamilton student's (and previous field school members) home. Her parents have been gracious in helping us out and this makes a great place for a meeting point. The

instructors will be arriving around lunch time on June 18th to pick you up. We will then drive up to our camp which is about 5 hours away. Students will be returned to Spokane July 29th and will be free to depart on the 30th.

Our field camp is located in a semi-camp setting at the Mon Amie property a couple kilometers south of the site. The property contains several buildings including three of which we will use. First is a small bunk house with bedrooms used by the instructors and teaching assistants, a bathroom, and a kitchen. Our meals will be prepared in the kitchen and outside on a grill. The bunkhouse bathroom will be shared by all of us; although there is a second toilet and running water in an outhouse sized structure near the bunkhouse. Bathroom showers will be on a rotational schedule, where each person will have the opportunity to bathe every 3-4 days. The property is located on the Slocan River so you can rinse off in the river after we get back from work. Make sure to bring your bathing suit. The third building is a large 5,000 square foot unfinished house. This structure is student housing and provides a great place to set up tents. You will need to make sure that your tent is free standing (that it does not require stakes to hold it up). Some students choose to set their tents up outside. There are places for this, however; you must be aware that there are bears in the area. If you set up your tent outside you must NEVER bring food into the tent or anything that could smell like food (i.e. toothpaste). We bring our large dog and usually bears will not come around if they smell a dog and we have never had a problem. However, we always want to be cautious.

Students will be paired into teams and rotate between daily camp chore and meal preparation responsibilities. Food is a very important aspect to an archaeology project and a well fed crew is more likely to be a happy crew. So think about recipes for your favorite foods. We will accommodate dietary restrictions for allergies and for those who are vegetarian. We have a grill dedicated to vegetables. Pickiness on the other hand will not be tolerated and you are responsible for eating the caloric needs to keep you going through class time. That said, we will be soliciting suggestions from you so that we buy food you like. You will be provided three meals a day with snack foods to go into your backpack to eat throughout the day.

Given that we will be living in a remote location it is vital that students are open with the instructors concerning any problem. You may have to come and tell us more than that you are just feeling ill but specifically what is wrong with you. Professor Goodale is trained in general CPR and first aid and has served as the camp medical person for three projects on three different continents. The take away message here is that you cannot be shy or embarrassed if something is going wrong with your health. In case something is wrong we will need to discuss the specifics that you may not be accustomed to talking about with your professors.

Archaeological projects are often in remote locations where you have to get outside of your comfort zone in a number of ways. During the six weeks you will have no cell phone access so you will want to tell your friends and family that you will not be able to check text messages or voice mail during most of that time. This is not because we prohibit cell phones, but because the town has actually

outlawed cell phone towers in the Slocan Valley. There is a telephone at the place where we stay and we will provide that phone number to you so that in the event of an emergency your family will be able to get a hold of you. This, however; will only be available in the event of an emergency. Twice a week you will have 30 minutes of internet access to catch up on email. We will bring a project laptop for you to use and Skype will be available. Personal laptops are prohibited at camp. You will want to buy an international phone card in the event you need to call home. On some weekends you will have the opportunity to go into Nelson where you will likely have cell phone access (I'm not sure what carriers work there but my AT&T phone works there). You can use that time to call family and friends.

Additional Information

The Slocan Narrows Housepit Village

DkQi 1,2, and 17, otherwise known as the Slocan Narrows Pithouse Village is located in southeastern British Columbia near the town of Slocan in the northern Rocky Mountains. The site contains a little over forty pithouses which are some of the largest in the interior Pacific Northwest. Professor Goodale has been working there since 2000 when he did his first season of research there for his M.A. thesis. Field Director Alissa Nauman has been working there since 2004 and Teaching Assistant Erica Kowsz has been working there since 2009 when the Hamilton College Field course was offered there for the first time.

Excavation

We will be spending about 2/3 (nearly four weeks) excavating at the Slocan Narrows Pithouse Village. The focus of the project this year is to obtain charcoal to radiocarbon date houses in the village. Our research question right now is concerned with examining the paleodemography, or how big the village was at any given time. We will be specifically focusing on the north end of DkQi-17 where we have not worked in the past. I want to prepare you right now that in areas where we are likely to find datable materials are not in a place where we will be finding a lot of artifacts. To circumvent this we will be inviting some local collectors over to show you their collections.

