

**2017 Field School in Maya Archaeology  
Texas Tech University**

**Regular Session: May 29 to June 26, 2017  
Mini-Session: June 28 to July 11, 2017**

**Preliminary Information**

**Updated September 13, 2016**

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**For The Most Recent Information and to Apply Please Visit:**

<http://www.depts.ttu.edu/sasw/Anthropology/Belize.php>

**Background on the Program**

In 2017, the Field School in Maya Archaeology will be held at Chan Chich, Belize in association with the Chan Chich Archaeological Project (CCAP). The CCAP represents a truly special opportunity for college students to participate in a significant research project, while receiving instruction in archaeological field and laboratory methods. Rather than a typical study abroad trip, the Field School in Maya Archaeology and the CCAP represent Research Abroad! This year, students have the option of enrolling in a four-week regular session, a two-week mini-session, or both. Students will have the opportunity to learn how to excavate, how to draw profiles and plan maps, how to record archaeological data, and how to process and analyze artifacts in the lab. Each session is limited to nine students.

**About Chan Chich**

Chan Chich is a medium-sized Maya city in northwestern Belize, very near the border with Guatemala. The area was first settled as a small village during the Middle Preclassic period (1000 to 250 BC) and occupied until the Terminal Classic period, ca. AD 850). Most of the visible architecture dates to the Late Classic period (AD 600–850). In the late 1980s, Gallon Jug Ranch was established on 130,000 acres of jungle, including the site of Chan Chich. Chan Chich Lodge was built in the Main Plaza at the site shortly after that. While some may see that as a negative impact to the ruins, the construction of the lodge and the return of legitimate economic activity to the area put an end to the illegal looting that had been going on at Chan Chich and the nearby archaeological sites for several years.

For the latest information on the CCAP and to learn more about the site, please visit:

<http://www.depts.ttu.edu/sasw/Research/CCAP.php>



*Main road entering Chan Chich Lodge and the main plaza of the archaeological site.*

### **Chan Chich Archaeological Project Research Plans**

Preliminary plans for the 2017 season call for students to work at two three of Chan Chich.

***Upper Plaza:*** In the Upper Plaza, which is the royal acropolis at the site, we will focus excavations on buried architecture in the northern part of the plaza and continue to refine the chronological sequence. The excavations will build off of exciting discoveries made during the 2016 season.

***Norman's Temple:*** At Norman's Temple, we will also be building off discoveries we made in 2016. We will be exposing more of a collapsed room on an elite palace to look for ancient Maya graffiti. We will also be exposing more of a dense artifact deposit on the surface the courtyard that appears to be related to the abandonment of the group.

***Household Archaeology:*** Our third excavation goal will be to investigate residential structures in the eastern part of the site core. We will target a small courtyard and nearby mounds to study domestic craft specialization and domestic architecture.

### **Archaeology is Hard Work!**

Archaeology is fun and exciting, but it is also physically challenging work in difficult conditions. Survey involves hiking through the forest, wearing snake guards, and carrying

a heavy backpack. Excavations involve lifting heavy objects, as well as using picks and shovels. Everything we do is in a tropical climate with high heat (often over 90 degrees) and high humidity (often over 70 percent). We sometimes have to work in the sun and other times in the rain. There are bugs, snakes, bats, scorpions, and poisonous plants.

### **To Apply**

If you want to participate on the Field School in Maya Archaeology, you must first complete the application form, which is available on the web page listed above. Students who are accepted to the program will then need to complete an online application form at the Study Abroad website.

There is a two-part application process for the field school. First, fill out a field school application form and mail or email it to Dr. Houk. **Non-TTU applicants must also send a \$200 check to cover the Study Abroad application fee.** This is a down payment that is refundable up until the application deadline and if you are denied admission. See the application form for more information. Applications are reviewed in batches at the end of each month. **Applications are not considered complete (and thus reviewable) until your references have been received and, if you are a non-TTU student, your application fee has been received.** Applying early greatly increases your chance of being accepted to the program. The final application deadline is **January 31, 2017.**

All applications for the program go through a review process. Acceptance to a study abroad program is based on this review, fulfillment of GPA and academic requirements, and approval by the program sponsor.

