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SUMMER 2019 UAF TANANA VALLEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD SCHOOL

ANTHROPOLOGY 495 COURSE SYLLABUS (6 credits)

Dates: May 13 – June 15, 2019

Location: The Swan Point Site and Pickup Sticks Site near Delta Junction, Alaska

Course Description:

The 2019 UAF Archaeology Field School will introduce students to the practical and important elements of archaeological field work. The field school will take place in the beautiful Tanana Valley of central Alaska. This is a 6 credit, five-week class designed to train students in excavation, cataloguing, mapping, and other field survey techniques. Students will be prepared for full days (roughly 8 hours) of digging and/or walking, sometimes in rough terrain and in fairly remote areas. Basic laboratory techniques that will be taught include how to identify cultural remains, catalog finds, and perform basic artifact analyses. In addition to practical training, there will also be field trips to additional cultural sites and evening lectures on regional prehistory, history, geomorphology, and ecology.

Instructor: Gerad Smith and Ben Potter

Contact information for Gerad Smith:

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Contact information for Ben Potter:

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Course Content:

This course is entirely oriented to working outdoors, and living in camp conditions. Students will be expected to bring tents, sleeping bags, adequate clothing for Alaskan sub-arctic weather. Food will be provided, but students should arrange beforehand if any special dietary or nutritional needs should be met. The course will focus on the prehistoric and historic record of the Tanana Valley, and how

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archaeologists recover and interpret material cultural remains in order to interpret this record. Additionally, field trips will be taken on weekends in order to facilitate this learning module.

Disability Support:

If you have a disability that may affect your academic experience and are seeking accommodations, it is your responsibility to inform Disability Support Services (DSS) as soon as possible. The field school will take place in a remote location which may be difficult to access, and medical services will not be readily accessible. Disability Services are in Whitaker Building Room 208 and can be reached by phone at 907-474-5655 or by email at uaf-disabilityservices@alaska.edu. It is important to request accommodations early enough to give DSS adequate time to consider your request. Reasonable accommodations will be approved once you have provided appropriate documentation.

Attendance:

No roll will be taken, but each student is responsible for the material presented every day including announcements, presentations, and lectures. The lectures provide information that enhances the discovery and recovery of cultural items in the dig. Students are also responsible for any announcements made concerning date changes, other schedule changes, etc.

Readings:

Readings will be provided by the instructor.

What to Bring:

Basic excavation tools and field gear will be provided by UAF (trowels, screens, wall tent, etc.). You will need to bring personal camping gear (sleeping bags, tent, rain gear, coat, gloves, etc.). A more detailed list of what to bring will be provided by the instructor.

Location:

The research area is located about 20 miles northwest of Delta Junction, Alaska, and about 80 miles southeast of Fairbanks, though it can be reached by road from the Alaska Highway. UAF will provide camp, cooking and excavation gear and equipment, and food. Students will need to provide their own tent, sleeping bag, and personal gear, though we will work with you if you need a tent. The weather is usually nice in the early summer (50s-80s °F), but rain gear is necessary.

Gender-based and sexual misconduct:

Members of UAF and visitors have the right to be free from all forms of gender and sex-based misconduct including sexual violence, sexual harassment, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. UAA expects all members of the community to conduct themselves in a manner that does not infringe upon the rights of others. Gender-based and sexual misconduct has a negative impact on members of our community. Therefore, UAF has a zero tolerance policy for gender-based and sexual misconduct. UAF prohibits rape, acquaintance rape, sexual assault, sexual harassment, stalking, dating

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violence and domestic violence. In the event of a sexual assault, act of stalking, dating violence or domestic violence does occur, UAF takes the matter very seriously.

If you have experienced gender-based and/or sexual misconduct, the following individuals can assist you in exploring options and support:

- Title IX Coordinator Lori Klein, 907-796-6036, laklein@alaska.edu
- University Police Dept., Emergencies: 911, Non-emergencies 907-474- 7721
- Student Health and Counseling, 907-474-7043

Grades:

Your final grade will be based on participation and attitude

I will NOT initiate a faculty withdrawal. You will need to withdraw yourself from the course.

No incomplete grades will be given in this class except under unusual circumstances. If you feel that you are experiencing one of these unusual circumstances, you must discuss the possibility of receiving an incomplete with the instructor.

Schedule:

-Mon, May 13: meet at 1:00 PM at Bunnell 308, preliminary briefing on the course, the site, the excavation process, and the schedule. Depart for Mead campsite.

-Week 1: Gearing up for the trip; departing Fairbanks for the Swan Point/Pickup Sticks sites.

-Week 2: Excavation and lecture (site gridding, mapping, excavation)

-Week 3: Excavation and lecture (stratigraphy, geoarchaeology, site formation, paleoecology)

-Week 4: Excavation and lecture (culture history, Holocene adaptive strategies, lithic analysis)

-Week 5: Excavation and lecture (faunal analysis, megafaunal extinctions, peopling of the new world)

-Sat, June 15. Depart for Fairbanks

We will have on-site visits from various Beringian experts (as schedule permits).