ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD SCHOOL
Anthropology 393 Section 020
Summer 2024

Professor: Dr. Katherine Sterner
Class Location: North Point State Park
Email: ksterner@towson.edu
Telephone: 410-704-2851

Class Time: MTWRF 8:00 am-4:30 pm
Office: LA 3353
Office Hours: By appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Course Goals: Students learn advanced techniques in archaeological research by performing as part of a research team. Archaeological survey, mapping, excavation, and laboratory techniques are emphasized. Students perform all functions as research assistants, including manual labor, recording, and data synthesis. Student activities are an integral aspect of the research design and are not conducted as secondary parts of the archaeological research. Student participation is not an academic exercise--it is the engine that drives the entire research project. Work is conducted on legitimate archaeological sites under the direction of a Principal Investigator. All work is performed in accordance with Secretary of the Interior Standards and all federal, state, and local regulatory restrictions.

Teaching Methods: Students conducts hands-on, participatory research in the field with the instructor and teaching assistants an average of 40 hours per week for 3.5 weeks (3 credits). In addition, reading assignments from a field manual are given. Students are taught the basics of shovel test survey techniques, but emphasis is on excavation techniques. Students learn initial artifact laboratory techniques such as cleaning, sorting, and recording of artifacts. Finally, we place a strong emphasis on provenience and context observation and recording.

Expected Outcomes: Most importantly, students will have hands-on experience in understanding the significance of appropriate field methods to answer substantive research questions. Student observational skills, analytical skills, and communication skills will all be improved through this experience. In addition, students will acquire a skill set of methods and techniques that will allow them to be successful in future archaeological projects that require more independent endeavors (e.g., archaeological technician in CRM projects).

Course Fee: A course fee of $70 is charged for this course. This fee pays for equipment that students will keep after the class (trowel, tape measure, clipboard, and field notebook), as well as purchase and upkeep of group equipment (shovels, screens, root clippers, wire brushes, water sprayers, dust pans, whisk brooms, line levels, compasses, and 5 gallon buckets) and supplies (paper bags, contractor bags, duct tape, file folders, first aid kits, flagging tape, landscape nails, markers, notecards, pencils, pin flags, carpenter string, and plastic tarp).

READINGS:

The course textbook is a field manual given to each student at the beginning of the project. Weekly readings will be assigned from this text and will be necessary to succeed in the class.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADES:

Students are evaluated by three criteria, each worth one third of the final grade:
1. ability to perform research skills, including attendance, willingness to perform necessary tasks as assigned, and care and precision in completion of tasks
2. completeness of formal written documentation such as survey and inventory forms, and;
3. coherence and completeness of personal written documentation (daily journal).

Point Distribution:

	Points	Percentage
Participation	50	33.3%
Documentation	50	33.3%
Journal	50	33.3%
Total	150	100%

Grade Scale:

Percentage	Grade
94-100%	A
90-94%	A-
87-90%	B+
84-87%	B
80-84%	B-

Percentage	Grade
77-80%	C+
70-77%	C
67-70%	D+
64-67%	D
0-64%	F

GENERAL POLICIES:

Attendance: Students in this course are expected comply with Towson University's Class Attendance/Absence Policy, available in full here: https://www.towson.edu/cofac/resources/documents/classattendance.pdf

Academic Integrity: The faculty of the Department of Sociology, Anthropology & Criminal Justice expects students to demonstrate academic integrity at all times. Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated in any class. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, any form of cheating or unapproved help on an exam or academic exercise, copying someone else's written work without citation, presenting fabricated information as legitimate, any unauthorized collaboration among students, or assisting someone to cheat in any way. Penalties for academic dishonesty are determined by the individual faculty member. The minimum penalty for academic dishonesty in this class is a grade of 0 on the affected work. Students who are charged with academic dishonesty must remain enrolled in the course and cannot withdraw. Instructors may file a report of academic dishonesty with the Office of the Student Conduct and Civility Education, the Dean of the College of Liberal Arts, and to the Chair's Office in the department.

For more information on academic integrity, see the TU Student Academic Integrity Policy and the College of Liberal Arts' Academic Integrity and Appeals Information. We also encourage students to make use of campus resources to learn more about academic integrity and how to avoid academic dishonesty, such as the resources provided by Cook Library and the Writing Center.

Changes to the Syllabus: For reasons beyond the control of either the instructor or the students enrolled in the course, changes to the class schedule and related syllabus may occur. If, for example, a lecture topic is skipped or rescheduled, or if a discussion topic is removed from the coursework, students will not be held responsible for the information.

Students with Disabilities: Towson University is committed to providing equal opportunity and access for students with disabilities by removing barriers to participation and providing reasonable accommodations. If you have an Accommodation Memo from Accessibility and Disability Services (ADS), it is important that you share it with me as soon as possible so we can discuss your accommodations as they relate to this course. If you are not registered with ADS and would like more information, please contact the office at 410-704-2638 or tuads@towson.edu or visit the website at https://www.towson.edu/accessibility-disability-services/.

Course Repetition: Students may not repeat a course more than once without prior permission of the Academic Standards Committee.

COURSE SCHEDULE:

ANTH 393-020, SUMMER 2024 DETAILED SCHEDULE				
Module	**Date**	**Topic**	**Readings**	**Activities**
1	5/28	Introduction to the Course*	Introduction	
2	5/29	Pre-Field Work*	Ch. 1	Literature Review, MEDUSA, Field Prep
3	5/30	History of the Project Area*	Ch. 2	Lecture, Independent Research
4	5/31	Basic Field Skills	Ch. 3	Pacing, Pace and Compass Mapping
5	6/3	Phase I Survey	Ch. 4	Shovel Testing, Soil Coring, Photography, Recordation
5	6/4	Phase I Survey		Shovel Testing, Soil Coring, Photography, Recordation
5	6/5	Phase I Survey		Shovel Testing, Soil Coring, Photography, Recordation
6	6/6	Phase II Evaluation	Ch. 5	Unit Placement, Unit Set Up, Unit Excavation
6	6/7	Phase II Evaluation	Ch. 6	Unit Placement, Unit Set Up, Unit Excavation
6	6/10	Phase II Evaluation	Ch. 7	Unit Placement, Unit Set Up, Unit Excavation
6	6/11	Phase II Evaluation		Unit Placement, Unit Set Up, Unit Excavation
7	6/12	Phase III Mitigation	Ch. 8	Research Design, Unit Excavation, Feature Excavation
7	6/13	Phase III Mitigation	Ch. 9	Research Design, Unit Excavation, Feature Excavation
7	6/14	Phase III Mitigation		Research Design, Unit Excavation, Feature Excavation
7	6/17	Phase III Mitigation		Research Design, Unit Excavation, Feature Excavation
7	6/18	Phase III Mitigation		Research Design, Unit Excavation, Feature Excavation
7	6/19	Backfilling		
8	6/20	Standing Structures/Ruins	Ch. 10	Mapping, Photography
9	6/21	Initial Lab Work	Ch. 11	Post-field paperwork and artifact processing

* Class will be held in LA 3330 on these days. The remaining days will be in the field.