

AN 341: Archaeological Field School Syllabus

June 16-25, 2014

Dr. Lauri Travis

Class Description:

The Carroll College Archaeological Field School will introduce students to basic archaeological field methods and research design in one of the most beautiful settings in the western United States. The 4 credit, ten day class is designed to train students in the basics of archaeological excavation and survey techniques. The 4 credits can be natural science core credits or social science credits.

The Field School research will be conducted within the Helena National Forest. The area is located in the northern Big Belt Mountains about 20 miles northeast of Helena. Students will be camping for 8 days and will be expected to participate in camp activities (cooking, camp upkeep, etc). Students should be prepared for full days of digging and/or hiking, sometimes in remote areas. A mobile laboratory will also be set up at the campsite. Thus, in addition to excavation and survey techniques, students will also learn laboratory procedures, including cataloging artifacts and performing basic artifact analysis. Evenings will also include informal lectures and discussions on local prehistory, history, geomorphology and ecology.

Students must provide personal camping gear, including sleeping bag, tent, sturdy hiking boots, weather appropriate clothing, water bottle, backpack, sunscreen, insect repellent and field notebook. A lab fee of \$150.00 will cover the cost of food and field equipment.

Class Objectives:

Upon completion of the course, students will be able to:

- Read and use topographic maps, compasses and global positioning systems (GPS)
- Identify prehistoric sites, artifacts and features
- Survey for archaeological sites, including recording and mapping
- Understand the basics of archaeological excavation
- Understand the significance of preservation of cultural sites
- Work effectively in groups
- Have a working knowledge of local prehistory

Grading and Assessment:

- ability to understand and demonstrate excavation, laboratory and survey skills
- participation and attitude (willingness to work hard in the field, share in camp duties, deal in a mature manner with instructors and peers)
- quality of record keeping (field notes, maps, site forms)

Specifically, the course grade will be determined by:

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| Participation and Attitude | 30% |
| Archaeological skills in the field | 30% |
| Record keeping | 20% |
| Laboratory | 20% |