

FIELD METHODS IN ARCHAEOLOGY – SYLLABUS

ANTH 2016, 6 credit hrs, Summer 2010

Prerequisite: ANTH 2015 or equivalent

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Description

To some extent, archaeological methods can only be taught and learned in the field. From that perspective, this course provides a hands-on introduction to field techniques and methods in the specific context of Andean archaeology. You will actively participate in the various stages of a field archaeology project at the site of Caylán, a first millennium BC settlement with dense and complex architectural settings. Among other things, you will be embedded in problem-oriented test units and area excavations, mapping operations, and laboratory cataloguing procedures. You will become familiar with basic field equipment and their manipulation. The course is also designed to introduce you to the local prehistory through literature reviews, lectures, discussions and visits of neighboring archaeological sites. The project is set in the small town of Nepeña where you will be able to interact with local community members and learn about contemporary Peruvian culture. This course emphasizes the development of your capacities to work as a team, and learn about foreign cultural practices, both past and present.

Organization

This is an intensive 6 hrs course held in Peru during a four weeks period. Occasional lectures will be organized, but you will mainly learn from experiencing field and laboratory methods first-hand. You are required actively participate towards the success of the research project as a key member of the scientific crew. You will be provided with a field guide containing basic background information about the project, its objectives, and overall implications for understanding the development of complex societies in the Andes. The field guide also contains key readings about regional prehistory and it is essential that you carefully read and critically review the literature.

Readings

Key readings are included in your field guide.

Other suggested textbooks (optional)

Moseley, Michael E.

2001 The Incas and their Ancestors. The Archaeology of Peru (Revised Edition).

London: Thames and Hudson.

Olsen Bruhns, Karen

1994 Ancient South America. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Silverman, Helaine, ed.

2004 Andean Archaeology. Oxford: Blackwell Publishers.

Learning Objectives

The learning objectives of the Bachelor of Art major in Anthropology at LSU are to instill our students:

1. A capacity to construct and to evaluate arguments in light of anthropological evidence
2. An understanding of continuity and change in humans and their cultures
3. An awareness of the diversity of humans and their cultures
4. An ability to examine a variety of sources critically and to analyze them in terms of their contexts
5. The capacity to evaluate humans and their culture in light of anthropological evidence
6. An awareness of complexity of humans and their culture

This course supports these learning objectives to the maximum extent possible.

Unavoidable realities

Evaluations for that course include field (30%) and laboratory (30%) components, as well as a final written exam (40%). Although the field and laboratory evaluations will be fluid and based on the overall appreciation of the instructor, the following attitudes and behaviors are expected: intellectual curiosity, thoroughness, quality of field notes and drawings, capacity to work as a team, capacity to ask questions and assimilate the answers, reflexivity, respect of fellow crew members, adaptation to different scenarios, and autonomy. The written exam will focus on the readings from the field guide and touch upon various aspects of the local prehistory and archaeological research. The written exam will include multiple choice and essay questions.

Grading

Final grades will be determined by calculating the total points for the undergraduate and graduate evaluations, respectively. The final grade scale will go as follow:

A 90-100%

B 80-89%

C 70-79%

D 60-69%

F 59% and below (failure)

LSU Code of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity

Students should respect academic integrity in the completion of the exams and the preparation of their written assignments. Improper use of sources and plagiarism will not be tolerated. Please be advised that all instructors are required to report cheating to the University's Committee of Student Conduct (Code of Student Conduct, 1990, Article 4.1), and all incidents will be investigated. If you are unfamiliar with LSU Code of Student Conduct, please consult the following link:

[http://app1003.lsu.edu/slas/dos.nsf/\\$Content/Code+of+Conduct?OpenDocument](http://app1003.lsu.edu/slas/dos.nsf/$Content/Code+of+Conduct?OpenDocument)