

# ANTH-2030: ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD METHODS

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## Cuyahoga Community College

**Viewing: ANTH-2030 : Archaeological Field Methods**

**Board of Trustees:**

March 2021

**Academic Term:**

Fall 2021

**Subject Code**

ANTH - Anthropology

**Course Number:**

2030

**Title:**

Archaeological Field Methods

**Catalog Description:**

Overview of methods used in field archaeology as applied to actual archaeological sites. Students receive training and experience in surveying, mapping, excavation, artifact processing and data analysis. Requires on-site student participation in the field (see Credit Schedule of classes for specific requirements).

**Credit Hour(s):**

4

**Lecture Hour(s):**

1-3

**Lab Hour(s):**

0-3

**Other Hour(s):**

0-75

**Other Hour Details:**

75 hrs of supervised field or laboratory work

## Requisites

**Prerequisite and Corequisite**

Departmental approval: approval of instructor.

## Outcomes

**Course Outcome(s):**

Understand and discuss the goals archaeological investigation.

**Objective(s):**

1. Interpret behaviors of people in the past based upon material remains.
2. Discuss the different aspects of archaeological investigations.
3. Highlight the goals of the fieldwork project.

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**Course Outcome(s):**

Examine the methods of archaeological investigation and evaluate the appropriate methods for a variety of archaeological contexts.

**Objective(s):**

1. Deduce the appropriate archaeological method for variable archaeological contexts and situations.
2. Research methods used in a variety of archaeological contexts.

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**Course Outcome(s):**

Experience and practice basic fieldwork methodologies, including associated lab work.

**Objective(s):**

1. Practice basic aspects of archaeological survey.
2. Practice basic aspects of archaeological excavation.
3. Practice basic aspects of artifact analysis.

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**Course Outcome(s):**

Examine ethical and legal aspects of archaeological investigation and evaluate appropriate actions or restraint from action for various archaeological contexts.

**Objective(s):**

1. Evaluate fiscal, practical, and ethical and legal concerns of excavation.
2. Apply ethical and legal knowledge to the excavation of the field site and analysis of associated artifacts.

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**Methods of Evaluation:**

1. Examinations on archaeological field investigations
2. Oral and/or written presentations of field experiences
3. Evaluation of field techniques
4. Participation in class and field discussions

**Course Content Outline:**

1. Goals of archaeological Investigation
  - a. What is archaeology?
    - i. Definition of archaeology
    - ii. Purpose of archaeology
    - iii. Specializations in archaeology
  - b. Various aspects of archaeological investigation
    - i. Research
    - ii. Fieldwork
    - iii. Labwork
    - iv. Analysis and interpretation
  - c. Research field site
    - i. History
    - ii. Geology
    - iii. Geography
2. General methods of archaeological Investigation
  - a. Fieldwork
    - i. Survey
    - ii. Excavation
  - b. Lab work
    - i. Conservation and analysis
    - ii. Data collection
    - iii. Record keeping
  - c. Dating techniques
    - i. Relative dating techniques
    - ii. Absolute/numerical/calendrical dating
3. Practical application of field and laboratory fieldwork and laboratory methodologies
  - a. Survey
    - i. Surface survey
    - ii. Shovel testing
    - iii. Test units
  - b. Excavation
    - i. Setting up a datum and grid
    - ii. Appropriate excavation tools

- iii. Field site excavation expectations
- iv. Field site excavation realities
- c. Artifact analysis
  - i. Classes of artifact analysis
  - ii. Methods of analysis
  - iii. Record keeping
  - iv. Curation
- d. Documentation
  - i. In the field
  - ii. In the lab
- 4. Ethical and legal requirements and responsibilities
  - a. Why excavate?/Is excavation necessary?
  - b. Should we excavate?
  - c. Ethics of archaeological Investigations
  - d. Who owns the past?
  - e. Relevant US laws

## Resources

Hester, T. R., Shafer, H. J. and Feder, K.L. (2016 ) *Field Methods in Archaeology*, Abington, Oxon: Routledge.

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Price, Douglas, and Anne B. Gebauer. (2002) *Adventures in Fungawiland: A Computer Simulation in Archaeology*, McGraw-Hill Higher Education.

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## Resources Other

Selections from the following:

Griffin, James

1981 The Man Who Comes after; or, Careful How You Curate. *Annals of the New York Academy of Sciences* 376(1):7-15.

Heizer, Rober

1962 *A Guide to Archaeological Field Methods*. National Press: Palo Alto.

Horn, Jonathon

2005 *Historic Artifact Handbook*. Alpine Archaeological Consultants, Inc.: Montrose.

Indiana University

N.D. *Reading Topographic Maps*. Adapted from Guide by Boris Vasilev, Paradise Valley Community College, Phoenix, Arizona.

Ohio Historic Preservation Office

1994 *Ohio Archaeology Guidelines*. Ohio Historic Preservation Office: Columbus.

Little, Barbara and Erika Seibert

2000 Guidelines for Evaluating and Registering Archaeological Properties. *National Register Bulletin* 36, U.S. Department of Interior, National Park Service.

McPherron, Shannon P., and Harold L. Dibble

2002 *Using Computers in Archaeology: A Practical Guide*. McGraw-Hill Companies, Inc.: Boston.

Olson, Eric

2019 The Shirey Meadow Survey: A Comparative Study of Shovel Testing and Pedestrian Survey. *Pennsylvania Archaeologist* 89(1):1-14.

Pope, M

2015 Twenty-Three Propositions for Stone Artefact Studies. *Lithics* 36:64-65.

Scott, Doug, Chris Espenshade, Patrick Severts, Sheldon Skaggs, Terry Powis, Chris Adams, and Charles Haecker

2012 Advances in Metal Detector Technology and Applications in Archaeology, in *Proceedings of the Advanced Metal Detecting for the Archaeologist Conference*, Terry Powis (ed.), pp. 33-54.

Spier, Robert

1970 *Surveying and Mapping: A Manual of Simplified Techniques*. Holt, Rinehart and Winston, Inc.: New York.

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