



Field Studies in Archaeology: Connley Caves (35LK50) ANTH 408/508 Syllabus

June 23 – August 1, 2014

University of Oregon
Museum of Natural and Cultural History,
and Lakeview District Bureau of Land Management
Class meets Monday-Friday 7:30AM – 4:30 PM

Credits: 8

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Course Description:

Fieldwork in Archaeology is an introduction to archaeological field techniques during which you will become acquainted with techniques of excavation, coprolite, artifact, bone and natural sample recovery, stratigraphic mapping, site discovery procedures, and field mapping. You will learn how to establish a grid, place excavation units, and conduct systematic excavations. You will also learn techniques of recording your observations and identifying and collecting specimens. In the laboratory, you will learn the importance and techniques of processing, recording, and curating materials collected from the field, and reducing copious train-of-thought laboratory and field notes into comprehensive narratives.

The Field Project:

The field project represents a collaborative effort between the Bureau of Land Management, Lakeview District and the UO Museum of Natural and Cultural History. The project involves archaeological investigation of the Connley Caves. The Connley Caves well-known as the primary location from which Stephen Bedwell defined the Western Pluvial Lakes Tradition (WPLT) which has in recent years generally been replaced by the more inclusive “Western Stemmed Tradition”. This site is located in the Fort Basin near the small farming communities of Fort Rock and Silver Lake. In addition to work at the Connley Caves, survey for new sites may occur as work schedules permit. Upon completion of this course (and Bachelors degree requirements), students will be competitive for Forest Service and BLM employment at the GS 5-7 level (or prepared for an advanced stage of academic endeavor).

The Connley Caves archaeological project is an on-going project, and this “Fieldwork in Archaeology” course is a major step toward the completion of this project. We are returning this year to excavate in areas of the site known to have high concentrations of extremely important artifacts and coprolites possibly containing ancient human DNA. We obtained this information by field schools conducted in 1999, 2000, and 2001.

Course Logistics:

The class will meet at 7:30 AM Monday-Friday and work will continue through 4:30 PM. Lunch is at noon for ½ hour. We will be staying at a camp on private property about 5 miles from the caves. We will conduct fieldwork during six week-long sessions. There will be at least two days scheduled for artifact cataloguing. Keep in mind that the course schedule is somewhat tentative and will depend on weather conditions and general field progress.

- Work will cease on Fridays at 3 PM
- Students are welcome to stay at the camp during weekends
- You are welcome to bring personal vehicles and bicycles.
- The UO van will be traveling to Eugene Friday afternoon and back to camp Sunday evening.
- Students from central Oregon can catch the van back to camp Sunday evening in La Pine by arrangement.

Grading/Expectations:

This course is designed to provide students with a “hands-on” introduction to archaeological fieldwork through participation in the Connley Caves archaeological research project. Fieldwork and laboratory analysis will be conducted in a collaborative manner. Tasks will involve cooperation with one another and a commitment to the project itself. Final grades will be assessed from the following criteria:

1. Progress through the course of the class.
2. Field and laboratory paperwork, and field notes recorded in a personal field notebook(s). Students receive field notebooks from the field school. These are collected at the end of the term to be curated in the State Museum along with the artifacts from the project. Most students complete 1-2 notebooks in a term.
3. Active participation in all activities.

Things you should know:

- Time is precious – every second counts in a field project and 8 hour days will be standard operating procedure.
- Weather conditions can vary dramatically. Expect hot but be prepared for cold, too.
- Sunblock and water containers are a must and please bring sturdy shoes/boots for hiking.
- The day to day schedule will vary and you may be rotating from the site to work at other locations.
- Trowel excavations will occur at Connley Caves, but shovels will be utilized on some occasions. Be prepared for strenuous physical activity that includes hiking, digging, and some lifting.
- Refer to the U of O field school website for personal gear and field tool suggestions.
- Your tuition covers the class, food, and transportation. You do not have to bring your own food or drive your own car. However, you may if you want to special foods or personal transportation.
- You will divide into cooking crews for evening meals, with each crew responsible for one or more meals each week. Each crew will prepare a weekly supply list of groceries which will be purchased by the owner of the Paisley Merchantile at Costco in Bend.
- Connley Caves is an important site and people are curious about our findings. There will be a steady stream of researchers, visitors, reporters, and volunteers to the site throughout the term. Please be courteous and direct visitors with sensitive questions to Dr. Jenkins for the answer.
- Illegal drugs, alcohol, and firearms are not permitted at the school. Breaking this rule will get you sent home immediately. Pets are not allowed.

Suggested Reading:

The suggested readings for this course are not required to be purchased. However, I highly recommend them to students interested in pursuing advanced education, work, or research in the field of archaeology, particularly First American Colonization studies.

Fort Rock Basin Prehistory and Environment. Stephen F. Bedwell, (1973), University of Oregon Books, Eugene.

Fluted or Basally-Thinned? Re-Examination of a Lanceolate Point from the Connley Caves in the Fort Rock Basin. Charlotte Beck, George T. Jones, Dennis L. Jenkins, Craig E. Skinner, Jennifer J. Thatcher. In ***Early and Middle Holocene Archaeology of the Northern Great Basin***, edited by Dennis L. Jenkins, Thomas J. Connolly, C. Melvin Aikens, pp. 281-294. University of Oregon Anthropological Papers 62. Eugene.

Northern Great Basin (Chapter 2). In ***Oregon Archaeology***, by C. Melvin Aikens, Thomas J. Connolly, Dennis L. Jenkins, pp. 31-148. Oregon State University Press. Corvallis.