MAYA ARCHAEOLOGY FIELD SCHOOL IN BELIZE
ANTH 469 – Summer 2015

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Course Description:
This is a 4 credit-hour course designed to introduce students to the methods used to collect and analyze archaeological data in a hands-on field setting. The course will take place over the span of 4 weeks at a remote archaeological field camp in Belize, Central America. Students will receive instruction in archaeological excavations, plan mapping/profiling excavation units, and basic field laboratory procedures. In addition, students will have the opportunity to learn a great deal about the Prehispanic Maya through lectures and field trips.

Required Text:
The Maya, 8th edition, by Michael D. Coe (Thames & Hudson)

Reading Schedule:
Prior to departure: Coe chapters 1 through 6, and 9.

Dates:
May 21-June 18, 2015

Course Requirements and Grading Procedures:
The grade in this course will be determined by each student’s demonstrated ability to perform basic and more advanced procedures in three facets of archeological fieldwork, including mapping/profiling, excavation, and laboratory procedures. A portion of the grade will also be based on participation in camp duties and overall conduct.

Mapping/profiling evaluation will assess each student’s ability to draw plan maps, profiles, and elevation drawings of excavation units and exposed architecture. The assessment will be based on accuracy as well as neatness, proper use of scale, proper labeling of drawings, etc.

Excavation evaluation will focus on the student’s ability to lay out an excavation unit, dig and screen soil matrix, recognize changes in the matrix, properly manage paperwork and artifact recovery, and photograph features as they are uncovered in the field. Each student will be assessed on their ability to coordinate, and maintain and all of these activities, as well as demonstrate a conceptual understanding of the modified Harris Matrix recording system employed by the project.
Laboratory procedures will address each student’s ability to process and record artifacts and samples in the lab. This includes the processing and recording of ceramic and lithic artifacts, as well as any bone, botanical, or Carbon\textsuperscript{14} samples. Students may also be called upon to participate in flotation and dry screen analyses, or on other projects that may be underway in the lab (e.g., ceramic refit/reassembly or lithic analysis).

Camp duties vary and will rotate weekly. These include disposing of trash, doing dishes, and maintaining and cleaning the camp, lab, and kitchen. Students will also be expected to pitch in on an as-needed basis. Essential non-technical skills, including teamwork, punctuality, attitude, and ability to work well with others will also comprise a portion of the student assessment.

The course will also include approximately 2 hours of lecture per week. These lectures will take place in the evenings after dinner. They will be presented by the program director, project staff, or guests (we will be sharing camp with two other field schools and their instructors will lecture on various topics to all groups).

Grading breakdown for Undergraduate Students is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Field Notebook</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mapping/Profiling:</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Excavation:</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lab:</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Camp Duties/Conduct</td>
<td>20%</td>
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</tbody>
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**Academic Integrity:**
Scholastic dishonesty is not tolerated by the academic community of Western State College of Colorado. Scholastic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarisms, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an exam for another person, or any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts.

You should review the portion of the College Catalog and/or the Student Handbook on academic integrity. The policy states: "Violations of academic integrity may result in the following: an ‘F’ grade or a zero for the assignment, an ‘F’ for the course, withdrawal from the course, or suspension or expulsion from the College. Serious violations of academic integrity will be reported to the Office of Academic Affairs."

**Expected Learning Outcome:**
At the completion of the course, students are expected to be able to:

1. Demonstrate a grasp of mapping equipment and procedures.
2. Lay out, excavate, and record materials associated with an excavation unit.
3. Describe natural and cultural impacts on artifact, ecofact, and feature preservation.
4. Recognize artifacts and features for a given context.
5. Process, inventory, and conduct a preliminary analysis on artifacts in the lab:
6. Function as an integral part of a larger field research station.

**Required Personal Equipment:**
1 day pack or backpack in which to carry your equipment, lunch, and water daily
At least two canteens that hold 2 quarts of water each
Field notebook

**Optional Personal Field Equipment:**
Spiral-bound notebook or journal for recording your experiences
3 to 5 inexpensive mechanical pencils
2-3 ballpoint pens
5 red or black Sharpies
1 inexpensive clipboard
1 trowel (flat, pointed, bricklayer-type, Marshalltown brand 4 ½-inch or 5-inch)
3-meter or 5-meter tape measure (**MUST be metric**)!
1 line level
1 pair of root clippers
1 inexpensive trigonometric calculator (sine, cosine, tangent)

The program will provide other excavation equipment such as picks, shovels, buckets, etc. Prior to departure, I will provide you with a list of recommended items to bring with you to Belize.

**Contact Information While In Belize:**
Though there is no phone in camp, you can be contacted in the event of an emergency. Please leave these numbers with family or friends:
+011.501.227.5616 Programme for Belize phone number, leave message
+011.501.227.5635 PFB FAX number

There is no email contact available, but we have access to a phone once per week. You can receive letters and faxes from the general store in the nearby village. Faxes may be sent to:
+011.501.323.0065

Mail may be sent to:
(Recipient's Name)
c/o PfBAP
P.O. Box 2
Orange Walk Town
Orange Walk District
BELIZE, CENTRAL AMERICA
Certain cell phones will work in northwestern Belize, BUT NOT FROM CAMP. Cell phone coverage is available in the nearby Mennonite community of Blue Creek, but be advised that it can be expensive to call the states using your cell phone. Students will be able to go to the store in Blue Creek to make calls once each week.

**Typical Field Day:**

5:30  Wake-up call  
6:00  Breakfast, make your lunch  
6:45  Daily briefing and assignments  
7:00  Leave for the field (with lunch and equipment)  
11:00  Lunch (30 minutes on site)  
3:30  Pack-up and depart La Milpa for camp  
6:00  Dinner  
7:00  Lectures (when scheduled), otherwise evening free  
8:30  Quiet time  
9:00  Lights out

**Tentative Course Schedule:**

May 19  You are responsible for your own travel to and from Belize. You must be at the airport in Belize City on May 19\textsuperscript{th}. Group assembles at Goldson International Airport (Belize City). Once everyone has arrived, we will travel by chartered bus to the R.E.W. Adams Research Station at the Programme for Belize (2 hour bus ride).

May 20  Settle in to camp

May 21  First day in the field (see Typical Field Day schedule above); unless otherwise indicated, each day is a field day with a small group of students rotating into the laboratory on a regular basis.

May 25  Day off, visit Linda Vista (general store)

June 1  Trip to Lamanai and visit Linda Vista

June 8  Trip to Dos Hombres and visit Linda Vista

June 10  Last field day

June 11  Pack for trip to Tikal

June 12  Chartered bus to Flores, Guatemala

June 13  Full day in Tikal National Park, Guatemala

June 14  Chartered bus to Water Taxi, arrive at Caye Caulker

June 16  Water taxi to Belize City and taxi to Goldson Int’l Airport (Belize City) for departure to US

**Other Considerations:**

If you are traveling on a passport issued from the US or Canada no visas are required. If your passport was issued by a different country please contact your embassy to determine if additional paperwork is required.