The Sinixt Nation

The Sinixt Nation is the indigenous group that calls the Upper Columbia drainage their ancestral territory. We may have the opportunity to do some learning from them on traditional lifeways. They have a very interesting story to their past and we will be learning about that during the course. We will likely be able to visit the site of Vallican where the Sinixt have constructed a pithouse and we will hopefully get a tour around the site and a traditional story told by Marilyn James, the spokesperson for the Sinixt.

Salish Language Course

During the end of June we will be in a five day Salish language course taught by the Spokane Salish Language School. Salish is the language that the indigenous peoples of the Pacific Northwest speak. It is an intensive course and I think it will be a very nice addition to the field school. During this time Leora Bar-el a professor at the University of Montana will join us. Professor Bar-el is a linguistic anthropologist who works with Salish and is a colleague on a related project.

Mid-Fraser Field Trip

We will be taking a five day field trip to the Mid-Fraser Valley to visit archaeological sites. We will be getting tours of Keatley Creek, Bridge River and the Bobo sites. Both Professor Goodale and T.A. Lisa have worked in this region and Lisa is currently working at Bridge River and doing her PhD on the Bobo site. During this time we will hopefully also be participating in a traditional salmon catch and feast with the Bridge River Band. On the way back to Slocan we will stop at the Seqwepmec Cultural Center where they have amazing exhibits and reconstructed pithouses.

THINGS YOU WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR BRINGING

Equipment List

Tent (2-4 person tent-don't bring a huge one)
Sleeping bag (one that is rated to zero degrees)
Sleeping pad (thermal rest-don't go skimpy, you will be sleeping on this for 6 weeks so get a good one)
Running shoes or hiking boots
Sport Sandals
Cold weather clothes (think layers)
Warm Weather clothes (shorts, t-shirts)
Rain jacket and rain pants
2 pairs of work pants/shorts
Socks
Swim suit
Sunglasses
Brimmed hat (baseball or wide brimmed for folks sensitive to sun) or bandana
Water Bottle
Sun tan lotion
Mosquito repellent (we will supply mosquito repellent but it is good to have your own)
Camera
Day Pack

Toiletries (we will supply the basics like toilet paper and a well stocked first aid kit)

Toiletry bag
Tooth brush
Toothpaste
Soap
Shampoo
Towel
Any other personal items you may need for the 6 weeks
Medication you regularly need
Allergy medicine

Dig Kit

Tool box
Trowel
Metric tape measure
Line level
Plumb Bob/Betty
Clip board
Pencil
Sharpie Marker
Work gloves
Fine small paint brush
Silva Ranger Compass

Things that are not permitted

Laptop computers

Tentative 2011 Course Schedule

When: June 18th-July 29th, 2011

Where: Slocan Valley, British Columbia, Canada

2011 Schedule

June 17	Students arrive in Spokane, Washington and stay at the Cohen's place
June 18	Goodale, Nauman, Kowsz pick up students and travel to Mon Amie, Camp set up
June 19	Organizational meeting, camp set up, Nelson grocery shopping, site tour
June 20	Paperwork overview, site vegetation clean up, laying out grid, start excavation
June 21-24	Excavation
June 25-26	<i>Project days off Nelson trip</i>
June 27-July 1	Intensive Salish Language course taught through the Spokane Salish Language School
July 2-3	<i>Project days off, Nelson trip</i>
July 4-8	Excavation
July 9	<i>Project day off</i>
July 10	Preparing (site and camp) for field trip to the Mid-Fraser
July 11	Travel to Mid-Fraser; Staying in Lillooet, British Columbia
July 12-13	Tour of Keatley Creek, Bridge River, and Bobo site Traditional salmon dinner with the Bridge River Band
July 14	Travel to Seqwepemc Cultural Education Society stay in Kamloops
July 15	Travel back to Slocan
July 16-17	<i>Project days off</i>
July 18-22	Excavation, preparation for public events
July 23	Dress rehearsal for public event
July 24	Public education event sponsored by the Slocan Rail Trail Society
July 25-26	Excavation, Practicum
July 27	Wrap up excavation, profiling and backfill
July 28	Clean and pack up camp
July 29	Travel back to Spokane, WA and stay at the Cohen's place
July 30	Depart Spokane

** Apart from arrival and departure dates, itinerary may be subject to change due to unforeseen circumstances (i.e. weather) and/or opportunities. Additional evening lectures and community outreach events will be added to the itinerary.*