

2016 University of Calgary Archaeology Field School

The University of Calgary Archaeology Field School is centred on the Canadian National Historic site of Cluny Fortified Village: the only known precontact fortified village on the Canadian Plains. This important and unique site represents a point of contact between people from horticultural areas to the southeast and the indigenous hunter-gatherers of southern Alberta. Exploration of the dynamic relationship between Canadian Plains hunter-gatherers and southern village peoples is a fascinating archaeological project that has resulted in important new insights.

Cluny Fortified Village is located in Blackfoot Crossing Historical Park, located on and operated by the Siksika First Nation. Our work there directly involves the Siksika Nation and is part of their ongoing interpretive and educational programming at the park. Students will have the opportunity to work with First Nations members during the excavations.

The field school also operated in conjunction with the University of Calgary Program for Public Archaeology. Members of the general public join our excavations, working directly with students and staff while bringing their own perspectives and unique energy to the project.

TEXTS

There are no required textbooks

ATTENDANCE

Archaeological excavation instruction and practice is a team effort; absence from class negatively affects the work of the remaining students, who must do the work of the absent students in addition to their own. Class attendance is therefore required. Absence from class without proper documentation will be penalized with 5% grade reductions in both the field work and field notes components for each day of absence.

TRAVEL AND LOGISTICS

A van will provide return transportation from the Field School Lab entrance at Science Theatres (students will be shown the location on the first day of classes at the University of Calgary) to the Cluny Fortified Village site (EePf-1). The site is east of Calgary near the village of Cluny, Alberta, in Blackfoot Crossing Historic Park at the Siksika (Blackfoot) Nation. Students must bring their own drinks, food including a lunch, and snacks as there are no stores or other facilities at the site. The class is primarily an outdoor activity and students must be prepared to take care of themselves in the field. Sunscreen, effective insect repellent, hats, work gloves, and clothing appropriate to current and anticipated weather conditions must be brought to the site by each student.

While working at the Cluny site, class hours will be from 8:30 A.M. to 5:30 P.M. Monday through Thursday, weather permitting. Fridays will generally be on-campus class days although students must be prepared to allow weather and other contingencies to alter that general occurrence. These times do not include travel time and students must consider travel time in their planning. Students requiring transportation must be at the meeting place by 7:00 AM.

Field school students will participate directly in this ongoing project in two classes:

ARCHAEOLOGY 306
FIELD COURSE IN ARCHAEOLOGICAL TECHNIQUES
Spring 2016
09 May–22 June

Instructors:	Dale Walde	Margie Patton
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Lecture/Practical: MTWRF (9 hours per day, plus travel time, 5 days/week)

PLEASE NOTE: As this is an off-campus course, we will have classes during the Humanities Congress May 26th – June 5th. We will NOT take any time off during this period. The course will run straight through and the last day of the course will be June 22, 2016. The only day off (besides weekends) during the course is Victoria Day, May 23rd, 2016.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Students will gain experience in all aspects of archaeological excavation. Archaeological excavation is a team effort and students will work in teams as they practice site excavation techniques; land navigation using map, compass, and global positioning instruments; total station data recording and mapping; excavation photography; planview and profile recording; note taking and form recording; artifact and sediment processing; and cataloguing of artifacts.

****Archaeology 306 is a 1.0 full course credit but only counts as 0.5 full-course equivalents for the Archaeological Techniques portion of the Major-Field requirements****

****A mandatory course supplementary fee of \$500.00 is charged for this course****

Lecture topics: (1) excavation techniques; (2) general site recording; (3) journal note-taking, floor plans, and site photography; (4) soils, sediments, stratigraphy, and profile drawing; (5) basic lithic, ceramic, zooarchaeological, paleoethnobotanical, and residue collection and analysis; (6) cataloguing; (7) basic Alberta archaeological history; (8) basic mapping and simple topographic mapping.

GRADING:

Midterm Exam.....	25%	Field Notes.....	15%
Skills Tests.....	10%	Spreadsheet Catalogue.....	10%
Field Work.....	40%		

No single component of the course must be passed to pass the course.

GRADING SCHEME

A/A+	87-100%	C	63-66%
A-	83-86%	C-	59-62%
B+	79-82%	D+	55-58%
B	75-78%	D	50-54%
B-	71-74%	F	<50%
C+	67-70%		