

ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD SCHOOL

ANTH 445/545

Professor Mark Hill

Time: Monday through Thursday 8:00 am to 5:00 pm, Fridays as scheduled by individual graduate student team leaders.

Office: 314a Burkhardt Building

Phone: 285-5328

Email: mahill2@bsu.edu

Office Hours: I am with you all day Monday through Thursday, see me in the field!

Course Description

This course is an introduction to archaeological field methods and their application to archaeological questions, research design, and understanding. The course is taught through the experience of participating in an archaeological research project at a Late Prehistoric site in central Indiana. Students will conduct excavations and remote sensing, collect archaeological samples and artifacts, and record data that will contribute to research goals and eventual publications concerning this prehistoric community and its interaction with its neighbors.

During this summer session, you will be trained in a range of archaeological field methods including unit and feature excavation, mapping, record keeping, and remote sensing using a magnetic gradiometer. You will also be asked to conduct (graduate students) or participate (undergraduate students) in a small research project bearing on an important issue regarding the nature of our site and its occupants.

Our site is known as Taylor Village, and it is located just outside of Strawtown, Indiana (north of Noblesville and west of Anderson). Taylor Village is a fortified Late Prehistoric community affiliated with an archaeological group known as Oneota. The site is dated to the late 1200's to early 1400's AD, or the last few centuries before European settlement began.

Course Objectives

At the end of the semester, you will have developed basic skills in archaeological field methods, including:

- Unit layout
- Excavation
- Record keeping
- Floor plan mapping
- Profile mapping
- Three point mapping
- Site mapping using optical transit and total station
- Lithic and ceramic artifact identification
- Collection of soil samples
- Collection of radiocarbon samples
- Remote sensing using a magnetic gradiometer

More importantly, you will also have developed a critical approach to the formulation of archaeological research issues, the development of research designs, and the application of your newly developed techniques to important anthropological issues.

Recommended Readings and Texts

While this course is a field course, there are texts that you may find helpful during this summer and in future projects. Neither is required for this class. However, you may like to have a reference that you can use this summer or in the future; if you are interested, I recommend one of the following books:

Neither text is available in the bookstore but copies are available online.

If you are looking for short, concise, and inexpensive, I strongly recommend the following book by William Dancey. First published in 1981, this little paperback is on the bookshelves of archaeologists everywhere – I got my first copy back when it was first published in the early 80's and have used it since. Caution: This is a small, short paperback book – don't pay much more than about \$5 to \$10 for it!

Dancey, William S.

1981 *Archaeological Field Methods*. Burgess Publishing Company, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

If you want something with more detail or that is a little more recent, try this book by Hester, Shafer, and Feder.

Hester, Thomas R., Harry J. Shafer, and Kenneth L. Feder

1997 *Field Methods in Archaeology*. Mayfield Publishing Company. Mountain View, California.

Course Requirements

The course is a field practicum, and students are expected to participate fully in all fieldwork and lectures. You will be graded on your participation based on your attendance and the development of your field skills. Field activities will be worth 200 points (half your grade). You must keep a daily notebook of activities, observations, findings, and other details of your work, and this notebook will be turned in at the end of the class. Attendance every day is expected, and any undocumented absence will result in a loss of 20 points.

You will all be graded on participation (undergraduates) and direction (graduate students) of a small research project. Each Friday is reserved for this project. Graduate students must select their team member(s) and let the instructor know who will be working with them and their research goals by Thursday, May 17. Graduate students will then be responsible for scheduling time each Friday for the project, and will turn in a single page progress report on the following Monday. The progress report must state the research objectives, tasks accomplished on the previous Friday, persons working and their hours, tasks yet to be completed, and an updated timeframe for completion of the research paper. Undergraduates are expected to attend and work with the graduate student during the scheduled hours.

