

Anthropology 113.10 (Special Topics Field School in Archeology):
Maritime Archaeology and Submerged Cultural Heritage:
(4 credits)

Dates: July 7-July 24 , 2010

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Course Description:

This course is an intensive introduction to the field of maritime archaeology, underwater archeology techniques, and submerged cultural resource heritage policy. It involves a combination of classroom instruction in Washington DC, and hands-on instruction at a maritime archaeological site at Biscayne National Park in Florida.

In this course students will:

- 1-gain technical field research skills;
- 2- address a broader question of archaeological theory involving the relationship between technology and change in social behavior; and
- 3- review the conflict among and between a variety of socio-economic and scientific imperatives and how these pose ethical and practical challenges to maritime archaeology and submerged cultural resource management.

During the intensive 2 week field school conducted in conjunction with the US Park Service's Submerged Cultural Resource Unit and maritime archeologist colleagues from South Africa involved in the Southern African Slave Wrecks and Heritage Route Project, students will learn basic techniques for the identification and non-destructive recording of submerged archaeological remains and gain an understanding of the particularities of submerged sites and how these characteristics present challenges and opportunities that differ in certain respect from those of land sites. Students will participate in a systematic area survey designed to identify and prioritize submerged shipwreck remains for purposes of archaeological study and cultural resource management. They will consider the various approaches to surveying (area, scientific, historical) and their rationales, as well as the competing imperatives (CRM, scientific, political, economic) that inform the ways in which priorities are established, archaeological study is pursued, and cultural management is practiced. Students will also be introduced to the ways in which substantive historical and social scientific questions are addressed in maritime archaeology.

Finally, this course will also address the politics and pragmatics of research and sustainable management of submerged resources. Students will examine the growing pressures worldwide on these resources from treasure hunters, from the growth of commercial and leisure diving, and from coastal development. Students will explore how archaeologists can work to meet these challenges by casting their research in broader terms that engage and address larger social, economic, and political

processes. This course will specifically introduce students to the emerging body of international legal and policy instruments (such as the proposed UNESCO Convention on the Protection of Underwater Cultural Heritage) and international institutions (such as the International Committee on Underwater Cultural Heritage –ICUCH) of relevance to maritime archaeology and crm. We will examine how these are being used to promote sound maritime archeological and crm practice. The course will also comparatively examine different national laws, policies, and actual practiced approaches to CRM and maritime archaeology, and the consequences of these different approaches. This course will specifically focus on the challenges of pursuing sound maritime archaeology in developing and postcolonial nations. Students will therefore also consider how maritime archaeology must account for and respond to broader societal debates about the contemporary meanings, uses, and ownership of history.

The course will involve approximately 20 hours of lecture instruction--including 10 hours conducted during the initial week of the course to be held in Washington Dc at the main GWU campus;

The remainder of the course will be conducted on site at the US National Park in Biscayne, Florida, and will involve a minimum of 50 hours of directly supervised field school instruction. Several guest-lectures will be provided by national and international specialists in the maritime archaeology and submerged resource management field, including collaborators in the instructor's Southern African Slave Wrecks and Heritage Route Project, from the US Park Service and from IZIKO Museums—Cape Town, South Africa.

Course Schedule:

Week 1 (held in Washington DC) -July 6-July 9 (3-4 hrs of lecture per day-time TBA)

Topics:

- Introduction to Maritime Archaeology
- Competing Imperatives in Submerged Cultural Resource Management
- National and International Policy Instruments and Environments
- “dry” training in non-destructive recording techniques

Week 2-3: Arrival in Biscayne, FL July 10;

July 11-12-Dive safety checkouts and safety protocol reviews

July 12-23 Field survey/ wreck mapping. (10 days/5-7 hours per day)

Plus 3 lectures

(guest instructors-Dr. David Conlin; Jaco Boshoff)

Required Textbooks:

2000. Gould, Richard. Archaeology and the Social History of Ships. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Coursepack to be made available through instructor.

Course Assignments:

Students are expected to fully participate in the actual archaeological and historical fieldwork, as well as a series of lectures by the main instructor and specialist instructors, and will be required to keep a detailed field journal that will be reviewed and graded on a weekly basis. Students will also

share basic logistics duties as part of a typical field research team. Fulfillment of specific field assignments, logistics duties, and field journal together will comprise 85% of their grade. Students will also be required to write a final paper that will be due within 3 weeks after the completion of the field season. This paper will account for 15% of their grade.

Special Requirements:

Diving Qualifications: Students must bring documentation of an Open Water I (Recreational) scuba-diving certification prior to the beginning of the course, from a recognized instruction program, such as NAUI or PADI. A “resort diving course” will not be considered sufficient.

Other qualifications: All students must obtain basic CPR and First aid training certification prior to arriving in Biscayne Florida.

Housing/Fare: In DC students can use their own housing or GWU housing (estimated costs: \$350) In Biscayne all students are required to use housing organized by the project (estimated housing costs: \$610). In DC and Biscayne all students will be responsible for their own food (estimated cost of \$30/day x 18 days=\$540)

Insurance: All students must demonstrate that they have valid health and accident insurance that includes coverage relevant to diving activities.

Transportation: All students are responsible for arranging their own transportation to Biscayne FL (near Miami)

Equipment: Students must bring the following personal diving equipment items: mask, suit, fins, snorkel, buoyancy compensator (BC), regulator, dive belt and weights, along with a receipt from a certified professional dive shop that BC and regulator have been serviced within the two months prior to the beginning of the field school. Alternatively they can rent this equipment from a local concessionaire in Biscayne.

Important Note: This field school is being organized in collaboration with the US Park Service. All students must sign a statement agreeing to abide by any research and conduct guidelines they specify and that recognizes that if they violate park policies they will be subject to dismissal without reimbursement.

Note: This course is limited to a maximum of 10 participants. Upperclassmen and graduate students with previous coursework in anthropology, archaeology and museum studies will be given priority. No student can enroll without prior permission. Students interested in enrolling in this course should consider obtaining a letter of recommendation from an instructor and submit it as part of their application. Applications will be considered as of Feb 15, 2010.

ESTIMATED PROGRAM COSTS PER STUDENT ¹	
Tuition (4 credits)	\$ 4,177.00 (4 credits)
Field School Program Fee	\$ 770.00
Travel Costs	\$ 500.00 (estimated to FL)
Lodging/Food/Housing	\$ 1,500.00
Textbooks	\$ 150.00
TOTAL ESTIM. COST TO STUDENT	\$ 7,597.00

¹ Assumes students bring own dive equipment rather than renting it