### **Why Choose This Field School?**

There are plenty of field schools each summer in Belize, and they all offer unique experiences. It is up to each student to find the program that best fits his or her interests and expectations. When considering different programs, please keep in mind these features of the FSMA at Chan Chich:

- **Experience:** The 2017 season will be the eleventh consecutive summer for the FSMA and the eleventh season of the CCAP. The program director, Dr. Brett A. Houk, has directed 15 summer field schools and has over 23 years of archaeological experience in northwestern Belize. The project staff includes supervisors with up to seven seasons each of experience in Belize.
- **Group Size:** The FSMA is limited to nine students and a small professional staff. The total group size will be about 20 people. This means students get individual attention from the staff and project director.
- **Research:** Students on the FSMA actively contribute to significant research on the Maya. The CCAP uses a digital database system and employs Structure from Motion mapping techniques, which the students will get to observe and try. In 2017, research will contribute to international presentations and publications.
- **Safety:** Chan Chich Lodge is remote, but that is how we like it! Many field schools stay in or near modern towns, but such situations expose students to an entirely different array of dangers (from crime, traffic, unclean water, improperly

handled food, etc.). Many projects have to drive on public streets to get to their excavation site each day, but our ruins are literally right outside the door. We can safely walk to work. The lodge offers a crime-free setting, purified drinking water, and professionally prepared meals.

- **Comfort:** Chan Chich Lodge offers 24-hour electricity, hot and cold water, purified drinking water, cell phone coverage, and Wi-Fi (slow and only most of the time). Our students have access to a swimming pool, hot tub, and cozy bar. The food is exceptional, and the lodge can accommodate vegetarians and people with celiac disease.
- **Chan Chich Lodge:** The real selling point for the project is the lodge. The staff includes the friendliest people you will meet anywhere, and the facilities are top-notch. The lodge is so special that it is listed in the book *1,000 Places to See Before You Die*.

### Estimated Cost

The cost of the program is estimated as follows:

#### Regular Session

Tuition*:	~\$1,850 for 6 hours.
Program Fee:	\$2,650
Airfare**:	~\$500
Insurance:	~\$40
Study Abroad Application Fee:	\$200
Spending Money (CASH):	\$300
Total:	~\$5,540

#### Mini-Session

Tuition*:	~\$1,000 for 3 hours.
Program Fee:	\$1,325
Airfare**:	~\$500
Insurance:	~\$20
Study Abroad Application Fee:	\$200
Spending Money (CASH):	\$300
Total	:~\$3,345

#### Both Sessions Combined

Tuition*:	~\$1,850 for 6 hours.
Program Fee:	\$3,750
Airfare**:	~\$500
Insurance:	~\$60
Study Abroad Application Fee:	\$200
Spending Money (CASH):	\$300
Passport Extension:	\$25
2-night Break***:	~\$200
Total:	~\$6,885

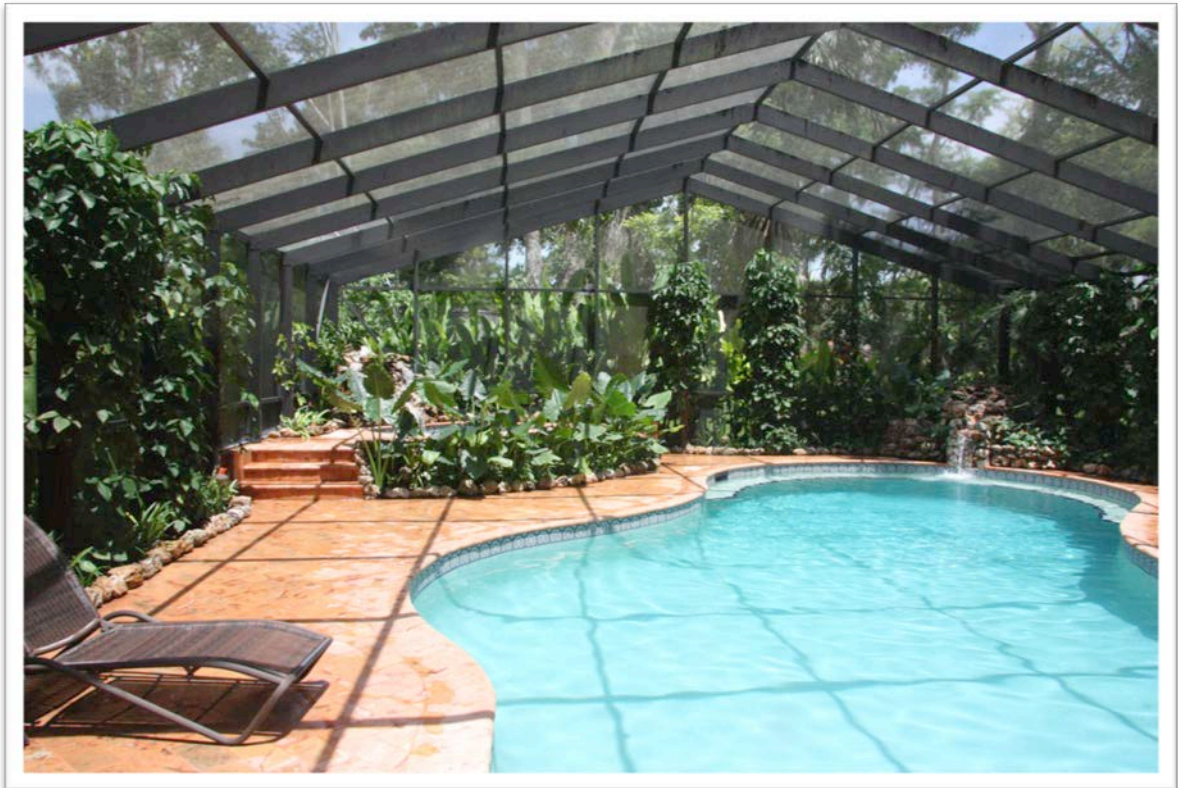
\*Tuition estimate is for in-state tuition and fees at Texas Tech University. All students at universities in Texas are required to register for credit at Texas Tech. Students from other universities should see the information packet for additional information on credit.

