



St. Mary's College of California
Summer Field School in Maritime Archaeology
Bermuda
July 18 – August 10, 2011

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COURSE SUMMARY

The Summer Field School in Maritime Archaeology is a field-based, joint research project conducted in Bermuda by faculty and students of Saint Mary's College, the University of Rhode Island, the Institute for International Maritime Research, the Museum of Underwater Archaeology, and the Bermuda Maritime Museum. During the course of the three week field school, students and faculty will be conducting archival research, archaeological surveys, site relocation and identification, preliminary assessments and documentation of historic shipwrecks.

The field school meets the fieldwork requirement for anthropology majors or minors with an archaeology focus, or may be counted as upper division anthropology elective. As such, the course comprises academic, classroom-based lecture and discussion; as well as intensive field research. A course reader is provided that will form the basis of classroom discussions and will be referenced in the preparation of a short term paper that will be due at the conclusion of the course.

While in Bermuda, you will participate in archaeological surveys and documentation of historic shipwrecks, and archival research in the Bermuda Archives located in the nearby city of Hamilton. Each student will be required to keep a field journal containing details of each day's research activities, instruction, and procedures and will participate in a video field journal that will be filmed by the



Museum of Underwater Archaeology (MUA). Journals will be submitted for evaluation at the end of the field school. In addition, while in Bermuda students will attend periodic lectures on such topics as archival research methods, archaeological survey (remote sensing and visual survey), site excavation and mapping, analysis of archaeological data, conservation of waterlogged artifacts, etc.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Your final grade for the course will be determined on the following basis:

1) **Attendance, Practical Exercises, and Class Participation (25%).** Because we will be conducting the preliminary classroom work on campus over a short period of time, attendance at each session is mandatory. You will be expected to have read all assigned materials before each class and to be familiar enough with the material to participate in relevant discussions. Please make sure you have arranged for the scuba equipment, including a tank and weight belt, which you will need for the pool exercises we will be conducting on *(date to be determined)* (you will probably also want a wetsuit for the pool).

2) **Fieldwork (50%).** Since this a research-based learning experience, hands-on participation is emphasized and you will be expected to participate fully in all aspects of the course. You will be expected to keep a detailed, daily field journal that will be turned in at the end of the field session for evaluation. You will also be evaluated on your participation in the video being produced by the MUA. Attendance at all lectures that will be offered periodically throughout our stay in Bermuda is required, as is participation in the data processing activities and lectures that routinely occur in the evenings, following our return from the field.

3) **Field School Report and Term Paper (25%).** In collaboration with the other students in the course, you will prepare an article describing your experience in the field school that will be published in *MariTimes*, the magazine of the Bermuda Maritime Museum. In addition, an 8-10 page paper, double-spaced will be due on *(date to be determined)*. Late papers will be penalized 1/3 of the grade for each day they are late. The topic may be of your own choosing and can be developed from topics discussed during the classroom portion of the course. It is expected that an outline will be completed during the classroom portion of the course and a rough draft prepared during the field portion of the course, so please be sure to bring the appropriate materials (i.e. – course reader, laptop, pen, paper, etc.). Resources in the Bermuda Maritime Museum's Library, as well as primary documents in the Bermuda National Archives may be accessed as well.



CALENDAR (tentative)

July 18 (Garaventa 120; 3:30 pm – 7:00pm)

- Course Introduction
- Bermuda history and legal framework
US Law vs. Bermudian Law
- Introduction to Archaeology
What is it? Why do we dig?
History of its development
Relationship to Anthropology
- Maritime Archaeology
History of its development
Its place in the cosmos
Field methods

Reading: Watts 2009:1-39; Aubrey 1997:16-17; Historic Wrecks Act 2001; Deetz 1967: 1-19; Muckelroy 1978: 3-23; Throckmorton 1987: 8-13, 92-105.

July 19 (Garaventa 120; 3:30 pm – 7:00pm)

- Ethics in Archaeology
Excavation vs. preservation
Who owns the past?
Who owns the resources?
- Public Outreach
Public education
MUA
Education vs. romance
- Introduction to archaeological methodology

Reading: Watts, et al. 1996: 16-23; Pelkofer 1996: 64-69; MUA:

http://www.uri.edu/artsci/his/mua/project_journals/wf09/wf09_intro.shtml

http://www.uri.edu/artsci/his/mua/project_journals/ecu06intro.shtml

http://www.uri.edu/artsci/his/mua/project_journals/aj/aj_intro.shtml

http://www.uri.edu/artsci/his/mua/in_the_field/skipjack.html

http://www.uri.edu/artsci/his/mua/in_the_field/jc.html

Smith 2006: 1-5, 23-39

July 20 (Madigan Pool; 9:45 am)

- AAUS Swim Test
- Rescue Skills
- Underwater mapping techniques

Reading: Green 1990: 15-86



July 20 (Garaventa 120; 3:30 pm – 7:00pm)

- AAUS Final Exam
- Archaeological methodology (Cont.)
 - Remote sensing
 - Navigation
 - Survey
 - Mapping
- Wooden Ship Construction
 - Ship architecture over time
- Iron Ship Construction & Steam Propulsion

Reading: Steffy 1994: 1-34; Greenhill & Manning 1988: 2-16

July 21 (Garaventa 120; Time TBD)

- Continuation of ship architecture
- Depart for Bermuda

July 22 – August 5

- Field Research

August 6

- Demobilize

August 7

- Field School ends. Depart Bermuda



Reading List (tentative)

Aubry, Michele

1997 Abandoned Shipwreck Act in *Encyclopedia of Underwater and Maritime Archaeology*, edited by James P. Delgado, pp. 16-17. New Haven, CT.

Bermuda Legislature

1959 Wreck and Salvage Act, 1959

2001 Historic Wrecks Act, 2001

Deetz, James

1967 *Invitation to Archaeology*. New York: The Natural History Press

Muckelroy, Keith

1978 *Maritime Archaeology*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Pelkofer, Peter

1996 "A Question of Abandonment" in *Common Ground: Contested Waters*, a special publication of the National Park Service, Vol. 1, number 3-4, fall/winter.

Smith, Sheli O.

2006 *The Low- Tech Archaeological Survey Manual*. Columbus, OH: The Giveback Press.

Throckmorton, Peter, ed.

1987 *The Sea Remembers: Shipwrecks and Archaeology*. New York: Weidenfeld and Nicolson.

Watts, Gordon P. Jr.

2009 Shipwrecks of Bermuda (Draft Ms.)- Chapter 1

Watts, Gordon P. Jr., John C. Neville, and Roderick Mather

1996 "Raising Standards: A Modern Framework for Protecting our Common Maritime Heritage" in *Common Ground: Contested Waters*, a special publication of the National Park Service, Vol. 1, number 3-4, fall/winter.