

FIELD CREW MEMBER II

PURPOSE

This course is designed to complete the training of the archaeological crew member that was initiated in the Field Crew Member I course, which is a prerequisite. This course is designed to complement classroom learning with field experience.

Upon completion of this course the student should have the skills to not only participate in Arizona Archaeological Society (AAS) sponsored excavations, but also to assume some supervisory responsibilities. The course should also enable the student to work with professional archaeologists in either crew member or crew chief roles.

OBJECTIVES

At the completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Set up a site for excavation. (See Tab 27) Excavation Criteria)
2. Apply a research design to site excavation.
3. Determine an appropriate excavation strategy given problems of logistics, time and money, research problems, threats of erosion or pot hunting, etc.
4. Read and interpret surface remains for clues to where to begin excavation.
5. Read and interpret stratigraphy.
6. Develop and maintain records of site excavation.
7. Map the site.
8. Accomplish photographic documentation of the site and excavations.
9. Understand the use of specialist studies and how to take samples for them.
10. Direct and coordinate excavations for a section of the site.
11. Interpret spatial and temporal patterns in the site both in terms of artifacts and in terms of architecture or other features.
12. Working with the media and visitors.

FORMAT

The student will receive a minimum of 20 hours of classroom instruction intermixed with at least 40 hours of field experience applying the classroom lessons. Successful completion of the course will entail a brief report of field work, including submission of the field notes, and completion of written or oral exams given by the instructor.

COURSE OUTLINE

- A. Preliminaries
 - 1. Type of project
 - a. Testing
 - b. Data recovery
 - 2. Permit requirements
 - 3. Bluestake
 - 4. Site security
 - 5. Logistics
 - a. Access
 - b. Backdirt management
 - 6. Equipment
 - a. Excavation tools
 - b. Recording
 - c. Special sample requirements
 - 7. Research design
 - 8. Curation agreement
- B. Setting up the site for excavation
 - 1. Site datum
 - 2. Grid system
 - 3. Discovery techniques
 - a. Machine excavation
 - Trenching
 - Stripping
 - b. Hand excavation
 - 4. Provenience controls
 - a. Excavation units
 - b. Levels (arbitrary)
 - c. Strata (natural)
- C. Site recording
 - 1. Forms
 - a. General note taking
 - b. Excavation unit specific recording forms
 - c. Feature specific recording forms
 - d. Profile/trench recording forms
 - e. Special sample recording forms
 - Pollen
 - Flotation
 - Archaeomagnetic
 - C-14
 - Other
 - f. Methods of storing forms; blank and completed

2. Photography

3. Mapping
 - a. Overall site map (topographic)
 - b. Feature/unit specific maps
 - Plan views
 - Profiles
 - c. Use of GPS and difference between NAD 27 and 83)
 4. Computerized field and laboratory records
- D. Sampling
1. When to use
 2. Types of sampling
 - a. Random
 - b. Systematic
 - c. Judgmental
 - d. Other
 3. Purposes
- E. Excavation techniques
1. Types of features to be expected
 2. Control of excavation in non-feature areas
 3. Hand versus machine excavation
 - a. When justified
 - b. When not justified
 4. Recovery techniques
 - a. Screen size
 - b. When to screen
 - c. When not to screen
 5. Artifact control
 - a. Specimen list
 - b. Artifact lots
 - c. Special sample lots
 6. Burials and cremations (refer to Tab 8, Field Crew Member I, Section I.1.b., regarding determination of treatment and disposition under NAGPRA and State burial laws)
- F. Site interpretation
1. Stratigraphy
 2. Superposition
 3. Spatial relationships
 - a. Features
 - b. Excavation units
 4. Intrusives
 5. Disturbance-transformation processes
 - a. Natural
 - b. Cultural
 6. Intra-site relationships
 7. Environmental relationships
- G. Closure
1. Importance of obtaining closure
 2. Procedures

COURSE OUTLINE (continued)

- H. Post field requirements
 - 1. Preparation for laboratory work
 - a. Artifact processing
 - b. Storage
 - c. Computerization
 - d. Curation
 - 2. Site record update
 - 3. Preparation of site report-organization
 - a. Notes
 - b. Maps
 - c. Photographs
 - 4. Outline for site report

REFERENCES

Note: The following are also suggested references for Field Crew Member I.

Hester, Thomas R., Robert F. Heizer and John A. Graham
1975 *Field Methods in Archaeology*. Mayfield, Palo Alto. (A)*

Hole, Frank and Robert F. Heizer
1974 *An Introduction to Prehistoric Archaeology*. Holt, Rinehart and Winston, New York. (A)

Joukowsky, Martha
1980 *A Complete Manual of Field Archaeology: Tools and Techniques of Field Work for Archaeologists*. Prentice-Hall, Englewood Cliffs.

McIntosh, Jane
1999 *The Practical Archaeologist: How We Know What We Know About the Past*. Facts on File, Inc. 2nd edition.

Spier, Robert F. G.
1970 *Surveying and Mapping: A Manual of Simplified Techniques*. Holt, Rinehart and Winston, New York.

* (A) In Phoenix Chapter Archives.