

Blackfoot Crossing Archaeology Field School May 4-June 14, 2022

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, within Blackfoot Crossing Historical Park near Cluny, Alberta.
- Students will have the opportunity to work with our Siksika partners and community members during the excavations, and to experience cultural traditions 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.



Blackfoot Crossing Historical Park, Siksika Nation

The Cluny Fortified Village Site (EePf-1)

- The field school is held at the Cluny Fortified Village Site, the only known Precontact fortified village on the Canadian Plains.
- This important and unique site represents a point of contact between people from horticultural areas to the southeast and the Blackfoot of southern Alberta.
- Exploration of the dynamic relationship between Canadian Plains hunter-gatherers and southern village peoples is a fascinating archaeological project, with many more questions waiting to be answered



Aerial Imagery of EePf-1

Logistics and Preparation

- A van will provide transportation to and from the Clun Fortified Village site, located east of Calgary near the village of Cluny, Alberta in Blackfoot Crossing Historical Park on the Siksika Nation. Students requiring transportation must be at the meeting place on campus at 7:30 am for departure and should expect to return at approximately 5:30 pm.
- Class hours will be 9:00 am to 4:00 pm on site at EePf-1, Monday through Thursday (weather permitting). Fridays will generally be on campus days spent in the Alberta Heritage Project Lab. Students must be prepared to allow weather to alter this general schedule.
- 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 the Cluny Fortified Village Site (2019)



Tipi Raising (2020)

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 \$600 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.

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 excavation and survey. Students will work in teams as they practice archaeological site excavation and archaeological survey techniques, map and compass skills, data recording with GPS and total station instruments, site and artifact photography, excavation mapping, soil profile identification and recording, artifact processing and cataloguing and archaeological site identification and assessment.

Topics covered

- Excavation and survey techniques
- Site recording and note taking
- Site mapping, floor plans and site photography
- Soils, sediments, stratigraphy and profiles drawing
- Basic lithic, ceramic and faunal collection and analysis
- Artifact cataloguing
- Basic mapping
- Plains culture history
- Cultural resource management
- Decolonizing archaeology



For more information contact
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