

**ANTH 4642:260 Field Archaeology**  
**Field School in Maya Archaeology, Summer 1, 2019**

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**Instructor:** Dr. Brett A. Houk  
**Office:** Holden Hall, Room 277  
**Office Hours:** On call pretty much full time in the field.  
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\*\*\* This course syllabus is subject to change! It should be considered flexible; modifications in dates and topics may be necessary as the program progresses. \*\*\*

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**Course Purpose:**

The purpose of this course is expose students to a wide range of archaeological techniques in a field setting. Students get hands-on experience in excavating, recording archaeological excavations, and basic laboratory methods.

**Course Description:**

This is a 6 credit-hour course designed to introduce students to the methods used to collect and analyze archaeological data in a hands-on field setting. The course will take place over the span of 4 weeks at an archaeological field camp in Belize, Central America. Students will receive instruction in archaeological survey, archaeological excavations, plan mapping/profiling excavation units, and basic field laboratory procedures. In addition, students will have the opportunity to learn a great deal about the Prehispanic Maya through lectures and field trips.

**Readings:**

<i>Ancient Maya Cities of the Eastern Lowlands</i> by Brett A. Houk University Press of Florida, 2015 (Optional)	<i>The Chan Chich Archaeological Project Field Manual</i> by Brett A. Houk and Gregory Zaro Supplied by the instructor
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Selection of articles and chapters related to Chan Chich are available for download.

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**Expected Learning Outcome:**

At the completion of the course, students are expected to be able to:

<b>Outcome</b>	<b>Assessment Method</b>
Document cultural and natural features during survey	Direct observation, questioning, field journal.
Demonstrate a grasp of mapping procedures	Direct observation, questioning, field maps produced, and exam.
Lay out and excavate an archaeological unit	Direct observation and questioning.
Understand archaeological provenience methods	Direct observation, questioning, and exam.
Record materials associated with an excavation unit	Direct observation, inspection of field forms, field journal.
Describe natural and cultural impacts on artifact, ecofact, and feature preservation.	Direct observation, inspection of field forms, field journal.
Process, inventory, and conduct a preliminary analysis on artifacts in the lab	Direct observation and field journal.
Function as an integral part of a larger research project	Direct observation and discussion.

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## Course Requirements and Grading Procedures

The grade in this course will be determined by each student's demonstrated ability to perform basic and more advanced procedures in three facets of archeological fieldwork, including mapping/profiling, excavation, and laboratory procedures. A portion of the grade will be based on the quality of field notes the students maintain in a daily journal, as well as their participation in camp duties and overall conduct.

Mapping/profiling evaluation will assess each student's ability to draw plan maps, profiles, and elevation drawings of excavation units and exposed architecture. The assessment will be based on accuracy as well as neatness, proper use of scale, proper labeling of drawings, etc.

Excavation evaluation will focus on the student's ability to lay out an excavation unit, dig and screen soil matrix, recognize changes in the matrix, and properly manage paperwork and artifact recovery, and photograph features as they are uncovered in the field. Each student will be assessed on their ability to coordinate and maintain track of these things, as well as demonstrate a conceptual understanding of the modified Harris Matrix recording system employed by the project. This will be covered in lectures and demonstrations.

Laboratory procedures will address each student's ability to process and record artifacts and samples in the lab. This includes the processing and recording of ceramic and lithic artifacts, as well as any bone, botanical, or Carbon 14 samples. Students may also be called upon to participate in flotation and dry screen analyses, or on other projects that may be underway in the lab (e.g., ceramic refit/reassembly, soil cores, photography, drawing, etc.). Specific lab tasks vary; tasks will be assigned after arriving in camp.

The student daily journal will consist of field notes, which will detail the techniques used and observations about the artifacts and features encountered. Students may also ask questions in their notes about why things are being done the way they are; they are also encouraged to make their own interpretations. As archaeological excavation is a destructive process, the accurate recording of fieldwork is an essential part of this field school.

Students will be tested over the methods, techniques, and concepts learned in the field, lab, and lectures. The exam will be given at the end of the field session and may include short answer, multiple choice, and diagrams.

"Camp" duties vary and will rotate weekly. The primary duties are vehicles, food monitors at each meal, and checking on the level of drinking water in project rooms. Students will also be expected to pitch in on an as-needed basis. Essential non-technical skills, including teamwork, punctuality, attitude, and ability to work well with others will also comprise a portion of the student assessment.

The course will also include approximately 2 hours of lecture per week. These lectures will take place in the evenings after dinner. The program director, project staff, or guests will present them. The course will also include assigned readings, which will be made available for download prior to the trip.

