

Course Title: ANT 662 – Field archaeology

Location: Taught in Northwest Portugal on Bronze Age/Iron Age/Roman Period sites (*castros*)

Dates: May 26 – July 6

Dr. Mariah Wade

Teaching Assistants:

Nadya Prociuk

Casey Hanson

Pre- requisites:

Introduction to Archaeological Studies I: Prehistoric Archaeology Ant 304/Ary 301 or consent of the instructor.

Course Description: This is a six-week field methods course that trains students in traditional and new archaeological field methods and techniques (survey; excavation; stratigraphic profiling; mapping; drawing; Geographic Information Systems (GIS). The course exposes students to different techniques and ways of thinking about archaeology and archaeological problems and it challenges students to think innovatively about their work and their experiences. Students will learn about the archaeology of Iberia from the Bronze Age through the Roman Period and will be encouraged to work on archaeological materials from local *castros* for their Honors Thesis, MA Thesis and PhDs. This course also aims to expose the students to a foreign culture, and promote interaction between the UT students and local archaeologists, museum staff and scholars. The mixture of activities in the program, including several cultural and archaeological field trips, is intended to provide ample learning opportunities and a good experience abroad.

An archeological field school is a departmental requirement for UT Anthropology/Archaeology students.

Texts: Iberian Archaeology Reader

Evaluation and Grading: Students are required to be on site according to the schedule, perform assigned field tasks, do lab work, go on field trips, know the contents of the assigned readings, attend lectures, take part in the discussions and complete field chores. Students are to behave according to UT rules at all times and inappropriate behavior will affect grades.

Note: The following schedule shows the approximate sequence and coverage of field chores per week, but many of the techniques and learning procedures will take place simultaneously as different groups of students are engaged in different activities which have to take place concurrently. All archeological field work assignments and trips may be re-scheduled due to weather conditions and unforeseen events.

Weekly Schedule

Week 1

Introduction; visit to the site; review excavation history of the site or sites; field work; lay out an excavation unit; triangulation and leveling; troweling; recording; note-taking; 2 field trips

Week 2

Field Work; basics of survey techniques; Total Station mapping and GPS mapping; excavation; screening; bagging and processing of artifacts; profiling; site, feature, and artifact completion of forms; Iberian Archeology (south); one overnight field trip

Week 3

Field work; site and feature mapping; soil sampling and basic analysis; stratigraphy; Iberian Archaeology (center); two field trips.

Week 4

Field work; basics of site photography; chronological methods; dating methods, review of field notes; review of field logs and photographic logs; Experimental Archaeology (ceramics); Iberian Archaeology (north); 1 field trip;

Week 5

Field work (includes all procedures learned in previous weeks); laboratory cleaning and labeling of artifacts, identification and storage protocols; basics of conservation and reconstruction; Iberian Archaeology (north); 2 field trips;

Week 6

Field work – completion of units, profiles, maps and processing of artifacts; clean and prepare site for closing; review of field notes, site, feature, soil samples and artifact forms, field and photographic logs; 2 field trips.

Activities for student groups during the six-week course include:

Site gridding

Triangulation techniques

Set up and use of Total Station

Total Station Mapping

GPS Mapping

Mapping floor plans, wall profiles

Trowelling

Square and feature excavation

Screening

Bagging and processing of artifacts

Completion and processing of site, level and feature forms

Production of site maps

Collection of soil and radiocarbon samples

Preliminary soil analyses

Inventory and cataloging of fauna, flora, lithics and ceramics

Lab protocols for cleaning and storing of material culture artifacts

Basics of conservation and reconstruction of artifacts

Basics of site photography

Intensive exposure to northwestern Iberian archeology through lectures, visits to archaeological sites with on-site lectures, museum collections and laboratory collections

Exposure to the geography and geology of the region

Intensive exposure to the regional culture and history