

Blackfoot Crossing Archaeology Field School May 8-June 15, 2023

Department of Anthropology and Archaeology
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UNIVERSITY OF
CALGARY

The Siksika Nation

- Our work occurs at the request and with the permission of the Siksika Nation, at archaeological site EePf-54 in the South Camp area of the Nation.
- Students will have the opportunity to work with our Siksika partners and community members during the excavations, and to experience cultural traditions and ceremonies necessary for these excavations to occur.
- The field school also operates in conjunction with the University of Calgary Public Archaeology Program and Indigenous Youth Engagement Program.



Teachings from Elder Clement Leather, on site EePf-54.

Excavations at EePf-54

- The field school is held at EePf-54, a stratified campsite with at least six distinct archaeological occupations spanning at least the last 4,000 years, and potentially the last 10,000 years.
- This important and unique site is located at an important place in the Blackfoot cultural landscape, adjacent to *Sooyohpawahkoy* (ridge under water), Chief Crowfoot's last tipi and grave, and Treaty Flats.
- Exploration of the dynamic relationship between the archaeological record of EePf-54 and Blackfoot oral tradition is a fascinating archaeological project, with many questions waiting to be answered.



Archaeological Site EePf-54.

Course Information

ARKY 306 and ARKY 506

Field Course in Archaeological Field Techniques

Instructor: Dr. Lindsay Amundsen-Meyer
Lecture/Practical (7 hours/day on site plus travel time, 5 days/week)

Cost

- The cost of the course is the standard six credit course fee plus a \$650 supplemental field fee.* Visit www.ucalgary.ca for course fee information.

*The University of Calgary retains the right to change the fee structure without notice.

Credit

- ARKY 306 is a 1.0 full course credit. The course counts as a 0.5 full course equivalent for the Archaeological Techniques portion of the Major Field Requirement.
 - ARKY 506 is a 1.0 full course credit
- **ARKY majors prioritized for registration until January 15, 2023.**

Course Description

Our field school aims to provide students with transferable skills useful across disciplines, increase their understanding of Indigenous worldviews and current realities, and provide real-world archaeological training useful in industry and academic settings.

Students will gain experience in all aspects of archaeological survey and excavation. An integral topic of this course is the history of Siksikaisahkoyi as presented by Siksikaititapi elders and knowledge keepers.

Course Learning Outcomes:

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

1. Understand and apply Northwestern Plains cultural historical schemes
2. Explain the relationship between land and Siksikaititapi (Blackfoot) identity
3. Relate principles of Indigenous knowledge to the field of archaeology while working effectively as archaeological field crew in academic and industry contexts
4. Generate strategies and approaches for engaging Indigenous community partners and reconciling Indigenous and Canadian relations
5. Recognize basic artifacts, raw materials, and form types and be able to apply that knowledge to artifact cataloguing



Excavations in progress, EePf-54 (2022)

Logistics and Preparation

- Field school runs Monday-Friday (with the exception of statutory holidays). The first week of field school will be on campus from 8:30 am to 4:00 pm. Following this, class will be held from 9:30 am to 4:00 pm on site at EePf-54 (weather permitting). The final week of class will be spent in the Alberta Heritage Project lab (8:30 am to 4:00 pm). Students must be prepared to allow weather or other logistics to alter this general schedule.
- A van will provide transportation to and from the EePf-54, located east of Calgary near the village of Cluny, Alberta on the Siksika Nation. Students must be at the meeting place on campus at 7:30 am for departure and should expect to return at approximately 5:30 pm
- Archaeological excavation is physical demanding - students should be prepared for physical exertion on field days. All participants must bring their own food, drinks and appropriate clothing. The class is primarily an outdoor activity and students must be prepared to take care of themselves in the field.



Field School Students Excavating at EePf-54 (2022)



Tipi Raising (2020)

For more information and how to register contact
Dr. Lindsay Amundsen-Meyer (lmamunds@ucalgary.ca)

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