While on the field school, each student is a representative of Texas Tech University in a foreign country, subject to the laws of that country. **Illegal behavior (including but not limited to illegal drug use) will result in immediate dismissal from the program and a grade of "F" for the course.** Any violations of established camp rules will result in a verbal warning and notification to the Office of Study Abroad. A second violation will result in a written warning, and a third will result in dismissal from the program. Any student sent home early for disciplinary reasons will be responsible for any costs incurred to change his/her flights and will not be eligible for a refund for the program cost.

**Grading breakdown is as follows:**

Exam:	20%	
Mapping/Profiling:	15%	A = 90-100%
Excavation:	20%	B = 80-99%
Lab:	10%	C = 70-79%
Journal/Notes:	15%	D = 60-69%
Conduct/Participation:	20%	F = <59%

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**Reading Schedule:**

Prior to departure: Students are expected to have completed all readings prior to arriving in Belize

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**Typical Field Day:**

- 6:30 Breakfast
  - 6:55 Daily briefing and assignments
  - 7:00 Leave for the field
  - 12:00 Lunch (30 minutes)
  - 3:30 Pack-up and return to lodge
  - 6:30 Dinner
  - 7:30 Lectures (when scheduled), otherwise evening free
  - 9:30 Quiet time in cabana area
  - 10:00 Lights out in cabana area
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**A Note on Visa to Enter Belize**

When you enter Belize, you will be given a 30-day visa stamp on your passport. The project will have your visas extended.

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**Belize Antiquities Laws**

It is illegal to collect artifacts outside of the official research of the project. It is illegal to take any artifact, no matter how insignificant, out of the country. There are serious consequences in the US and Belize for anyone caught with artifacts in their possession. Any student found to be collecting artifacts, storing them in their room or luggage, or planning to remove artifacts from the country will be dismissed from the program immediately and given a "0" for the course. The student will be financially responsible for the cost of transporting them to the airport.

### Tentative Course Schedule

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

**May 23** 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 20** 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.**

## **Department and University Policies:**

Americans with Disabilities Act: Any student who, because of a disability, may require special arrangements in order to meet the course requirements should contact the instructor as soon as possible to make any necessary arrangements. Students should present appropriate verification from Student Disability Services during the instructor's office hours. Please note instructors are not allowed to provide classroom accommodations to a student until appropriate verification from Student Disability Services has been provided. For additional information, you may contact the Student Disability Services office at 335 West Hall or 806-742-2405.

Health and Safety Policy: The Department of Sociology, Anthropology, and Social Work will endeavor to comply with the intent of state laws or acts and the University Health and Safety Program in an effort to maintain a safe academic and working environment for students, staff, and faculty.

Religious Holy Days: If you expect to miss a class period due to the observance of a religious holy day, University policy states that you must inform your instructor, in writing, by the sixteenth day of the semester. Accommodation for exams and assignments can then be made.

### Civility in the Field

Class discussion and group projects can be productive only in a climate of respect for the opinions and beliefs of all. A healthy exchange about issues may include disagreement about ideas but it must not demean the character or background of the individuals holding those ideas. Similarly, you must respect the "classroom" space and the instructor by focusing your attention on the course during our class meetings. Class is not a place for catching up on missed meals or missed sleep. You **must turn off all cell phones** in the field, labs, and lectures, and you are **not permitted to take calls or text message** during the workday.

### Avoiding Plagiarism and Cheating

Please familiarize yourself with the University policy on academic integrity, posted at <http://www.depts.ttu.edu/studentjudicialprograms/academicinteg.php>.

Plagiarism, or the act of claiming someone else's work or idea as your own, is a violation of the University's policies on academic honesty. In this class plagiarism in any form will not be tolerated. A typical and often unwitting form of plagiarism involves using the ideas or information of another scholar in your research. The best tactic is to paraphrase your source in your own words, then cite your source. If you use **THREE OR MORE CONSECUTIVE WORDS** from a published (or internet) source, you must quote the phrase and cite the source. If you do not adhere to these standards, you may commit plagiarism. We will discuss proper paraphrasing, referencing and plagiarism in class; however, if you have any questions whatsoever please ask the instructors! It is the aim of the faculty of Texas Tech University to foster a spirit of complete honesty and a high standard of integrity. The attempt of students to present as their own any work that they have not honestly performed is regarded by the faculty and administration as a serious offense and renders the offenders liable to serious consequences, possibly suspension. **If you are caught plagiarizing material in the class or if you copy from another student during an exam you will receive a final grade of "F" for the course.**