\*\*Students purchase their own airfare and make their own travel arrangements to the Belize international airport.

\*\*\*Students doing both sessions will be responsible for the costs associated with a break between sessions.

The Study Abroad program cost includes the following:

- All student transportation in Belize once the project begins until it ends
- A day trip to visit a restored archaeological site, admission fee included (regular session only)
- A day trip to visit [Actun Tunichil Muknal](#) cave
- Lodging at Chan Chich Lodge (students will share a cabana with other students)
- Three meals/day while at the lodge
- Laundry, done once per week by the lodge staff



*The screened pool at Chan Chich Lodge.*

**Passport Information**

If you don't already have one, you should apply for a passport immediately. THERE ARE CURRENTLY SIGNIFICANT DELAYS IN PROCESSING PASSPORT APPLICATIONS, SO PLEASE APPLY FOR ONE NOW JUST IN CASE YOU DECIDE TO GO ON THE TRIP. The process is not difficult. Visit the US Department of State website for more information. You will need two passport photos of yourself, and you can get those taken at the International Culture Center (ICC) here at Texas Tech for only \$6. You will need to take your application and photos to the new passport office on campus at the ICC.

**Insurance Information**

More information about insurance is available from Study Abroad.

**Receiving Credit for the Program**

Students attending Texas Tech or another university in Texas are required to enroll in ANTH 4642, Field Archaeology, for the 28-day regular session and ANTH 4000, Independent Study, for the 14-day mini-session. The syllabi for the courses are available on the field school website.

Students at other universities in Texas can easily be admitted to Texas Tech for the summer and enroll in the course. Students at universities outside of Texas may speak with their academic advisor about enrolling in a comparable course at their home institution to receive credit, but are encouraged to enroll at Texas Tech. In reviewing applications, preference is given to applicants who plan to enroll for credit at Texas Tech.

**Description of the Accommodations**

Students will be housed in the "casitas" and cabanas at Chan Chich Lodge, a remote jungle resort. More information about the lodge is available on their web site: [www.chanchich.com](http://www.chanchich.com). The lodge has a restaurant, bar, swimming pool, wireless internet, 24-hour electricity, and cell phone coverage for AT&T phones. There is no TV at the lodge.

The program includes three meals per day while at the lodge, and there is a full-service bar. Students will be able to use the swimming pool and walking trails. Other activities, including horseback riding, guided jungle tours, mountain bike riding, canoeing, etc. can be arranged through the lodge, but are not included in the cost of the program.