Graduate students will turn in a 7 to 10 page research paper at the end of the term (this may be co-authored with the undergraduate team member[s]). This research project and paper is worth 50 points for both the graduate student and the undergraduate, though the undergraduate will be

graded on their contribution by the graduate student. Papers are due on Thursday, June 14 by 5:00 pm

In addition, you will also be graded on three tasks – 1) laying out an excavation unit, 2) setting up an optical transit, and 3) mapping the floor of a unit – each of these activities is worth 50 points.

Class Organization, Conditions, and Special Requirements

The class meets every day Monday through Thursday. Transportation is provided and we will commute to the site; leaving Burkhardt at 8:00 am and returning usually around 4:00 in the afternoon. If weather prohibits fieldwork we will meet in the laboratory to process, catalog, and analyze artifacts and other materials from the site.

In the field, we will literally be *in the field!* The Taylor Village site is located in an agricultural field on the north bank of the White River. You will need to bring your own water and lunch, as well as sunscreen, a hat, boots, appropriate clothing, and raingear. We will provide a cooler full of water but please make sure you come prepared with plenty to drink. Field conditions can get extreme – from quite cool and wet to very hot and humid. You will need to protect yourself while in the field by using sunscreen, a hat, boots, and by drinking plenty of water.

First aid kits will be available on-site for any injuries. Field conditions can be hazardous, and yes, injuries are known to happen. Most common problems include cuts (sharpening trowels is especially dangerous) and insect bites. Boots should be worn to protect ankles from uneven terrain. Report any injuries to the instructor immediately.

One other note about agricultural fields: please be careful to minimize damage to the crops while we are there. Walk in the rows between plantings, minimize crop damage around our excavation units or other activities, and do everything you can to avoid causing damage. This is especially true in the early weeks of the field school. If the field is planted in corn, it will take revenge on you later in the summer, so be nice to it now (beans are gentler, kinder souls, corn can be truly evil though cute when it is young).

On Fridays, graduate student team leaders will direct their team in individual research projects. These research projects will take place in the archaeological laboratories in the Burkhardt Building, or at other locations as directed by the graduate student team leader. The laboratories will not be open on weekends, so please take full advantage of the Friday lab day to work on your research projects.

Late Assignments

Late assignments will not be accepted unless you have a documented emergency.

Grading

A maximum of 400 points will be possible in this class: 200 points for field and lab participation, 50 points each for three field practical exams (150 points total), and 50 points for the final research project. Grading will not be done on the curve, but will be based upon a percentage of the total available points. Grades will be assigned as follows:

A ≥372 (93%)	B+ 348-359½ (87%)	C+ 308-319½ (77%)	D+ 268-279½ (67%)
A- 360-371½ (90%)	B 332-347½ (83%)	C 292-307½ (73%)	D 240-267½ (60%)
	B- 320-331½ (80%)	C- 280-291½ (70%)	Fail <240 (<60%)

Academic Honesty

Students are expected to uphold the Ball State University standard for conduct relating to academic integrity. Students assume full responsibility for the content and integrity of the academic work they submit. The guiding principle of academic integrity shall be that their submitted work, examinations, reports, and projects MUST BE THEIR OWN WORK. Make sure to cite all sources. Plagiarism of any sort, whether of the "word for word" variety, paraphrasing, or "mosaic" plagiarism, is unacceptable and unethical. Any student found plagiarizing will FAIL the course. IGNORANCE IS NO EXCUSE.

Guidelines for how and when to cite will be made available to students. Citations in this course will follow the Society for American Archaeology style, and more can be learned about that citation format at the SAA website (www.saa.org).

All occurrences of academic misconduct will be dealt with in accordance with the Student Academic Ethics Policy guidelines and procedures outlined at <http://cms.bsu.edu/About/AdministrativeOffices/StudentRights/PoliciesandProcedures/StudentCode/VIIIEthicsPolicy.aspx>

Access and Opportunity for Students with Disabilities

If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, if you have emergency medical information to share with me, or if you need special arrangements, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible. My office location and hours are shown on the first page of this syllabus.