

UAF 2021 CHENA TOWNSITE ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD SCHOOL

Founded in 1902 on the north bank of the Tanana River, Chena was a bustling goldrush town home to thousands of miners and settlers that flocked to the region in search of prosperity. Chena rivaled its close neighbor Fairbanks as the commercial center of mining operations in the Alaska Interior. The rivalry lasted only a few short decades, however, before Fairbanks emerged victorious. Chena became a ghost town by 1920 and was all but forgotten. Little remains of the once thriving town. In the past two decades however, archaeologists have mapped, surveyed, and begun to excavate parts of Chena in hopes of better understanding its birth and abandonment. This year we will continue this research by conducting archaeological survey and excavations at the site where Chena once stood.

The Chena Townsite is located just outside of Fairbanks, Alaska off of Chena Pump Road. Students will live in their own accommodations and report to the site daily (M-F 8am-4pm). Students will provide their own lunches, but all tools and equipment will be provided. Participants will learn the fundamental skills of archaeological fieldwork while excavating and documenting historic structures and artifacts. They will examine artifacts, botanicals, sediments, and faunal materials to learn analytical techniques while providing insight into the lives of the traders, miners, and other members of this short-lived historic community.



Instructor: Dr. Justin Cramb

Email: jecramb@alaska.edu

2021 Summer Session I - May 17th - June 25th

ANTH: F490 Archaeological Field School (6 credits)

Application Deadline: April 1st, 2021



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COURSE DETAILS

Project Directors:

- Dr. Justin Cramb, UAF Department of Anthropology
- Dr. Joshua Reuther, Museum of the North

The Course Will Cover:

- Fundamental training in archaeological survey, mapping, and excavation
- Historical document research
- The basics of historic artifact identification
- The basics of faunal (animal bone) identification

Location: Fairbanks, Alaska

Dates: 2021 Summer Session I - May 17th - June 25th

Application Deadline: April 1, 2021

Program Type: Accredited Field School (6 credits)

Affiliation: The University of Alaska Fairbanks

Course Number: ANTH F490

Project Size: 10-25 participants

Minimum Age: 18

Experience Necessary: No field experience needed, but an Introduction to Archaeology class is strongly recommended.

Academic Credit: Institution offering credit: UAF; Number of credits offered: 6

Cost:

- Tuition through UAF: \$1692.00*
- Course Fee: \$1000.00**
- *Additional institutional fees apply
- **Course or "Field Trip" Fees are applied to the cost of equipment, supplies, insurance, and transportation.

Covid 19 Protocols (abbreviated):

- No one exhibiting COVID-19-like symptoms (e.g. dry cough, fever, loss of smell etc...consult CDC for full list) is allowed to participate in fieldwork.
- Outside travelers will need to quarantine until COVID-19 test results are reported.
- Each participant will need use face covers (e.g. cloth mask). This is required for participation in this fieldwork. UAF will furnish face covers as needed.
- Contact Dr. Justin Cramb (jecramb@alaska.edu) for a full Covid 19 mitigation plan.

HOW TO APPLY:

Please contact Dr. Justin Cramb prior to registration for permission to enroll. Please email Dr. Cramb (jecramb@alaska.edu) the following documents:

- A one-page letter of application documenting why you want to be a part of this field school and what, if any, experience you have with archaeological or historical research. Include any history or archaeology courses you have taken. Also, describe yourself. Discuss your career/ life goals and what you like to do in your free time.
- Unofficial transcript
- One academic reference (letter of support)
 - o This should come from a professor or TA that knows you.
 - o Please request your reference email a brief letter of support for your participation to Dr. Cramb (jecramb@alaska.edu).
 - o Be sure to give your letter writer a few weeks to prepare a letter.

The application deadline is April 1, 2021 though you are encouraged to apply early. All applications will be reviewed and acceptance letters will be sent by May 1st. Registration begins in February.

The University of Alaska is committed to equal opportunities for students experiencing disabilities.

Due to the rigors of the fieldwork, students with disabilities are expected to notify the instructor of any potential difficulties prior to enrollment so that arrangements may be made to ensure a positive educational experience.

Contact Information:

Dr Justin Cramb (jecramb@alaska.edu)

Dr. Joshua Reuther (jreuther@alaska.edu)