*The Looter's Trench bar at Chan Chich Lodge.*

**A Typical Field Day (Tentative Schedule)**

6:30	Breakfast
7:00	Depart for field (with lunch if on the Colonial crew)
12:00 to 12:30	Lunch
3:30	End of field or lab work for the day
6:30	Dinner
7:30	Lectures (when scheduled), otherwise evening free
9:30	Quiet time
10:00	Lights out* (bar and pool closed to students; no talking in lodge)

\*The bar closes at 10:00 and, because we are sharing the lodge with regular guests (who are paying a LOT more to be there), our group will have lights out at 10:00 each night. Most guests at the lodge are there for the bird watching and the solitude offered by the lodge's location. Complaints by paying guests about student behavior affect the ability of the project to continue and will be taken very seriously. Complaints will directly affect the conduct/participation portion of the offending student(s) grade.

**Tentative Program Schedule for Regular Session**

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Monday</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>	<b>Saturday</b>
	<u>May 29</u> Begin Field School (see notes below)	<u>May 30</u> Orientation day with tour of Chan Chich.	<u>May 31</u> First day in the field (see Typical Field Day schedule).	<u>June 01</u> Regular field and lab schedule.	<u>June 02</u> Regular field and lab schedule.	<u>June 03</u> Regular field and lab schedule.
<u>June 04</u> Regular field and lab schedule.	<u>June 05</u> Regular field and lab schedule.	<u>June 06</u> Day off for everyone. Optional trips through CCL.	<u>June 07</u> Regular field and lab schedule.	<u>June 08</u> Regular field and lab schedule.	<u>June 09</u> Regular field and lab schedule.	<u>June 10</u> Regular field and lab schedule.
<u>June 11</u> Regular field and lab schedule.	<u>June 12</u> Half-day in the field, with afternoon free.	<u>June 13</u> Day off for everyone. Optional trips through CCL.	<u>June 14</u> Regular field and lab schedule.	<u>June 15</u> Regular field and lab schedule.	<u>June 16</u> Regular field and lab schedule.	<u>June 17</u> Regular field and lab schedule.
<u>June 18</u> Regular field and lab schedule.	<u>June 19</u> Half-day in the field, with afternoon free.	<u>June 20</u> Day off for everyone. Optional trips through CCL.	<u>June 21</u> Regular field and lab schedule.	<u>June 22</u> Regular field and lab schedule.	<u>June 23</u> Regular field and lab schedule.	<u>June 24</u> Regular field and lab schedule.
<u>June 25</u> Packing day, exam	<u>June 26</u> Students depart CCL	<u>June 27</u>	<u>June 28</u> Tourist Visas expire	<u>June 29</u>	<u>June 30</u>	<u>June 25</u>

**May 29** You are responsible for your own travel to and from Belize. You must be at the airport in Belize City. Group assembles at Goldson International Airport (Belize City). Once everyone has arrived, we will travel by van to Chan Chich Lodge (3 hour ride).

**June 26** We will depart Chan Chich Lodge after breakfast to go to the international airport. Because you must check in for your flight 2 hours prior to departure, **please book an afternoon flight to allow enough time to get to the airport from the lodge.**



**Tentative Program Schedule for Mini-Session**

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Monday</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>	<b>Saturday</b>
<u>June 25</u>	<u>June 26</u>	<u>June 27</u>	<u>June 28</u> Begin Mini-Session (see notes below)	<u>June 29</u> Orientation day with tour of Chan Chich.	<u>June 30</u> First day in the field (see Typical Field Day schedule).	<u>June 01</u> Regular field and lab schedule.
<u>July 03</u> Regular field and lab schedule.	<u>July 03</u> Half-day in the field, with afternoon free.	<u>July 04</u> Day off for everyone. Optional trip to ATM.	<u>July 05</u> Regular field and lab schedule.	<u>July 06</u> Regular field and lab schedule.	<u>July 07</u> Regular field and lab schedule.	<u>July 08</u> Regular field and lab schedule.
<u>July 09</u> Regular field and lab schedule.	<u>July 10</u> Regular field and lab schedule.	<u>July 11</u> Half-day in the field, with afternoon free.	<u>July 12</u> Students depart CCL	<u>July 13</u>	<u>July 14</u>	<u>July 15</u>

**June 28** You are responsible for your own travel to and from Belize. You must be at the airport in Belize City. Group assembles at Goldson International Airport (Belize City). Once everyone has arrived, we will travel by van to Chan Chich Lodge (3 hour ride).

**July 12** We will depart Chan Chich Lodge after breakfast to go to the international airport. Because you must check in for your flight 2 hours prior to departure, **please book an afternoon flight to allow enough time to get to the airport from the lodge.**